

# **CLASS 1 LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**



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## **WHITE TANK HOTEL**

**203 Main Street  
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671**

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### **LAS LAWYERS**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **The Hotel**

This Class 1 – Local Impact Assessment has been prepared for The White Tank Hotel Pty Ltd ('the Applicant') of the White Tank Hotel ('the Hotel') to accompany a Gaming Machine Threshold – Where LIA Required application lodged with the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

The White Tank Hotel is located at 203 Main Street West Wyalong NSW 2671. The Hotel is situated within the SA2 Band 2 area of West Wyalong, within the Bland Shire Local Government Area.

### **The Proposal**

The Hotel seeks a 'low range' gaming machine threshold increase of 4 gaming machines.

The number of gaming machines permitted to operate at the hotel will be increased from 0 to 4.

### **Local Community**

The local community for the purposes of this application is the SA2 Band 2 area of West Wyalong.

### **Harm Minimisation**

A short summary of the harm minimisation measures and responsible gambling practices implemented at the hotel are as follows:

- (a) no free or discounted alcohol provided to gaming patrons as an inducement to gamble;
- (b) no free credits are to be provided to gaming patrons;
- (c) every machine is to be located in a gaming room, with no machines to be placed in the general bar area or in a position where they are visible from a public place;
- (d) Patrons of the hotel are made aware of GameCare's self-exclusion scheme and other local counselling services, and of the government funded "gambling HELP" counselling service.

### **Positive Contribution**

**\$240,584.08** to be paid in annual instalments over 5 years into the Responsible Gambling Fund pursuant to section 36A of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and section 115B of the Casino Control Act 1992.

## DETAILS OF THE HOTEL

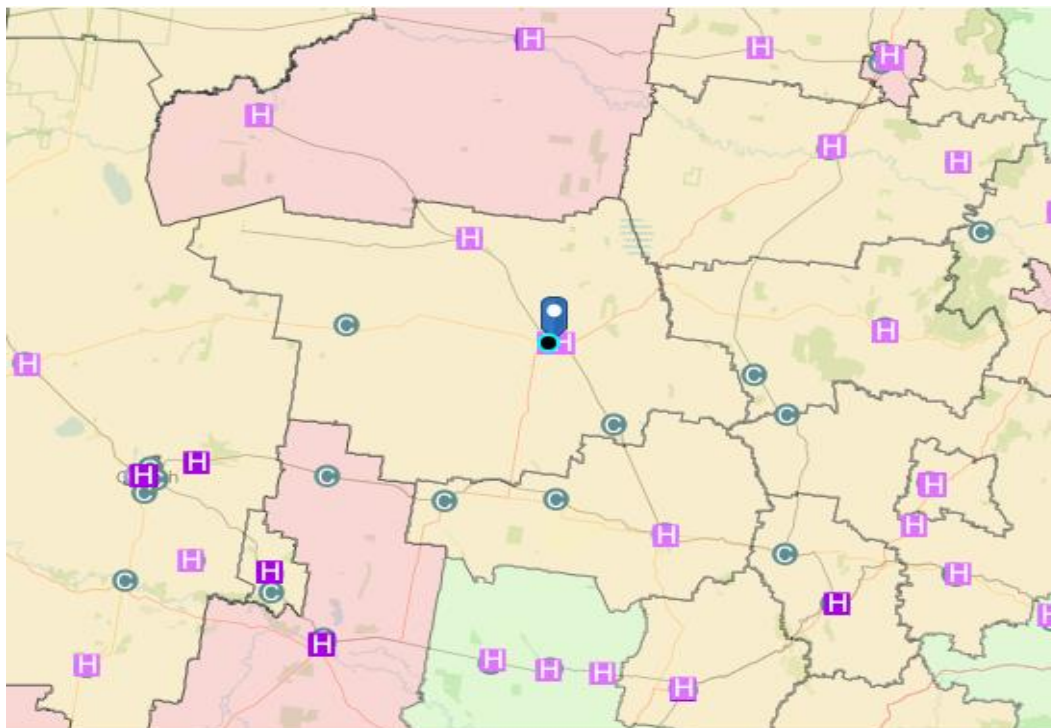
### Introduction

This Class 1 – Local Impact Assessment is to accompany a Gaming Machine Threshold Increase – Where LIA Required’ application lodged with the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to increase by 4 the number of gaming machines permitted to operate at the White Tank Hotel from 0 to 4.

### The Hotel

The White Tank Hotel is located at 203 Main Street West Wyalong NSW 2671.

The hotel is situated within the Band 2 – SA2 Statistical Area of West Wyalong, within the Bland Shire Local Government Area.



