

Date: 16/3/2020

HOTEL NAME: Derwent tavern

Licensee: Ray Lawless

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

The Derwent Tavern is in the northern suburb of Bridgewater, near the iconic Bridgewater bridge. We have superb views of the River Derwent, the Derwent Valley and Mount Wellington. The hotel employs 10 staff. There is a mix of full time and casual employees. We have a 30 EGM gaming room, a lively public bar, a popular TAB outlet and a 9/11 Bottleshop. The hotel offers a range of activities to entertain the locals, including TasKeno, free poker, meat raffles, footy tipping and a punters club. We support two hotel women's darts teams as well as three eight ball teams and have contributed donations to many community interests over the years, including local volunteer fire brigades, Relay for Life, the Leukaemia Foundation, Ugly Bartender, Bridgewater PCYC Judo Club, Brighton Lions Club Carols by Candlelight, and White Lion as well as sponsor the New Norfolk Women's Senior Football team.

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. We are seeking certainty about the future operating model and a commitment to provide the industry with adequate time to transition to the new arrangements.

We 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.

**Ray Lawless**

**Licensee, Derwent Tavern**

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