

Fact sheet FS3104

How to prepare a submission for a gaming application with a Local Impact Assessment (LIA)

This document provides guidance to individuals and organisations on making a submission to an application by a hotel or registered club to increase its gaming machine threshold (GMT), where the increase requires a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) involving community consultation.

Guidelines can be accessed at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

What is the LIA process?

The Local Impact Assessment (LIA) process is designed to assess the impact of introducing additional gaming machines into a Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2).

Depending on the classification of the SA2 where the club or hotel is located, the venue may or may not be required to complete a LIA when applying for an increase in the gaming machine threshold (GMT) which controls the number of gaming machines potentially allowed.

The GMT is a number which limits how many gaming machine entitlements (GMEs) - and/or poker machine permits (PMPs) in the case of hotels - that each club and hotel licence can hold. A venue must have a GME - or PMP in the case of hotels - for each gaming machine operated. A hotel's GMT cannot exceed 30.

Why invite input from the local community?

The aim of inviting viewpoints from the local council and police, as well as the wider community, is to draw on the knowledge, experience and opinions of people at the local level.

What are the different types of LIA and when are they required?

The purpose of an LIA is to inform and support a community consultation process that will enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving the application to increase a

venue's GMT will provide either a positive contribution to the local community or an overall positive impact on the local community.

There are two types of LIA that may be required before a GMT increase application can be approved by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority:

- ▲ A Class 1 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will provide a positive contribution to the local community
- ▲ A Class 2 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will have an overall positive impact on the local community.

An LIA is required to accompany any application for an increase in a venue's GMT according to the following rules:

	Low Range increase (up to 20)	Mid-Range increase (21 to 40)	High Range increase (over 40)
Band 1	No LIA required	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA
Band 2	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA	Class 2 LIA
Band 3	No GMT increases permitted via an LIA process		

What is the class 1 LIA test?

A hotel or club that lodges a class 1 LIA as part of an application to increase GMT must satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (the Authority) that the proposed increase for the venue will provide a positive contribution towards the local community where the venue is, or will be, situated.

How to prepare a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) submission

What is the class 2 LIA test?

A hotel or club that lodges a class 2 LIA as part of an application to increase GMT must satisfy the Authority that the proposed increase for the venue will have an overall positive impact on the local community where the venue is, or will be, situated.

LIA stakeholder consultation and public exhibition

Any club or hotel required to undertake a LIA for a GMT increase must provide a copy of the application to the local council and local police. Nominated social service organisations must also be notified of the application, and the application must be advertised in a local newspaper. A LIA is exhibited at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/gaming/local-impact-assessment-public-register.aspx

Submissions can be lodged with Liquor & Gaming NSW within 60 days of receiving notice of a Class 1 LIA, or 90 days for a Class 2 LIA. All submissions lodged within the consultation period will be considered and those received after the close of submissions may be considered.

Content of submissions

The key issues the Authority must consider before a GMT increase can be approved include:

- ▲ Has the LIA appropriately identified the local community?
- ▲ Has the LIA demonstrated that the venue will operate the increased gambling activities in a responsible manner?
- ▲ If the club or hotel is a new venue, is it in the immediate vicinity of school, place of worship or hospital?
- ▲ For a Class 1 LIA, is the proposed positive contribution identified by the venue in its LIA met the requirements of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority's guidelines that are capable of satisfying the Authority that the additional gaming machines would make a positive contribution the local community if the GMT increase application is approved?

For Class 2 LIAs

- ▲ Does the proposed positive contribution outweigh any potential negative impact?

When making a submission, please consider those issues. You should also directly address statements made in an applicant's LIA. If desired, you can attach additional information to be considered as part of the LIA decision-making process.

General statements regarding perceived problem gambling that could result from an increase in gaming machines in a locality are not sufficient – unless substantiated by some form of evidence or reasonable cause for concern based on experience, and knowledge of, the existing or proposed venue.

For further guidance on what to include in a submission, please visit liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.

What happens to a submission?

Relevant issues raised in submissions will be provided to a LIA applicant to allow the applicant to respond. Both the submission and the applicant's response to the issues raised will be considered by the Authority during review of the LIA.

If there are any parts of your submission that you wish to keep confidential, those parts of the submission should be marked clearly.

How do I find out the authority's decision?

All decisions are published at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/gaming/local-impact-assessment-public-register.aspx

How to lodge a submission

Use form APP999 'Public submission relating to a liquor or gaming application' available at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au and submit to:

@ submissions.licensing@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

For further information

To find out more about how to prepare a LIA submission:

📄 liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

@ contact.us@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

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