 **White Tank Hotel**

As depicted in the above map, the hotel is also surrounded by the following SA2 statistical areas:

SA2 Name	SA2 Band	SA2 Name	SA2 Band
Wagga Wagga Region	Band 1	Orange Region	Band 1
Griffith Region	Band 2	Cobar	Band 2
Condobolin	Band 3	Parkes Region	Band 2
Forbes	Band 2	Grenfell	Band 2
Young Region	Band 2	Temora	Band 2
Albury Region	Band 1	Narrandera	Band 3
Dubbo	Band 1	Cowra Region	Band 2

The hotel provides patrons with a full-serviced bar, bistro, sports bar, lounge and dining areas, beer garden and take away liquor. The hotel is a favourite venue amongst the local patrons, with the objective of making it attractive to a mature clientele appreciative of being able to drink, dine and gamble in a safe and comfortable setting.

The proposed hotel is within short walking distance to the available bus stops and West Wyalong Train Station. Additionally, the proposed hotel will arrange for taxi pick-ups from the hotel for any patron who requests such a service.

The premises is not a new premises as such clause 33 of the Gaming Machines Regulation 2010 does not apply to this application.

### **Gaming Machines**

The hotel currently has a Gaming Machine Threshold of 0.

The Application seeks to increase the Gaming Machine Threshold by 4.

If the subject application is approved, the hotel will be permitted to operate 4 gaming machines.

### **Floor Area**

The hotel has a total internal floor space of 587.4m<sup>2</sup>. The gaming room's area is approximately 20m<sup>2</sup>. The floor plans are included in this application as "Attachment 1", and show the current licensed boundaries, and also the gaming room where all the current and proposed gaming machines shall be located.

### **Trading Hours**

The trading hours permitted at the hotel are as follows:

#### **Consumption on Premises**

Monday:	5:00am – 12:00am
Tuesday:	5:00am – 12:00am
Wednesday:	5:00am – 12:00am
Thursday:	5:00am – 12:00am
Friday:	5:00am – 12:00am
Saturday	5:00am – 12:00am
Sunday:	5:00am – 12:00am

#### **Take Away**

Monday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Tuesday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Wednesday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Thursday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Friday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Saturday:	05:00am – 11:00pm
Sunday:	10:00am – 10:00pm

The hotels gaming machine shutdown period for the hotel is:

Monday to Sunday: 4:00am – 10:00am  
Public Holidays: 4:00am – 10:00am.

## **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **Population Statistics**

For the purposes of this assessment, the local community is the West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) draws its data from the 2016 Census and most notably discloses the following population statistics in relation to the SA2:

- The population of the West Wyalong (SA2) is 5,926;
- The percentage of males within the population is 49.9%;
- The percentage of females within the population is 50.1%;
- The median age of the people is 43 years of age;
- Of people aged 15 and over in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2), 10.2% reported having completed Year 12 as their highest level of educational attainment, 17.9% had completed a Certificate III or IV and 5.3% had completed an Advanced Diploma or Diploma.
- The most common occupations in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2) included Managers 27.3%, Technicians and Trades Workers 13.8%, Labourers 12.2%, Machinery Operators and Drivers 11.0%, and Professionals 10.5%.
- The most common ancestries in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2) were Australian 34.3%, English 30.5%, Irish 8.3%, Scottish 8.0% and German 4.0%.
- The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2) was \$579 (compared to the NSW average of \$664) and the median weekly household income is \$1,098 (compared to the NSW average of \$1,486);
- There were 2,624 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2). Of these 60.8% were employed full time, 29.2% were employed part-time and 3.6% were unemployed. The rate of unemployment in the West Wyalong (SA2) is significantly lower than the NSW average of 6.3%;

- Of occupied private dwellings in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2), 46.4% were owned outright, 25.9% were owned with a mortgage and 22.6% were rented; and
- Of occupied private dwellings in West Wyalong (Statistical Area Level 2), 94.7% were separate houses, 0.4% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses etc, 2.6% were flat or apartments and 0.6% were other dwellings.

### **SEIFA Index**

The Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia 2016 is used to determine the presence of any socio-economic vulnerability in West Wyalong SA2. The SA2 scored as follows:

1. Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage: 953;
2. Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage: 972;
3. Index of Economic Resources: 1003; and
4. Index of Education and Occupation: 950.

ABS notes that a low score indicates relatively lower education and occupation status of people in the area in general.

The high scores across all indices show that socio-economic vulnerability in West Wyalong is low.

### **HARM MINIMISATION AND RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES**

The existing hotel has implemented numerous initiatives in order to prevent problem gambling. Central to this is the training of staff to identify signs of problem gambling within patrons. Signs that staff members are trained to be aware of in patrons include:

- (a) persistent or unduly frequent gambling such as gambling every day;
- (b) gambling for extended periods without a break;
- (c) avoiding contact with other persons while gambling;
- (d) communicating very little with anyone else;
- (e) engaging in rituals or superstitions when gambling;

- (f) barely reacting to events going on around them;
- (g) displaying aggressive, antisocial or emotional behaviour while gambling;
- (h) making requests to borrow money from staff or other customers continuing to gamble with the proceeds of large wins; and
- (i) displaying faulty cognitions to justify gambling (e.g. believing that there are certain ways of playing poker machines that give you a better chance of winning money, refusing to play on machines that have recently paid out and believing that winning or losing tends to occur in cycles)

Staff are also trained to offer assistance when observations of above behaviors are made in relation to patrons, and staff members hold a reasonable belief that the patron is or may be developing into a problem gambler. Any approaches by staff members are to be tactful and respectful and can include:

- (a) simple interaction with the customer to divert attention from gambling;
- (b) encouraging the patron to take advantage of other facilities of the hotel, such as the bistro and lounge areas; and
- (c) offering the patron non-alcoholic refreshments to be consumed outside of the gaming room.

