

LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CLASS 1

“BACK OF BOURKE HOTEL”

2 DARLING STREET, NORTH BOURKE

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Application is to accompany a Gaming Machine Threshold increase Application made for approval of a low range Gaming Machine Threshold increase of 5 for the Hotel.
- 1.2 The Hotel has a Gaming Machine Threshold of nil and Gaming Machines have never been operated at the Hotel.
- 1.3 The Hotel is located in the Band 2 Local Government Area of Bourke but is situate about 5km from the town of Bourke and is located in the village of North Bourke.
- 1.4 Should this Application be approved, the Hotel shall implement measures to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* (the Act) and its Regulations. Gambling activities at the Hotel will be conducted in a responsible manner.
- 1.5 The proposed increase in Gaming Machines for the Hotel will provide a positive contribution towards the local community in which the Hotel is situated. Such positive contribution shall be in the form of funding for the restoration and maintenance of the North Bourke Bridge and Approaches.
- 1.6 This Application complies with the requirements of the Act and its Regulations.

2. The Hotel

- 2.1 The Hotel was erected in about 1893, and is of timber construction with an iron roof.
- 2.2 The Hotel consists of a Public Bar and Lounge Area.
- 2.3 The Hotel's patrons are comprised primarily of residents of the village of North Bourke, tourist and truck drivers.
- 2.4 On average, two (2) tourist buses visit the Hotel each week.
- 2.5 Gaming Machines have never been operated at the Hotel.
- 2.6 Should the Application be approved, and the additional Gaming Machines result in increased revenue, it is intended to refurbish the Hotel.

- 2.7 It is difficult to predict Gaming Machine revenue in the absence of any history of Gaming Machines at the Hotel.

3. Location

- 3.1 The Hotel is located in the village of North Bourke
- 3.2 The village is about 5km from the town of Bourke.
- 3.3 The village has a permanent population of about 125
- 3.4 The village has two motels and a caravan park to cater for tourists.

4. Demography

- 4.1 The Hotel is located in the Bourke LGA (Bourke)
- 4.2 The population of Bourke was estimated to be 3091 on 30 June 2008
- 4.3 The population density as at 30 June 2006 was .1 persons per sq km.
- 4.4 The indigenous population made up 31.5% of the total population as at 30 June 2006
- 4.5 Bourke is categorised by a relatively low proportion of the population aged over 65.
- 4.6 In June 2006, the rate of unemployment in Bourke was estimated at 7.1%.

5. Local Community

- 5.1 The proposed increase in Gaming Machines from nil to 5 at the Hotel must provide a positive contribution towards the local community in which the Hotel is located.
- 5.2 One approach is to define the local community as being the village of North Bourke, which is the approach preferred by the Applicant.
- 5.3 An alternate approach is to define the local community as also including the town of Bourke.
- 5.4 On either approach, it is submitted that the proposed increase in Gaming Machines for the Hotel will provide a positive contribution towards the local community for the reasons set out below.

6. Positive Contributions

- 6.1 The approval of the Application will provide a positive contribution towards the local community by reason of the funding of a project to maintain and restore the North Bourke Bridge and Approaches (the Bridge)
- 6.2 The Bridge is maintained by Bourke Council (the Council) at a significant cost to the Council and its ratepayers.
- 6.3 It is proposed that 5% of any Gaming Machine Revenue (after payment of taxes) be paid direct to the Council to assist in the funding of the maintenance and restoration of the Bridge.
- 6.4 It is proposed that payment be made to the Council on or before 1 August each year, following calculation of Gaming Machine Revenue for the preceding financial year.
- 6.5 Contact has been made with Mark Gordon who is the Manager of Roads at the Council who has informed us that such a funding project is welcomed by the Council.
- 6.6 It is difficult to estimate the quantum of the proposed funding given the absence of any history of Gaming Machine operations at the Hotel.

7. North Bourke Bridge & Approaches

- 7.1 The Bridge is located on the Mitchell Highway over the Darling River at the village of North Bourke
- 7.2 The Bridge was designed in 1878 and opened in 1883
- 7.3 It was the first lift Bridge over the Darling River.
- 7.4 The Bridge is recognised as an item of heritage significance and was registered on the Register of the National Estate on 14 May 1991. The Bridge is described on the Register as "a significant technical accomplishment" which "admirably displays the state of the Bridge building art in the 1880s".
- 7.5 The Bridge is a tourist attraction for visitors to North Bourke and Bourke

See: www.visitbourke.com
www.backobourke.com.au
www.bourkebridgein.com.au

- 7.6 The Bridge has clear historical significance to both North Bourke and Bourke.
- 7.7 Further, the Bridge provides an economic benefit to both North Bourke and Bourke by reason of its attraction of tourists.
- 7.8 The maintenance of the Bridge imposes a significant financial obligation on the Council and its ratepayers and such obligation shall be alleviated by the funding project. That alleviation represents a positive contribution towards the local community.

8. Responsible Gambling Measures

- 8.1 There are currently no responsible gambling measures at the Hotel because there is no Gaming
- 8.2 Should the Application be approved, the Hotel shall implement responsible gaming measures strictly in accordance with the legislative requirements prescribed by the Act and the Regulations.
- 8.3 In particular, the Hotel shall ensure that such compliance includes (but is not limited to)
- Completion of approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course by all staff involved in Gaming related duties.
 - Prevention of minors having access to Gaming Areas.
 - Establish referral systems to problem gambling counselling services
 - The display of all required notices in Gaming Areas.
 - The location of any ATM at the Hotel in an area where there are no Gaming Machines
 - A visible fully functional clock in the Gaming Area
 - No provision of cash advances or other forms of credit
 - No unlawful inducements to gamble
 - The adoption of a self-exclusion scheme
 - Daily monitoring of the Gaming Area to ensure compliance
 - No cash prizes in Gaming promotions
 - No direct advertising of Gaming outside the Hotel
 - No visibility of Gaming Machines from outside the Hotel
- 8.4 The Hotel shall adopt the responsible conduct of gambling code of practice and be fully compliant with all responsible gambling measures.

9. Conclusion

The Application complies with the Legislative Requirements.

The Application demonstrates that, should it be granted, gambling activities will be conducted in a responsible manner.

The Application demonstrates that the proposed increase in Gaming Machines, from nil to 5, will provide a positive contribution towards the local community by way of a funding project for the North Bourke Bridge and Approaches.

Such project has been approved, in principle, by Bourke Council.

The positive contribution to the Local Community that has been identified shall not occur unless the Application is approved.

The Application satisfies the legislative requirements and should be approved.