
NORTHERN TERRITORY LICENSING COMMISSION

GAMING MACHINE MEDIA RELEASE

The Licensing Commission is cracking down on applications for pokies.

With increased concern within the Northern Territory and throughout other jurisdictions about the impact of gaming machines on community wellbeing, the Commission has resolved to toughen its scrutiny on applications,

“This includes those venues either seeking to add gaming machines or to increase existing numbers of their machines,” Licensing Commission chair Richard O’Sullivan said.

“Eligible applicants should no longer assume that applications for either an increase in machines or a first application for gaming machines will be considered favourably or approved by the Commission.

“The Commission is getting tougher in its assessment of applications, including insisting upon a comprehensive and relevant Community Impact Analysis by an applicant.

“It will no longer be sufficient grounds to seek and obtain an increase in the number of gaming machines based solely on the number allowed for the type of premises under the *Gaming Machine Act*.”

The Act provides for the maximum number of gaming machines each type of premises can have - clubs can have up to 45 machines and hotels and taverns can have 10 machines.

A Community Impact Analysis will determine the likely impact upon the community in which the premises are located including, the likely benefit, the likely detriment and the consultation that has occurred within the neighbourhood in which the premises are located.

“The Commission will be also looking more closely at applications to change the type of licence a premises has,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

“The Act provides only certain types of premises can have gaming machines. In the past, the Commission has seen what is referred to as ‘bracket creep’ where a licensed premises starts out with a ‘restaurant’ licence and then through application moves up to a ‘tavern’ licence in order to be eligible to apply for gaming machines.

“We’re now notifying the industry that all such licences will be placed under much closer scrutiny and in the absence of the applicant demonstrating a real enrichment to the community such applications will likely be denied.”

Media contact: Lorelei Fong Lim 0401116728