Any time a staff member makes an intervention on the basis that they consider that a patron may be exhibiting signs of problem gambling, they must record the intervention in an incident register.

Further responsible gambling initiatives implemented by the business owners in addition to compliance with the legal requirements include:

- (e) no free or discounted alcohol provided to gaming patrons as an inducement to gamble;
- (f) no free credits are to be provided to gaming patrons;
- (g) every machine is to be located in a gaming room, with no machines to be placed in the general bar area or in a position where they are visible from a public place;
- (h) no promotion or marketing of the gaming room.

Patrons of the hotel are made aware of GameCare's self-exclusion scheme and other local counselling services, and of the government funded "gambling HELP" counselling service.

Patrons are also made aware of the chances of winning and the problems associated with excessive gambling through the prescribed signage required to be located on each gaming machine and throughout the gaming room by way of the prescribed information notices on display.

The ATM located within the Hotel also displays the appropriate signage to notify patrons of the problems associated with gambling. The Hotel has no cash dispensing ATM or EFTPOS facility on its premises which permits cash to be provided from a credit card account.

The Hotel does not offer prizes associated with the use of its gaming machines and the Hotel.

The Hotel will comply with advertising requirements in respect of gaming:

- (a) The Hotel will not use the word “casino” in any description or promotion of the Hotel;
- (b) The Hotel will not permit gaming related advertising material to be displayed on the exterior or interior of the premises;
- (c) The Hotel will not promote irresponsible gaming or gaming practices;
- (d) The Hotel will display a clock, that is set to, or within 10 minutes of, the correct time and is in view of patrons in the gaming room;
- (e) The Hotel will not publish the details of any person who has won a prize in excess of \$1,000; and
- (f) The Hotel will display the prescribed signage with the gaming room, on all gaming machines, on the ATM any EFTPOS facilities.

Persons under the age of 18 years are prohibited from being in the gaming room and operating approved gaming machines at the hotel.

### **POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION – S 36(3)(c)(i)**

#### *Financial contribution*

The primary positive contribution shall be made by way of a financial contribution of **\$240,584.08** if this application is approved. The proposed contribution shall be made to the Secretary of the Responsible Gambling Fund pursuant to section 36A of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and section 115B of the Casino Control Act 1992.

#### Calculation of amount of financial contribution



The amount of the financial contribution was calculated in accordance with the new formula set out in GL4014 Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines published by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority, that is, 15% of average annual profit of existing hotels in the Local Government Area (average profit), multiplied by the number of GMEs to be added by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years.

*Additional positive contribution*

The second positive contribution which this application will have if it is approved is forfeiture of two GME's for every block of 6 GME's pursuant to section 20(3)(b) of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 ("the Act"). Furthermore, pursuant to section 20(7) of the Act if the proposed GMT increase and transfer of GME's are approved the transferor-hotel's GMT will reduce by the number of entitlements purchased, which would include those forfeited. Therefore the operation of sections 20(3)(b) and 20(7) of the Act will result in a reduction in the number of approved gaming machines in New South Wales.

## **SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS**

The Applicant is unaware of any specific community concerns but in the event any arise following advertising and notification requirements associated with the Application they will be addressed at that time.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Applicant submits that this Class 1 LIA accompanying the 'low range' Application satisfies the requirements of section 36(3) of the GMA, applicable regulations and guidelines for the Authority to approve the application.

### **Section 36(3)(a) and (b)**

The applicant submits that this LIA complies with the requirements of the Division and the regulations in relation to a class 1 LIA, and further submits that this LIA demonstrates that gambling activities in the Venue will be conducted responsibly.

### **Section 36(3)(c)(i)**

The proposed increase in the gaming machine 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.

### **Section 36(3)(c)(ii)**

The Venue is not a new hotel or new club premises, accordingly, the question of whether the Venue is located in the immediate vicinity of a school, hospital or place of public worship is not a factor that should be considered in this circumstance.

However, the applicant acknowledges that there is no such school, hospital or place of public worship that is in the immediate vicinity of the Venue.

**Section 36(3)(c)(iii)**

Regulation 37 of the GMR sets out pre-application consultation requirements but also provides that the provision is applicable only to a class 2 LIA. As explained in the Introduction (page 3 of this LIA) on the basis that the Venue is situated in a Band 2 LGA and is seeking a low increase of its GMT, it was determined that a class 1 LIA was appropriate rather than a class 2 LIA. Therefore, we submit that reg. 37 is not applicable to this application.

Regulation 41 of the GMR provides for post-application consultation requirements. Each of these will be complied with.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that as the elements for a LIA Class 1 are met the Application should be approved.

ATTACHMENT 1

