

Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application
North Nowra Tavern
Illaroo Road and Page Avenue
NORTH NOWRA NSW 2541

North Nowra Tavern (LIQH400105851)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a Local Impact Assessment Class 1 to accompany a Threshold Increase Application made for the approval of a 'low range' gaming machine threshold increase by Bryce Woodley (the "Applicant"). The increase is to apply to the hotel licence situated at Illaroo Road and Page Avenue, North Nowra NSW (the "Venue") located in the SA2 Band 2 area of North Nowra - Bomaderry within the Shoalhaven Local Government Area (the "LGA") and known as the "North Nowra Tavern".

The Venue's gaming machine threshold is currently approved for 25. The Applicant as the licensee proposes to increase the threshold by a further five (5) gaming machine entitlements/ permits for the threshold to be increased to 30. 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. North Nowra - Bomaderry SA2 has been identified as the Local Community.

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, along with the evidence of the substantial positive contribution through the Responsible Gambling Fund, it is the Applicant's belief that this LIA meets the requirements of the Legislation.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Report is a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (“LIA”) to accompany a Gaming Machine Threshold Increase Application for a Band 2 SA2 venue for a ‘low range’ increase of 5 gaming machine entitlements/permits for the North Nowra Tavern, located at Illaroo Road and Page Avenue, North Nowra NSW.

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 a LIA where the LIA 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 been operated at its current location since July 1953 and is a favourite amongst locals in and around North Nowra and the surrounding suburbs. The Venue provides the following facilities:
 - Sports Bar
 - Gaming Rooms
 - Drive-thru bottle shop
 - Deck/smoking areas
 - Dining areas
 - Outdoor dining area
 - Sanitary and other back of house facilities.
- 2.2. The Venue is 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 adjacent to other commercial premises located in North Nowra and has been present at its current location for the past 59 years.
- 2.4. No other hotel licence is located within a 1-kilometre radius of the Venue or within the suburb of North Nowra. The closest hotel licence is the Bomaderry Hotel which is approximately 2.2 kilometres in a direct line (and 3.4 kilometres by road) from the Venue. It is contended the Venue is not in a “cluster” of licensed hotel premises that would give rise to causing patron migration to and from the Venue.
- 2.5. The Venue’s gaming machine threshold is currently approved for 25 gaming machine entitlements.
- 2.6. The intention of this application is for a further 5 gaming machine entitlements or poker machine permits to be procured and transferred to the Venue’s licence to allow 30 gaming machines to be operated at the Venue.

2.7. The Venue's approved hours are as follows:

- Monday to Thursday - 5:00 am to 12.00 midnight;
- Friday - 5.00 am to 1.30 am;
- Saturday - 5.00 am to 1.00 am; and
- Sunday - 10:00 am to 10:00 pm.

2.8. Despite the ability to trade until 1.30 am on Friday, the Venue's licence is endorsed with a condition requiring the gaming machines to cease operating at 1.00 am.

2.9. The gaming machine shutdown period applicable to the Venue is:

- Monday to Saturday, - 4.00 am to 10.00 am.
Sunday and
public holidays

2.10. The floor space area of the Venue is approximately 2,800 square metres including the outdoor dining and deck areas which form part of the licensed premises. The floor space of the gaming room is approximately 102 square metres.

2.11. The Venue is not a new hotel as defined by the Act. Accordingly, clause 31 of the Regulation does not apply to this application.

2.12. The Venue will continue to be the sponsor of a number of sporting clubs in the area, which includes:

- Bomaderry Tigers AFL Club
- North Nowra Social Golf Club
- Illaroo Football Club
- Culburra Dolphin's Rugby League Club

2.13. These sponsorships will be continued, with management seeking for involvement with community/sporting groups in the area.

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 rooms 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;

- (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. When the gaming room is operated, the Venue engages a gaming room attendant who is present to provide supervision of this area. The presence of a gaming room attendant 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 North Nowra – Bomaderry SA2.

Demographics

- 4.2. The North Nowra - Bomaderry SA2 had a population of 16,098 as at the 2021 Census.
- 4.3. Other relevant demographic information is set out below:
- 49% of the population is male
 - 51% of the population is female
 - The median age is 44.
- 4.4. The ABS statistics for 2021 disclose that the North Nowra - Bomaderry SA2 has a education rate of residents that have tertiary institution education (17.8%) compared to that of NSW (23.8%), whilst the ownership of residential dwellings for the SA2 was 70.2% compared to 64.0% for that of NSW.
- 4.5. The median weekly family income for the SA2 is \$1,705 compared to \$2,185 for NSW.
- 4.6. The SEIFA scores in 2016 for Shoalhaven City LGA are as follows:

INDICATOR	Shoalhaven LGA Score	Shoalhaven LGA Decile
IRSEAD	944	4
IRSED	964	5
IER	982	5
IEO	950	5

- 4.7. Using the gaming machine data report prepared and issued by Liquor & Gaming NSW for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021, the net profit for all gaming machines for hotels in the Shoalhaven LGA is \$5,526,473 with the average profit per machine being \$24,671.54 for that 6-month period.
- 4.8. The gaming performance data report for the Venue shows the total net profit for the 12-month period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 to be \$2,112,130.96, with the average profit per machine being \$84,485.24 for that 12-month period.
- 4.9. To compare the profits per machine within the Shoalhaven LGA when calculated on a similar time period, the average profit per machine on a 6-month period, the amount for the Venue was \$34,030.45.

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 \$316,809.65 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 from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.
- 5.5. 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). There are 35 persons currently excluded from the Venue through this program.
- 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.