

Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application

Star Hotel

502 Guinea Street

ALBURY NSW 2640

Star Hotel (LIQH400108265)

May 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

This Local Impact Assessment Class 1 has been prepared to accompany a Threshold Increase Application for the approval of a 'low range' gaming machine increase by Star Holdings Albury Pty Limited (the "Applicant"). The increase is to apply to the hotel licence LIQH400108265, situated at 502 Guinea Street, Albury NSW (the "Venue") located in the SA2 Band 2 area of Albury - South within the Albury City Local Government Area (the "LGA") and known as the "Star Hotel".

The Venue's approved gaming machine threshold is currently 21. The Applicant proposes to increase the threshold by a further four (4) gaming machine entitlements/permits resulting in the threshold being increased to 25. This LIA provides details of the Local Community.

2. RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

Chapter 3 of this Report details the mandatory responsible conduct of gambling measures put in place by the Applicant at the Venue.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY

Chapter 4 of this Report details the characteristics of the area potentially affected by the approval of the Threshold Increase Application and a demographic description of the Local Community, which has been identified as Albury – South SA2.

4. POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Chapter 5 of this Report details the positive contribution resultant from approval of the Threshold Increase Application to the Local Community.

5. CONCLUSION

Given the satisfaction of the requirements of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 (the "Act") and the associated Gaming Machines Regulation 2019 (the "Regulation") through the conduct of gaming machine operation at the Venue in a responsible manner and in accordance with the approved Gaming Plan of Management, along with the evidence of the substantial positive contribution through the Responsible Gambling Fund, it is the Applicant's contention that this LIA meets the requirements of the Legislation.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Class 1 Local Impact Assessment has been prepared to accompany a Threshold Increase Application for a Band 2 SA2 Venue for a 'low range' increase of 4 gaming machine entitlements/permits for the Star Hotel, located at 502 Guinea Street, Albury.

Methodology

- 1.1. In respect of LIAs relating to threshold increase applications, the LIA Guidelines provide that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (the "Authority") can only approve an LIA that complies with the requirements of the Act and the Regulation and demonstrates that gambling activities will be conducted in a responsible manner.
- 1.2. The Guidelines further state that a Class 1 LIA must demonstrate that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the Venue will provide a positive contribution towards the Local Community in which the Venue is situated.

2. DETAILS OF THE VENUE

- 2.1. The Venue has operated at its current location since September 1957, and presently provides the following facilities:
 - Public Bar
 - Gaming Room
 - Sports Bar
 - Beer Garden
 - Kitchen and Dining areas
 - Sanitary and other back of house facilities.
- 2.2. The Venue has been conducted by the current business owner since February 2016. The Venue has undergone improvements to the sports bar, beer garden, kitchen and gaming room since it has been acquired. The Venue is considered a focal point for the local community, providing a place to meet, relax and socialise for residents of the suburb and surrounding areas.
- 2.3. The Venue is located on the corner of Guinea & Olive Streets, adjacent to another commercial venue and primarily surrounded by residential premises.
- 2.4. The Venue's gaming machine threshold is currently approved for 21 gaming machine entitlements.
- 2.5. The intention of this application is for a further 4 gaming machine entitlements or poker machine permits to be procured and transferred to the Venue's licence to allow 25 gaming machines to be operated at the Venue.
- 2.6. The Venue's approved hours are as follows:
 - Monday to Saturday - 5:00 am until 12:00 midnight:
 - Sunday - 10:00 am until 10:00 pm.
- 2.7. The gaming machine shutdown period applicable to the Venue is:
 - Monday to Sunday - 4.00 am until 10.00am.

- 2.8. The floor space of the Venue is approximately 1,980 sqm.
- 2.9. The Venue is not a new hotel as defined by the Act. Accordingly, clause 31 of the Regulation does not apply to this application.
- 2.10. The Venue has been operated by the business owner for the past 7 years, and is an active sponsor of a number of sporting clubs in the local area, including:
- North Albury Cricket Club
 - Culcairn Football Club
 - Brocklesby – Burrumbuttock Football Club

3. RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

- 3.1. The provision of gaming machines is merely one aspect of the services and facilities that are provided at the Venue.
- 3.2. Gaming is provided in a designated gaming room within the Venue.
- 3.3. The gaming room complies with Clause 8 of the Regulation in that:
- (a) It is located in a “bar area” of the Venue (and is not located in an area in which a minor’s area authorisation or minors functions authorisation is in force);
 - (b) The gaming room is physically separated from the general bar area by permanent opaque walls;
 - (c) Patrons are not compelled to pass through the gaming room in order to enter or leave the Venue or to gain access to another part of the Venue;
 - (d) Entry is provided free of charge;
 - (e) The gaming machines are situated so that they cannot be seen from any place outside the Venue;
 - (f) All machines are suitably spaced to facilitate access;
 - (g) The gaming room is monitored by a gaming room supervisor, as well as by electronic means (CCTV) at all times;
 - (h) There is a door way or space that provides reasonable access to at least one operating bar and one toilet for each gender, without the need for patrons to go out onto the street or outside the Venue.
- 3.4. Other requirements of the Act and Regulation are complied with, in that:-
- (a) All staff involved in gaming duties hold a current and approved responsible conduct of gaming (RCG) competency card (or interim certificates). Copies of competency cards (or interim certificates) are kept by each staff member when working at the Venue and are available for inspection;
 - (b) The Venue makes arrangements for the provision of gambling counselling;

