

NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD
CLASS 1 LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THRESHOLD INCREASE APPLICATION
FOR PREMISES AT MENANGLE PARK

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This class 1 Local Impact Assessment is lodged by the New South Wales Harness Racing Club Limited (“the Club”) in support of an application to increase the gaming machine threshold of its premises at Menangle Park by twenty (20).
- 1.2 The current threshold of the premises is 39, 39 poker machine entitlements are issued to the premises, and 12 gaming machines are kept and operated at the premises.
- 1.3 The premises are located in the Campbelltown Local Government Area. This Local Government Area has been classified as a Band 2 area by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority for the purposes of section 33 of the *Gaming Machines Act*.
- 1.4 The Club seeks to increase its threshold to allow twenty (20) entitlements to be transferred from the Club’s premises at Harold Park. This is part of the general transfer of all of the Club’s operations to Menangle Park.
- 1.5 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.

2. THE CLUB

- 2.1 The Club was created in October 1902. It is the principal harness racing club in New South Wales.
- 2.2 From 1902, the Club has occupied and traded from premises located at Ross Street, Glebe, being the Harold Park premises. The last night of racing at the Harold Park premises was on 17 December 2010.
- 2.3 From 1953, the Club has also occupied and traded from the Menangle Park Premises.
- 2.4 In the second half of October 2010, the Board of the Club resolved to cease all operations and trading from the Harold Park premises and only operate from the Menangle premises.
- 2.5 Broadly speaking, this decision was made to:
- (a) consolidate the Club's operations at the one premises;
 - (b) sell the Harold Park premises to provide a source of capital and income for the Club to ensure the Club's financial future in supporting harness racing in New South Wales.
- 2.6 The Club conducts midweek race meetings, as well as major race meetings on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon. These meetings are generally the major harness race meetings in New South Wales each week.
- 2.7 The Club is applying to increase the threshold of the Menangle Park premises to allow for the transfer of the poker machine entitlements from Harold Park to Menangle Park as part of the general transfer of assets and operations to the Menangle Park premises.
- 2.8 The Club has issued to it club licences under the *Liquor Act* in respect of the Harold Park premises and the Menangle Park premises.
- 2.9 As the proposed transfer of entitlements is between two premises of the same Club section 21(2)(b) of the *Gaming Machines Act* will apply to the transfer so that there will be no forfeiture of entitlements.
- 2.10 Lodged with this Local Impact Assessment is an application to increase the threshold of the Menangle Park Premises by 20; and

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

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 Menangle Park 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 effected by its operations.
- 4.3 Having regard to paragraph 4.2, the Club submits that the local community for the premises consists of:
- (a) Local residents who live in the Macarthur region or area, which is the area in which the premises is located; and
 - (b) Supporters and associates (e.g. drivers, trainers, owners) of harness racing.
- 4.4 Because of the Club's unique role in harness racing in this State, its local community does not only consist of those persons who live close to the Menangle Park premises itself. Rather, the Club's community also consists of persons who are interested in supporting harness racing and its harness racing meetings.
- 4.5 Indeed, the local community for this Menangle Park premises also consists of people who live across the greater Sydney area as people from all over Sydney and beyond attend the premises for harness racing meetings.
- 4.6 Accordingly, the Club submits that benefits arising from the granting of the application should be judged against both components of the Club's local community.

5. **BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- 5.1 If the application is granted, and the threshold is increased by 20 so that the 20 entitlements can be transferred from Harold Park, the Club proposes to do the following:
- (a) In support of its local community who in the Macarthur region, it would make donation of \$20,000 to Lifeline Macarthur;
 - (b) In support of its local community who consist of supporters of Harness Racing and who are memebers of the harness racing community, it would make a donation of \$20,000 to the Harness Racing Benevolent Fund.
- 5.2 The Club has had a relationship with Lifeline Macarthur for three years and has made donations to it.
- 5.3 If the application is granted, and the Club therefore makes the donation referred to above, it is very conscious of the fact that Lifeline Macarthur would best know how the resources could be spent. However, it would in communication with Lifeline Macarthur state that the donations are given on the basis that the money is used on programs in the Macarthur region.
- 5.4 In relation to the harness racing component of the Clubs local community, the Club proposes to make a donation of \$20,000 to the Harness Racing Benevolent fund.
- 5.5 This fund operates to assist persons associated with harness racing, being drivers, trainers and owners who fall on difficult times and need assistance. For example, the person associated with harness racing can apply to the foundation for a grant to purchase a specific medical product.
- 5.6 This \$20,000 would provide a positive contribution to this part of the Club's local community as it would increase the funds of the foundation and therefore the funds available to assist members of the harness racing community.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The proposed threshold increase and transfer of entitlements is part of the general transfer of all operations from Harold Park to Menangle Park.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Because of the Club's unique role, the local community, for the purposes of the local impact assessment, does not only consist of people living close to the premises. Rather, it consists of the Macarthur Region, being the area in which the premises is located and supporters of harness racing.
- 6.4 The approval of the local impact assessment, increase of threshold and transfer of the entitlements will result in a positive contribution to the local community or the Menangle Park premises as set out in section 5 of this local impact assessment.