

Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application



EARLWOOD-BARDWELL PARK RSL



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Submission for Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club Limited (The Club)...Licence # 227014, for a LGA Band 2, Class 1 Application.
- The Club Premises are located at Hartill-Law Avenue Bardwell Park NSW 2207 incorporated in the Rockdale Local Government Area (LGA) classified as Band 2 by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority. Following is a submission of a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment, requesting a threshold increase of 8 poker machines, which constitutes a low range increase according to this same Act.
- Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. currently holds 196 approved entitlements for gaming machines and thus an increase of 8 poker machines would bring this overall total to 204.
- The forecasted net profit from the extra 8 poker machines is expected to be circa \$140,000 per annum.
- The projected annual net profit from the 8 additional poker machines, would allow the Club to support additional community facilities, assist in maintaining its current affordable pricing levels and also assist with funding of the club's Financial Liabilities of \$643,311 as at 1 November 2015.
- Positive outcomes for NSW and specifically the Rockdale community are the expected increase in employment opportunities both directly and indirectly as a result.
- Primarily, by the expected growth in Revenue, the Club would reasonably expect increases in its CDSE allocation. The Community Development and Support Expenditure (CDSE) scheme is a state-wide initiative that recognises clubs' significant financial support for projects and services that contribute to the wellbeing of their communities. Beyond that, Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL intends to provide a special allocation of \$40,000 in the 12 months following, if approval is provided for this application. This amount, contributed above the Standard Contribution to the Category 1 Fund will be directed to those essential community Services as noted in Paragraph 2.4...Increased Spend on Community Grants below.
- The Club adheres to all harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures stipulated in the Liquor Act, Gaming Machines Act & Gaming Machines Regulations. Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. has also adopted the Clubs NSW Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code – "Best Practice Guidelines", and is a member of the ClubSAFE Responsible Gambling Program.
- The Club follows all Responsible Gambling Polices.
- All gaming related staff at Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club are required to undertake in-house training, as well as completing a Liquor Administration Board approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course (RCG).
- The subsequent information will establish that the Rockdale community will benefit by the increase of 8 x poker machines.

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Introduction

The following submission outlines an application for a threshold increase of 8 poker machines for Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club Ltd pursuant to the recently amended Gaming Machines Act 2001. In accordance with the Gaming Machines Amendment Act, a submission follows for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment, detailing the benefits the club will provide to the local community, as well as the range of harm minimisation and responsible gaming measures employed by the Club. A copy of this Local Impact Assessment is available for public inspection at the Club during operating hours.

1.0...The Club

Located in the Rockdale Local Government Area, Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club opened in 1959. The club has a Band 2 classification by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority as part of the Gaming Machines Amendment Act. The Club occupies the site at Hartill-Law Ave Bardwell Park 2207 and is located next to Bardwell Park Railway station.

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club covers a Total floor area of 4,200 m sq, has 14,037 members and now supports 97 Staff overall.

The Club provides Free Entertainment with Saturday evening Duo bands, light entertainment Bingo and Raffles.

The Club also provides a children's play area that services the Restaurant and Fitness Centre areas.

The club also owns and operates Earlwood Bowling and Recreation Club. - Licence 227022.

The Club Opening Hours are as follows:

Sunday to Wednesday..... 9.00am – 1.00am
Thursday to Saturday..... 9.00am – 3.00am

The club provides 219 parking spaces for our members and their guests.

The Club also provides a courtesy bus, operating from 7pm to close, 7 days per week.

2.0...Benefits to the Local Community

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club will continue to build ties with community groups and sporting groups. The club's participation in the CDSE has netted Local community Groups some \$358,711.

Along with the sponsorship and support for Community groups, we provide rooms in the Club to use for schools and club meetings free of charge.

The club currently provides additional donations of circa \$51,319 exceeding the legislated requirements with regular community beneficiaries.

The club also provides a Children's Days care centre along with financial support for junior sport groups. Several of these expected benefits are of increased employment, upholding of the club's pricing & services, enhanced spend in the local area and a further increase in CDSE donations should offset any negative outcomes.

The additional income generated by the increase in entitlements, will benefit both the club and the community, by engaging additional employees and greater community funding. This increase of 8 poker machines will provide positive community benefits if approved.

This previous statement is demonstrated by the proven benefits gained to the community with direct employment at the club, increased by 7 people after a previous poker machine increase in the last 12 months.

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2.1...Local Community Related Issue

Due to the legislative requirements expressing compulsory membership for those patrons who reside within 5km of the venue, studies have shown that the majority of members & visitors are found to have been sourced within the scope of that range. The conclusion being that any improvements bought about by the approval of this application would be for the greatest benefit to the local community.