- (c) The Venue participates in the Game Care Multi-Venue Self Exclusion Program;
- (d) Staff are trained in the requirements of the self-exclusion program and associated process;
- (e) All statutory signage is prominently displayed throughout the gaming room;
- (f) Pamphlets informing patrons of the dangers of problem gambling and of the availability of counselling and the self-exclusion scheme are displayed within the Hotel in a number of community languages;
- (g) The Venue's automatic telling machine (ATM) is located outside the gaming room. Patrons not permitted to make withdrawals on credit;
- (h) There are no advertising or promotions of the availability of gaming machines conducted at the Venue;
- (i) The Venue does not accept third party cheques or the cashing of cheques by patrons;
- (j) There is a limit of \$5,000 on cash payment for winnings;
- (k) Minors are not permitted entry to the gaming room;
- (l) Consumer information on the chance of winning maximum prizes and jackpots is made available in the gaming area;
- (m) The Venue does not publish any gaming machine advertising;
- (n) All gambling-related signs are situated within the Venue and are not visible from the exterior of the Hotel; and
- (o) Inducements are not offered at the Venue for the use of the gaming machines.

3.5. In addition, a Gaming Plan of Management ("GPOM") has been adopted and implemented at the Venue. A condition has been imposed on the licence requiring compliance with that GPOM at all times.

3.6. In accordance with the GPOM, the gaming room is monitored regularly through CCTV cameras, the manager/licensee, as well as gaming attendants. This constant supervision allows management to make early detection of any possible signs of problem gambling being experienced at the Venue.

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY

4.1. The Local Community is the Albury - South SA2.

Demographics

4.2. The Albury - South SA2 had a population of 10,519 as at the 2021 Census.

4.3. Other relevant census demographic information is set out below:

- 48.1% of the population is male.

- 51.9% of the population is female.
 - The median age is 45.
- 4.4. At the 2021 Census, the Albury South SA2 had a higher personal weekly income (\$857) compared to that of NSW (\$813).
- 4.5. The median weekly family income for the SA2 is \$2,115 compared to \$2,185 for NSW.
- 4.6. According to the 2021 Census, 27.3% of persons in the SA2 have attained a Bachelor Degree Level or above, which is similar to the NSW average of 27.8%.
- 4.7. The most common occupation in the SA2 at the 2021 Census was Professionals, at 26.5% (NSW 25.8%) and Managers 14.9% (NSW 14.6%).
- 4.8. The SEIFA scores in 2021 for the SA2 were as follows:

INDICATOR	Albury - South LGA Score	Albury – South LGA Decile
IRSEAD	988	5
IRSED	991	4
IER	944	2
IEO	1011	6

5. POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

- 5.1. Clause 33 of the Regulation requires this LIA to include details of the benefits that the Venue will provide to the local community if the application is approved.
- 5.2. A positive contribution shall be made by way of a financial contribution of \$189,401.10 if this application is approved. The proposed contribution will be made to the Secretary of the Responsible Gambling Fund pursuant to Section 36A of the Act.

Calculation of amount of financial contribution

- 5.3. The amount of the financial contribution was calculated in accordance with the formula set out in the Class 1 Local Impact Assessment Process Guidelines published by the Authority. That formula provides for a positive contribution being 15% of the average profit of the existing machines in the Hotel before tax, multiplied by the gaming machine threshold increase, multiplied by 5 years.
- 5.4. The average profits were calculated from 12 months of gaming performance data of the Venue's gaming machines from the period of April 2022 to March 2023.
- 5.5. The Venue intends to continue to support local community and sporting groups through sponsorship deals. Details of those sponsorships are referred to at paragraph 2.10.
- 5.6. The positive contribution to be paid to the Responsible Gambling Fund will ultimately benefit the local community. The Venue will also review and implement new responsible gaming and harm minimisation strategies (if considered necessary) in order to negate any negative impacts on the local community.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. This LIA, pursuant to Clause 33 of the Regulation, defines the Applicant's Local Community, details the positive contribution that the Applicant will provide to the Local Community if the Threshold Increase Application is approved, and details the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in place at the Venue.
- 6.2. The Applicant operates gaming machines at the Venue in compliance with mandated Legislative requirements. The Applicant implements the Game Care Multi-Venue Self Exclusion Program conducted in conjunction with AHA (NSW). Star Hotel is an active member of the Game Care Multi-Venue Self Exclusion Scheme, which currently has 62 self-exclusions from the member Venue. The Venue also operates pursuant to a GPOM previously approved by the Authority.
- 6.3. The Applicant submits that this Class 1 LIA accompanying the low range application satisfies the requirements of Section 36(3) of the Act, applicable Regulations and Guidelines for the Authority to approve the application. This application demonstrates the purpose of Section 36(3)(b) that gambling activities in the Venue are currently conducted responsibly and will continue to be conducted responsibly if this application should be approved.
- 6.4. The proposed increase in the Venue's gaming threshold will provide a positive contribution towards the local community where the Venue is situated on the basis of the applicant's proposed financial contribution to be paid in accordance with Section 36A of the Act.
- 6.5. It is therefore submitted that the tests as set out in the Guideline and Regulation are met and the applicant submits that the threshold increase application should be approved.