

<p>CLASS 1 LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 36 OF GAMING MACHINES ACT 2002</p>

Premises: Eastern Creek Tavern
64 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood (Eastern Creek)

Licensee: Nathan Fortunato FURIA

Liquor licence number: LIQH400121423

LGA: Blacktown Council

Current gaming machine threshold: 15

Increase in gaming machine threshold: 15

Proposed gaming machine threshold: 30

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

Approval is sought pursuant to Section 36 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001, for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (Class 1 LIA) to allow a low range increase of 15 to the gaming machine threshold for the Eastern Creek Hotel located at 64 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood. The local government area of the Eastern Creek Tavern is Blacktown City Council which is a Band 2 LGA. The primary purpose of the business is the sale of liquor by retail. The Hotel began operation in 2003 and is located on the western edge of the Huntingwood Industrial Estate.

2. Responsible Gambling and Harm Minimisation

The Hotel is a member of the Australian Hotel Association's Gamecare Self Exclusion Program and complies with the requirements of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and Gaming Machines Regulations 2002 to ensure that gambling activities are conducted in a responsible manner.

3. Local Community

The local community of the Eastern Creek Tavern is made up of mostly commercial and light industrial businesses in the nearby Huntingwood Industrial Centre. The majority of patrons travel to the area by car. There are no residential properties within approximately one (1) kilometre of the Hotel. For the purposes of this application it is submitted that the local community of the Hotel is the Blacktown LGA area.

4. Positive contribution

The Hotel currently contributes approximately \$15,000 per annum to local community groups incorporating sporting, non profit organisation, local schools and charities. In consultation with Mr Tito Scohel, Community Projects Officer of Blacktown Council, the Hotel's business owners Manband Pty Limited have agreed, subject to this application being approved, to provide a one off cash payment totalling \$75,000 to local community organisations operating in the Blacktown Local Government area which provide services to assist people with gambling and drug/alcohol issues. This financial assistance will therefore be a positive contribution to the local community facilitating these services.

5. Conclusion

It is the applicant's belief that the content of the LIA complies with the requirements of the Act and Regulations and guidelines published by the Authority.

1. INTRODUCTION

Approval is sought for a low range increase of 15 gaming machines to allow the maximum of 30 gaming machines as permitted by Section 11 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001.

Approval was given by the former Licensing Court of NSW in 2003 for the removal of a hotel licence to the Eastern Creek Tavern premises. The primary purpose of the business is the sale of liquor by retail. The Hotel provides a full range of facilities for its patrons, these include a public bar, internal and external dining areas, function room, TAB, gaming room and carparking.

There is only one hotel located in the suburb of Eastern Creek. The nearest hotel to the Eastern Creek Tavern is located more than 3.5 kilometres away and does not provide gaming machines at the its venue.

The keeping and operation of gaming machines at the Hotel do not detract unduly from the character of the Hotel or from the enjoyment of persons using the Hotel otherwise than for the purposes of gambling.

2. RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AND HARM MINIMISATION

The currently has 15 gaming machines. All gaming machines are located within a gaming room as prescribed by Clause 9 of the Gaming Machines Regulation 2002, in that:

- a. the gaming room is located in a bar area of the hotel;
- b. the gaming room is physically separated from the general bar area by walls and doors;
- c. patrons are not compelled to pass through the gaming room in order to enter or leave the hotel or in order to gain access to another part of the hotel;
- d. entry to the gaming room is free of charge;
- e. the gaming machines cannot be seen from any place outside the hotel that is used by the public or to which the public has access;
- f. all gaming machines are suitable spaced in order to facilitate access;
- g. the gaming room is supervised at all times by way of electronic means and physical present of the licensee or an employee;
- h. the gaming room has two (2) doorways that provide reasonable access to and from the gaming room to at least one operating bar and at least one toilet for each gender without the need for patrons to go on the a public street, or to any area not forming part of the hotel when moving from the gaming room to the other facilities; and
- i. the gaming room cannot be accessed directly from a public street.

The Hotel is closed during the mandatory shutdown period of 4.00 am to 10.00 am Monday to Sunday.

The Hotel's management and staff are supportive of and encourage responsible gaming practices and all staff engaged in the operation of gaming machines have completed the prescribed Responsible Gambling Course. A responsible gambling certificate for all staff is maintained in a register at the Hotel.

The Hotel is a current member of the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) New South Wales and will continue to support its practices and procedures for gaming harm minimisation.