2.2...Increased Employment Opportunities

With ongoing improvement planned for the club, there is a real prospect for additional local employment opportunities. The growth of the club depends on this additional income, which overall will benefit the community. To further define this, the additional poker machines would necessitate additional staff to cover the expected increase in demand for food, beverages, payouts and general customer service on the gaming floor. The additional 8 Gaming Machines applied for, have the potential to generate additional net revenue of \$140,000 per year, thus the expectation is that staff and wages would increase again on approval of this application.

This increase in gaming machines would also provide increased opportunities for external businesses. With an extra 8 poker machines, additional furniture, stools and signage are just a small portion of the changes required to the Floor area in the implementation phase.

Any increase in employment would be extremely beneficial within the Rockdale LGA, particularly in the current economic climate where the anticipated unemployment rate expects to rise steadily. Given the great majority of our staff are drawn from our local community; a further benefit will be to keep additional funds local to the region.

As previously noted, the benefits gained to the community by direct employment at the club, has increased by 7 people over the last 12 months.

2.3...Increase Economic Activity in the Local Region

The projected increased revenue from the extra gaming machines are expected to allow greater proliferation of the Club's services and entertainment mix and thus attract visitors from outside the region, which will create further revenue injections into the community. A more attractive entertainment and gaming venue may potentially limit Rockdale residents from visiting venues outside the area, keeping their funds within the Rockdale community.

2.4...Increased Spend on Community Grants

The projected increase in revenue from an extra 8 poker machines would provide the Club with the means to further increase community expenditure. It is the club's commitment to provide additional funding by Club Grants in excess of our regulatory requirements. (Currently at \$51,319)

Any further increases expected by the additional gaming machines, will have a positive effect on the community of Rockdale, who obviously benefit greatly from the Club's support.

Provided this application is approved, Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club will contribute an additional \$40,000. The additional Funds will be allocated above and beyond all standard CDSE Contributions. On approval of this submission, the Club will allocate the funds to the recipients as follows:

(Progressively during the 12 months after approval or as defined by the regulators)

- Children's Disability Foundation St George \$20,000
- Calvary Health Care \$10,000
- Intellectual Disability Foundation St George \$10,000

Total of \$40,000.

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2.5...Gaming Machine Expenditure

The club currently operates 196 gaming machines. The net gaming revenue is \$10,485,441 for this year. The net profit after costs was \$6,317,173.

2.6...Increased Taxes to Benefit NSW

The club paid out \$2,569,574 in Gaming Duty and other taxes in the last reporting year, with a reasonable expectation that this would increase again with the addition of 8 poker machines. The additional Poker machine taxes would in turn be utilised to provide necessary services to the people of NSW. (http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/gaming_info_taxrates_regclubs.asp)

2.7...Overall Poker Machine Reduction

To gain an increase of 8 poker machines, Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club would be required to purchase 12 and relinquish 4 to the NSW State Government to dispose of. This would lead to overall decrease state-wide of 4 poker machines.

3.0...Advertising, Promotions and Inducements to Gamble

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club does not offer any unlawful inducements to gamble such as free or discounted liquor promotions to gamblers or any schemes that allow distribution of free gambling credits to gaming machine players.

The Club does not use the word Casino in any description or promotion of the Club in signs or any advertising or promotional material, which is visible or audible from outside the premises. The Club's gaming machine signs all comply with the Gaming Machines Act. The Club will not publish in any form information that identifies a winner of a prize, if requested not to do so in writing.

3.1...Electronic Surveillance

The club operates a state of the art 64 channel CCTV System which assists in complying with legislation and general public safety.

Surveillance cameras enable management to:

- ❖ Monitor car park to ensure that children are not left unattended in motor vehicles
- ❖ Monitor the behavior of club patrons

3.2...Compliance Committee

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club operates a comprehensive Incident Log for their compliance committee.

This recording System and its implementation, is the responsibility of the CEO and his Assistant. They are entrusted by the Board to carry out the clubs RCG policy and record and act on any or all incidents during their shifts. This includes incidents that may be relevant to compliance with the club's Responsible Conduct of Gambling policies and responsibilities under the law. Management also maintains the clubs Incident Register book provided by the Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing, as per the Liquor Act 2007 section 77.

