

Date: 16/3/2020

HOTEL NAME: Hotel Federal

Licensee: Linda Culloty

RESPONSE TO THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE *FUTURE OF GAMING IN TASMANIA*

Hotel Federal, locally known as the Middle Pub, is located in Wynyard, in Tasmania's north west t. The hotel has been a huge part of the local landscape for 120 years and is a significant contributor to our region. The recently refurbished venue has a public bar, TAB, gaming room with 30 EGMs, a 9/11 Bottleshop, and the very popular Burger Bar.

We have 21 staff in a range of full time, part time and casual positions. We have loads of activities running in the hotel to entertain locals and visitors, including footy tipping, punters clubs, raffle draws, spin the wheel and happy hours.

We support a local darts teams, schools in our community, Rotary, the Leukaemia Foundation, White Lion, and local fire stations.

I am broadly supportive of the Government's policy on the *Future of Gaming in Tasmania*, particularly in its stated intention to create a sustainable gaming industry. Tasmania's gaming sector has been an important driver of jobs, regional economic activity and investment across the state.

The Government's intention to individually licence venues is welcomed by gaming venue operators. To safeguard the sustainability of the gaming industry, I encourage the Government to provide a competitive regulatory environment that allows Tasmanian venues to offer gaming products that are comparable to other jurisdictions.

The success of the proposed model will be heavily reliant on the appointment of a Licenced Monitoring Operator with a strong understanding of the local market and established relationships with individual venues. The LMO must have flexibility to provide a range of services that support the individual needs of venues.

It is important that pubs and clubs are given significant time to prepare for and transition to an individual venue licence model. The experience in other jurisdictions, such as Victoria, shows the transition can be challenging and costly to businesses. I am seeking certainty about the future operating model and a commitment to provide the industry with adequate time to transition to the new arrangements.

I recognise the importance of the Community Support Levy in providing funds for a range of charitable and community organisations. The gaming industry is proud to support the community in this way. The Government's proposal to increase CSL funds provides scope to assist a greater number of clubs, sports groups and community events. The gaming industry should receive greater acknowledgement when funds are allocated, and consideration should be given to ways that the industry can be more involved in the distribution of funds.

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