

Date: 17/3/2020

HOTEL NAME: Hotel Tasmania

Licensee: Kim Bowman

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

Hotel Tasmania is located in the heart of Launceston city. The hotel was built in 1902 and originally named the Central Family Hotel. We proudly employ 21 staff. There is a mix of fulltime, part time and casual employees. We have the Saloon bar which has live entertainment, with a capacity for 900 people. We also have a sports bar with TAB and keno facilities and operate 30 gaming machines. The hotel offers a range of activities for locals and visitors, including Tas Keno, live music, meat raffles, footy tipping and a punters club. We support and have contributed donations to many community interests over the years, including local volunteer fire brigades, the Woman's Refuge Centre, the Leukaemia Foundation, Ugly Bartender, RSPCA, Braveheart, and White Lion.

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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