3.3...Gaming Related Staff Requirements and Training

All staff who undertakes in any gaming-related duties, have all completed a Liquor Administration Board approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course (RCG). As a member of ClubSAFE, all staff has trained in the ClubSAFE program and additional training has been provided for gaming area staff and Duty Managers in assisting problem gamblers and processing self-exclusions. This training goes beyond the minimum requirements of the legislation and focuses on how staff can properly assist problem gamblers. The ClubSAFE Manual is available to all staff for training and revision purposes for responsible gaming procedures

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3.4...Problem-Gambling Counselling

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club is a member of the “ClubSAFE” program.

ClubSAFE is the club industry’s Responsible Conduct of Gambling Program.

Details of ClubSAFE are available at:

(<http://www.clubsnsw.com.au/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutUs/ClubsNSWServices/ClubSAFEProgram/default.htm>)

Club Safe now operates online.

Initially developed by ClubsNSW with significant input from the Australian Institute for Gambling Research, ClubSAFE is a comprehensive package designed to help registered clubs manage responsible gambling operations that meet legislative requirements and community expectations

ClubSAFE is recognised as the market leader in offering a comprehensive and affordable program so clubs can easily manage compliance with the Gaming Machines Act.

The club displays a notice of the name and contact details of this and other providers. If a patron enquires about problem gambling counselling, staff will ensure that the person is made fully aware of ClubSAFE, G-Line, or any other provider near the gambler’s residence. Any person identified as a problem gambler, will also be advised of the club’s Self-Exclusion Scheme. ClubSAFE brochures, detailing information on counselling and the G-Line service, are also prominently displayed and readily available at the Club. The club and all staff take an active role in ensuring this information is available and known to any potential problem gamblers.

3.5...Harm Minimisation and Responsible Gambling Measures

In order to provide a responsible gambling environment and comply with the relevant legislation, Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club has adopted the Clubs NSW Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code of Practice – Best Practice Guidelines and is a member of the Club Safe Responsible Gambling Program. The Club has lodged a Responsible Gambling Affidavit with the Liquor Administration Board.

Furthermore, it has made all necessary changes to comply with the requirements of Gambling Legislation Amendment (Responsible Gambling) Act 1999 No 49. Details of the Act and recent Amendments are available for viewing at: (<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/act+49+1999+ed+0+Y?>)

Section 125D...Responsible conduct of gambling activities - The Club complies with all aspects of this legislative framework.

(1) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to requiring or encouraging the adoption of responsible practices in relation to the gambling activities that may lawfully be conducted at licensed premises.

(2) In particular, the regulations may make provision for or with respect to the following:

- (a) Restricting or prohibiting the conduct of promotions or other activities (including advertising),
 - (b) The standards to be observed on licensed premises for the conduct of responsible gambling activities,
 - (c) Requiring licensees, managers or other persons involved or proposing to be involved in the conduct of gambling activities at licensed premises to undergo courses of training that will promote responsible practices in the conduct of those activities.
 - (d) The prohibition or restriction of the offering of inducements, or inducements of a kind, specified in the regulations,
 - (e) The information to be provided and signs to be displayed about gambling activities at licensed premises,
 - (f) The notices to be displayed with respect to the availability of counselling in respect of financial, social or other problems that may arise in connection with gambling,
 - (g) Requiring facilities on licensed premises for the withdrawal or transfer of money from banks and authorised deposit-taking institutions (such as ATMs and EFTPOS) to be installed or located in parts of the premises that are separate from parts of those premises where gambling activities are conducted,
 - (h) The provision of anonymity at the request of a gambler who has won a major prize.
- (3) The regulations under this section may create offences punishable by a penalty not exceeding 50 penalty units.

(4) It is the intention of Parliament that regulations under this section will be made as soon as practicable after the date of assent to the Gambling Legislation Amendment (Responsible Gambling) Act 1999.

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3.6...In-House Gaming Policy

Earwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club has adopted the following responsible practices to comply with the above regulation:

- ❖ Provides gambling services and practises that conform to all applicable acts & regulations.
- ❖ Not permitting minors (under 18) in gaming area.
- ❖ Ensuring all legislative requirements related to cheque cashing, payment of winnings and financial transactions are implemented and encouraging patrons to develop responsible practises in the use of finances for gambling purposes.
- ❖ Not giving credit. Not cashing cheques.
- ❖ Ensuring all winning payments over **\$5,000** are paid by cheque.
- ❖ Providing and maintaining a pleasant and safe gambling environment.
- ❖ Providing an effective self exclusion scheme and encouraging patrons to take responsibility for their gambling activity.
- ❖ Promoting G-line and other gambling counselling services.
- ❖ Ensuring that all approved signage is on gaming machines and ATM's.
- ❖ Displaying approved information brochures in the gaming area and throughout the club.
- ❖ Placing clocks throughout the gaming area.
- ❖ Promoting responsible gambling practises that conform to local community standards and expectations.
- ❖ Practising responsible advertising and promotions related to gambling and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation.
- ❖ Responsible handling of personal information relating to gambling patrons to protect their rights of privacy.
- ❖ Informing and training staff of legislative requirements and harm minimisation issues and the risks of not complying and taking appropriate steps to promote patron and employee care.

