

submission from Valern Hotel regarding the future gaming market

Date: 17/3/2020  
HOTEL NAME: Hotel Valern  
Licensee: Stephen Harwood

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

The Hotel Valern is located near the busy shopping hub of Moonah amid a developing growth in food culture bringing more people into the area. The hotel has been opened since the mid 1950's and has been the venue for local tradies over that time but has now become a popular destination for a now changing multicultural clientele now moving into Moonah. With a staff of 20 plus with 7 full time staff working in our 9/11 bottleshop,

our large welcoming public bar and servicing our friendly well laid out Keno lounge and also our busy 30 machine gaming room and presenting a popular food operation. This venue has supported local community/sporting/charity groups with donations over the years. This a meeting place for many of our senior citizens for community interaction and chance to enjoy some time out which is important to these people. It is a business that delivers to the community a safe, friendly venue to enjoy as a meeting place.

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.

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Kind Regards,

