



Attention:

The Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
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The future of gaming

8th of March 2020

As a smaller independent gaming operator The Central Hotel we wish to respond to Future of Gaming in Tasmania consultation paper

About us

The Central Hotel is an independently Tasmanian owned gaming venue with 30 gaming machines. Gaming makes up a small but important part of our business model as an entertainment, accommodation and food venue. The Central Hotel employ 16 local staff under the General hospitality award, these staff included University students, single parents, and people from vast multi-cultural backgrounds.

Our commitment to Responsible Gambling

The Central Hotel recognise that all forms of gambling can have an impact on a small percentage of gambling consumers. The Central hotel is committed to ongoing training and

developing of our staff to identify, help and liaise with problem gamblers, Break even providers and Liquor and gaming Tasmania.

Future of Gaming in Tasmania

The Central Hotel are in full support of the opportunity to go through the process of gaining an individual license to operate gaming machines in Tasmania.

This opportunity provides the business with an increase in financial contribution to reinvest in the Tasmanian hospitality industry.

New licence period of 20 years.

The current proposed 20 year license period is or may well be a concern for smaller private businesses such as The Central Hotel.

Currently the expense of purchasing a new gaming machine can and will be taxing on a smaller individual operator like the Central Hotel Hobart and the average life span of a gaming machine being that of 12 to 15 years, the 20 year lease period may see the smaller operators not reinvesting or getting full financial benefit from the companies investment.

We would like to propose that if granted a license to operate gaming machines that the life of the gaming license be that of on-going and non-ending period. This would create confidence for the owners to make the significant financial investments required and ongoing investments.

Networking monitoring Licence

Recently we were advised that the license to monitor gaming machines was open to tender.

The Central Hotel understand that under the new licensing conditions as individual operators we will be responsible for new costs of machine installation, monitoring and maintenance. We feel that these costs should be set and overseen by the Tasmanian government in conjunction with Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA) representatives. If this is not monitored and controlled, operators, especially small and regional, will be potentially gauged and put out of business