3.7...Self-Exclusion Scheme

Earwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club has adopted the ClubSAFE self-exclusion scheme. Appropriate staff training has ensured that staff knows when to talk to patrons about self-exclusion and how to process their request. As part of this scheme, the Club:

- ❖ The club or an employee cannot refuse a participant's request to participate in the scheme.
- ❖ On receipt of a request, the Duty Manager will explain the process to the person and present the relevant documentation.
- ❖ Allows a participant to obtain independent legal or professional advice, at the participant's expense, before signing the appropriate forms as to the meaning and effect of the undertaking.
- ❖ Ensures that all participants sign a written undertaking not to gamble in the Club which clearly states the period of exclusion. Furthermore, the Club does not allow a participant to withdraw from the undertaking without the consent of ClubSAFE or G-Line, who will ensure the participant undergoes a rigorous assessment process to ascertain the progress the person has made in managing their gambling problems. The Club employs a minimum six month exclusion period.
- ❖ Ensures all appropriate information about gambling related counselling and treatment services are displayed and available to patrons, on relevant signage and in brochures within the Club.
- ❖ Ensures staff is equipped to identify participants by displaying a recent photograph in areas accessible only to gaming staff as well as a folder with the details of all participants in it. The importance of identifying participants is emphasised in staff training.
- ❖ Displays signs in the gaming area & reception foyer, advertising the accessibility of the self-exclusion scheme.

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4.0...Profile of the Rockdale LGA, provided by 2011 Census Data

(http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/LGA16650?opendocument&navpos=220)

EBP R.S.L. Map Location with Aerial View.



Rockdale Code LGA16650 (LGA)

		
People	Families	All private dwellings
97,340	25,845	38,806
Male 48,108	Average children per family 1.8	Average people per household 2.7
Female 49,232		Median weekly household income \$1,276
Median Age: 36 years		Median monthly mortgage repayments \$2,167
		Median weekly rent \$370
		Average motor vehicles per dwelling 1.4

4.1...Demography

Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL is located in the Rockdale LGA and is situated between Bardwell Park railway station and Wolli creek. The club also owns and manages the Earlwood Bowling and Recreation Club, Licence # 227022. Earlwood Bowl is located 1 km from EBP and is only 2 minutes away by car.

The City of Rockdale was originally known as the West Botany Municipality. The Municipality of West Botany was declared on the 13th January 1871 and covered nine square miles in 1884. It included much of the land which was later used to build Sydney Airport. The West Botany name was officially changed to Rockdale in 1887, when land was being sub-divided for residential development. Among the main developers during this period was Frederick Jamison Gibbes, a Member of Parliament whose name is perpetuated by Gibbes Street in Banksia.

The area of the municipality was reduced when the mouth of Cooks River was moved further south of its original position in the mid 1940s, to allow for the extension of Sydney Airport. Only a small part of the airport remains in the local government area today. As the city's population increased, more suburbs were created within its boundaries. The Municipality of Rockdale was declared a city in 1995, and is now known as the City of Rockdale.

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5.0...Conclusion

The expected increase in Revenue from an additional 8 poker machines if installed at the club, would allow additional contributions within the local community. On approval of this submission, it is the club's commitment, to provide a further \$40,000 as community grants, allocated to recipients as per Paragraph 2.4...Increased Spend on Community Grants.

These additional funds will undoubtedly make a substantial difference to the health and well-being of families in the region. The club is undertaking every effort in all area of the club's operations, to ensure a positive future for its members and the community as a whole.

The Club has undertaken a number of measures to ensure that gambling activities are conducted in a responsible manner. Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club has shown a very high level of legislative compliance over an extended period of time. To comply further, the club joined and fully participates in the ClubSAFE program, to expose its commitment as significant with responsible gambling compliance and attitude.

Earlwood Bardwell Park R.S.L. Club appreciates that they have met all the necessary Legislative requirements and in combination with the extensive harm minimisation and problem gambling initiatives undertaken, indicate a low range increase of 8 poker machines in the Club will result in a net positive outcome to the region.

John Fitzgibbon
Chief Executive Officer
Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club
By Order, the Board of Directors

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