The Hotel has adopted the AHA's Gamecare self exclusion scheme. All management and staff are aware of the program and patrons are made aware of the program through the required notices on display.

Patrons of the hotel are made aware of the AHA's counselling services and of the government funded "gambling HELP" counselling service.

All prescribed gaming related signage is on display on the gaming machines, ATM and throughout the hotel's gaming room advising of the chances of winning and the problems associated with excessive gambling.

The Hotel does not offer prizes associated with the use of its gaming machines and the Hotel has a policy of not cashing cheques.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Eastern Creek Tavern would best be described as a destination hotel with the majority of patrons needing to drive to the Hotel as public transport to the area is limited. The Hotel also services people working in the businesses within the local area of Eastern Creek and Huntingwood. These suburbs are both substantially industrial estates with large office/warehouse complexes.

For the purposes of this application the local community has been identified as being the Blacktown LGA.

The Blacktown LGA covers an area of approximately 247 square kilometres and encompasses 47 suburbs. The suburb of Huntingwood in which the hotel is located is situated at the southern edge of the local government area. There are no residential properties located within the suburb which is bounded to the north by the Great Western Highway, to the south by the M4 western motorway, to the west by Bradham Drive and to the east by Reservoir Road. A map is attached at Appendix 1 showing the location of the Hotel.

Blacktown LGA has a SEIFA (2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage) score of 983 with a decile range of 8 showing that the percentage of the population of 271,709 persons is more advantaged than disadvantaged.

4. POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

The Hotel currently provides on an annual basis a sum of approximately \$15,000 in cash and “in kind” services towards a number of local community groups. These include –

Sporting groups - *Blacktown Workers Baseball Club; Eastern Creek Karting Club; Eastern Creek Drag Way; Jim Reed Top Fuel Racing Team; Craig Stauner Kart Team; Minchinbury Cricket Club; West Sydney Ice Dogs National Ice Hockey Team; Kings Langley Winter Baseball Club, One United Cricket Club, Major League Baseball (Blacktown Olympic Park)*

Local Schools and individual students – *John the Baptist Primary School Aerobic Teams, Bossley Park High School Italy Soccer Tour, Curtis Vella (up and coming Rugby Player)*

Social Clubs – *Minchinbury and Blacktown Hospital nurses' social club; DGO social golf club*

Charities (local and statewide) – *Fred Hollows Foundation*

The Hotel is also used by these local community groups as a regular meeting and gathering place. The Hotel provides a safe and friendly environment for the local community to hold family oriented events.

Mr Tito Scohel, Community Projects Officer of Blacktown Council, was contacted and a meeting held to discuss how the Hotel's business owners Manband Pty Limited would go about obtaining providing a one off payment totalling \$75,000 to one or more local community organisations within the Blacktown Local Government area which provide services to assist in problem gambling and drug and alcohol issues.

The following organisations have been identified as local community organisations to receive the funds:-

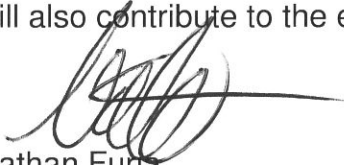
1. Bridges Incorporated, Blacktown (www.bridges.org.au) – this organisation provides counselling services for individuals, families and groups and provides treatment, intervention and prevention strategies. It also provides a 24 hour helpline.
2. Centacare Catholic Social Services, Blacktown – this organisation provides counselling services for the local community and also receives funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund.
3. Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation, Emerton – this organisation provides assistance to aboriginal males 16 years and over and targets social and economic issues affecting the community.
4. Dharruk Aboriginal Medical Services, Mt Druitt – additional information not yet received in respect of this organisation.

Subject to approval of the application for the increase in gaming machine threshold the funds will be distributed, after further consultation with Mr Tito Scohel, within a period of six (6) months.

5. CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the foregoing information complies with the guidelines for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment attaching to an application for an increase in the gaming machine threshold of the Hotel by addressing the responsible gambling and harm minimisation measures taken by the hotel; identifies the local community of the hotel; and provides information to show that a positive contribution will be made to the local community if the LIA and increase application are approved.

The increase to the poker machine threshold by 15 to 30 will allow the Hotel to continue to provide assistance to the local sporting and community groups which it currently supports. It will also benefit local community organisations such as Bridges Inc, Centacare, the Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation and Dharruk Aboriginal Medical Services by providing a payment totalling \$75,000 for use to provide additional services for problem drug/alcohol and gambling programs; and will also contribute to the employment of additional staff.



Nathan Funa
Licensee

Dated: 1 April, 2010