

COMMERCIAL CLUB (ALBURY) LTD
CLASS 1 LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THRESHOLD INCREASE APPLICATION
FOR PREMISES AT DEAN STREET, ALBURY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This class 1 Local Impact Assessment is lodged by the Commercial Club (Albury) Limited (“**the Club**”) in support and as part of an application to increase the gaming machine threshold (“**Threshold**”) of its premises at 618 Dean Street, Albury (“**Premises**”) by twenty (20).
 - 1.2 The current Threshold of the Premises is 510, 510 poker machine entitlements are issued to the Premises, and 510 gaming machines are kept and operated at the Premises.
 - 1.3 The premises is located in the Albury Local Government Area. This Local Government Area has been classified as a Band 2 area by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority (“**Authority**”) for the purposes of section 33 of the *Gaming Machines Act*.
 - 1.4 The remainder of this LIA contains the following sections:
 - (a) Information on the Club and proposed transfer of entitlements;
 - (b) Responsible conduct of gambling;
 - (c) The local community;
 - (d) Positive contribution;
 - (e) Conclusion.
 - 1.5 If the proposed increase in the Threshold is granted, this will result in positive contributions to the local community in the form of donations and contributions set out in Section 5.
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2. **THE CLUB**

- 2.1 The Club was created in 1902, originally as a businessmen's club.
 - 2.2 From 1902, the Club has occupied and traded from the Premises. The Premises is located in the central business district of Albury. Albury is a major regional city of New South Wales having a population of approximately 57,544.
 - 2.3 The floor space of the Premises is 13060 square meters.
 - 2.4 As part of an amalgamation with the now former Albury Golf Club in 2003, the Club acquired second licensed premises located at 530 North Street, Albury. The Club operates the licensed premises and the golf course which is adjacent to these premises.
 - 2.5 The Club now has over 27,000 members providing quality restaurants, bars, lounges, entertainment and sporting activities with various sporting sub clubs and sections.
 - 2.6 The Club offers various forms of community support and donations to local community groups in Albury.
 - 2.7 The Club is also the major sponsor of the Albury Gold Cup Racing Festival and is the sponsor of the Gold Cup race itself. This is the major tourist event in Albury each year, attracting approximately 20,000 attendees each year.
 - 2.8 The Club is applying to increase the threshold of the Premises to allow for the transfer of the poker machine entitlements from another registered club located outside of the Albury Local Government Area. The Club has entered into a contract to purchase the entitlements. That contract is conditional on the granting of the application to increase the threshold of the Premises.
 - 2.9 The Club is a member of the Albury Liquor Accord.
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3. RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

- 3.1 The Club complies with all obligations imposed on it in relation to the responsible conduct of gambling by the *Gaming Machines Act* and *Gaming Machines Regulation*.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Guidelines produced by the Authority for Class 1 Local Impact Assessments, the Club does not set out these matters in this LIA.
- 3.3 However, in addition to the steps and actions required by the legislation, the Club undertakes the following measures:
- (a) The Club is a member of ClubsNSW and has agreed to, and adopted, the ClubsNSW Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code of Practice – Best Practice Guidelines. This involves the following:
 - (i) Promotion of responsible gambling practices that conform to local community standards and expectations.
 - (ii) Providing a patron complaint resolution process.
 - (iii) Encouraging responsible practices in advertising and promotions related to gambling and ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
 - (iv) Providing policies which ensures all legislative requirements related to cheque cashing, payment of winnings and financial transactions are implemented and encourages patrons to develop responsible practices in the use of finances for gambling purposes.
 - (v) Providing procedures for handling personal information relating to gambling patrons in a club to protect their rights of privacy.
 - (vi) Providing a pleasant and safe gambling environment.
 - (vii) Informing and training staff on legislative requirements, harm minimisation issues, the risks of not complying with legislative requirements or not adopting and practising harm minimisation strategies and taking appropriate steps to promote patron and employee care.
 - (viii) Encouraging patrons to take responsibility for their gambling activity through an effective self-exclusion procedure or other mechanisms.
 - (ix) Informing patrons and staff of the Club's responsible gambling policy and program, the nature of gambling products and the availability of support services for problem gamblers.
 - (x) Developing links between the club and relevant community organisations that will provide support and advice for problem gamblers and their families.
 - (b) The Club is also a member of the Club Safe Program. Club Safe is a club industry responsible conduct of gambling program. The Club is an active
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member of Club Safe which helps the Club manage responsible gambling operations which meet legislative requirements and community expectations.

(c) Club Safe provides guidance in the responsible provision of gambling services. The Club has adopted the Club Safe principles of:-

- (i) Compliance;
- (ii) Consumer Protection;
- (iii) Harm Minimisation;
- (iv) Risk Management; and
- (v) Measurement of Effectiveness.

(d) The Club participates in patron and staff education in providing a responsible gambling program together with providing programs and policies on the prevention and intervention of problem gamblers.

3.4 It is the Club's position that these additional members are appropriate for the Club to help prevent the misuse and abuse of gambling.

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 4.1 In order to demonstrate the positive benefits to the local community from the granting the application, the Club has considered the definition of the “local community” for the Premises.
- 4.2 In broad terms, the Club considers its local community to consist of persons who use the services, amenities and facilities of the Club and/or who may be affected by its operations.
- 4.3 The Club is located within the central business district of Albury.
- 4.4 Under the Club’s Constitution and the *Registered Clubs Act*, a person whose residential address is in New South Wales and is within five (5) kilometres of the Club’s premises cannot enter the Club as a Temporary member.
- 4.5 The area referred to in 4.4 provides a useful definition of the local community for the premises as this area incorporates the central business district and the majority of the urban areas of Albury. A majority of the Club’s members are also located in this area.
- 4.6 Accordingly, the Club’s local community for the purposes of this LIA is the area within New South Wales within five kilometres of the Premises.
- 4.7 Because of the Club’s location, a large number of its members are residents in Victoria. However, for the purposes of this LIA, the Club has limited the local community to areas in New South Wales.

5. **POSITIVE CONTRBUTION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- 5.1 If the application is granted, and the Threshold of the Premises is increased by 20 so that 20 additional entitlements can be transferred to the Premises, there will be two Board positive contributions to the local community.
- 5.2 Firstly, the Threshold increase will enable the Club to make the following donations:
- (a) \$20,000.00 to Quamby House - Quamby House provides crisis and transitional accommodation for homeless men aged from 18 years of age.
 - (b) \$20,000.00 to Betty's Place Women's Refuge - Betty's Place provides safe, supportive accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.
 - (c) \$20,000.00 to YES Youth & Family Services - YES Youth & Family Services provides a range of responsive support and services including accommodation and counselling, that meet the changing needs of young people and their families.
- 5.3 If the application is granted, and the Club therefore makes the donations referred to above, it is very conscious of the fact that those bodies would best know how the additional resources could be spent. Indeed, this is part of the reason why the Club proposes making these donations as opposed to spending the money on a project of its own choosing, as bodies directly involved in the provisions of services to the community know how best to provide this assistance.
- 5.4 Nevertheless, the Club would, if the application is granted, state, in communications with those bodies that the donations are given on the basis that the money is used on programs in the local community.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Club complies with its responsible conduct of gambling obligations in the legislation and takes the additional steps set out in section 3 of this local impact assessment.
- 6.2 The approval of the local impact assessment, increase in the Threshold of the Premises and transfer of the entitlements to the Premises will result in a positive contribution to the local community as set out in section 5 of this local impact assessment.