

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Introduction

The Oatley Hotel is situated at 8 Oatley Ave Oatley in the Kogarah Council Band 2 LGA The Hotel currently has a gaming machine threshold of 26 machines and seeks an increase of 4 machines to reach a total threshold of 30 gaming machines.

2 Responsible conduct of Gambling and Harm minimization

The hotel is a financial member of the AHA(NSW) and uses the services of the Gamecare program to provide self exclusion and counselling safety nets to our patrons. The management and staff actively promote responsible conduct of gambling and comply with all current legislation in relation to signage, promotions, staff training, physical properties of the room and location of machines and ATM services.

3. Local Community

The Hotel is located in the suburb of Oatley in the commercial centre close to the railway station. There are no schools or churches in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. The area is predominantly English speaking with high employment levels complimented by low levels of socio economic disadvantage.

4 Positive Contribution

The current licensee has owned and operated the hotel since 1977 and has built up a strong rapport with local community groups, sporting organizations and charitable service providers across generations. The hotel is recognized locally as a significant contributor to local events and fundraising initiatives providing over \$30000 per annum in financial and in kind support. An additional one off payment of \$20000 will be made towards crime prevention, gambling, alcohol and drug education at the local Oatley schools subject to approval of the application.

5. Consultation

The General Manager and Licensee have consulted with Kogarah Council's Community Grants Program, and provided copies of the application to Hurstville Police and Kogarah Council. The Council of Social Service of NSW and South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service have been notified that they have 30 days to make a submission and an add has been placed in the St George Leader detailing that an application has been made.

6 Conclusion

It is submitted that this LIA meets the requirements necessary to support an application to increase the gaming Machine Threshold at Oatley Hotel from 26 to 30 machines.

1 Introduction

In order to allow an increase in the Gaming Machine threshold for Oatley Hotel at 8 Oatley Ave Oatley from the current 26 machines to a total of 30 machines, approval is sought pursuant to Section 36 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (Class1 LIA) to increase the threshold by 4 machines.

The primary purpose of the hotel is the sale of liquor by retail. The separated gaming room and operation of gaming machines at the hotel do not unduly detract from the character of the hotel or from the enjoyment of persons using the various other facilities at the hotel including , indoor and outdoor seating for food and beverage service, meeting rooms, function areas, TAB, car park and bottleshop

2 Responsible Gambling and Harm Minimisation

The Hotel is a member of the AHA(NSW) Gamecare Self Exclusion Program and advertises the availability of this service in the gaming room in a number of different languages. All staff are accredited with a Responsible Conduct of Gambling Certificate and a register of these certificates is maintained at the hotel. Management is fully supportive of the AHA(NSW) Gambling Code of Conduct which is displayed in the Gaming Room and the General Manager is a member of the AHA(NSW) Gambling Harm Minimisation Committee.

Signage is displayed in the gaming room and at the ATM (which is located in another section of the hotel) to makes patrons aware of the government funded "gambling HELP" counseling service and contact numbers. Brochures and signage are also displayed throughout the hotel advising of the chances of winning and issues related to excessive gambling.

The hotel has a policy of not cashing cheques, does not provide credit and does not provide incentive prizes associated with solely with the use of the gaming machines.

The approved operating hours of the Oatley Hotel are from 5am – midnight seven days a week. The actual operating hours are from 10am – midnight and therefore the mandatory shutdown period for gaming machine operation is not applicable but would be complied with in the event of an earlier operating time.

The hotel complies with all of the requirements of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and Gaming Machines Regulations 2002 including clause 9 which outlines how the gaming room is to be located and operated.

3 Local Community

The local government area of the Oatley Hotel is Kogarah Council which is a band 2LGA.

The Oatley suburb where the hotel is located along with the Georges River forms the south west boundary of the Kogarah Council area. Oatley is predominantly residential with a commercial centre located opposite to the the Oatley Railway Station and Illawarra railway line.

According to the area profile from the 2006 ABS data the population of the Oatley suburb is 5076 of which 3621 are aged over 18. Of the eligible labour force in Oatley 96.6% are employed with 66% earning a high-medium income above \$400 per week. The 2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage Score (SEIFA) for Oatley was 1082.9 which shows it was the 4th most advantaged in a list of 14 suburbs in the Kogarah Council area.

Oatley Hotel is situated at 8 Oatley Ave Oatley on an irregular shape property of 2149m². It has an internal floor space of 1013 m² with a street frontage of 53.65m at the northern end of the Oatley commercial retail strip facing a park on the opposite side of the road to the west. There is residential development on the northern side, a masonic hall on the eastern side and retail shopping to the south. A map and photograph are attached at Appendix 1 showing the location of the Hotel. Local schools and churches are not within 200m. A link to google map location is provided via http://maps.google.com.au/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Oatley+Hotel,+Oatley.

4 Positive Contribution

The hotel currently contributes approximately \$30000 per annum to local community groups including sporting organizations, schools, St George Hospital, local council initiatives for both Hurstville and Kogarah Council and Oatley Lions Club.

The hotel also provides meeting areas for these local groups and function facilities for community events and family oriented celebrations as well as in kind support through provision of prizes and stock for fundraising by individuals and groups.

Donations to CatholicCare are made through the AHA(NSW) in order to support the Holyoake program which provides assistance to children affected by addiction within their family.

An additional one off contribution of \$20000 has been allocated on the basis of approval of this application to be distributed through Kogarah Council and Life Education Australia.

Rebecca Doltone , Community Developments Co –Ordinator at Kogarah Council has been contacted and a meeting held to discuss how the hotel can assist local groups who have made application through the council's Community Grants Program. As a result of this consultation it was decided that the Hotel will

make an additional one off payment of \$8000 to be incorporated through the Council's Community Strategic Plan into programs with an emphasis on health and wellbeing issues for young people including mental health, community safety and crime prevention.

In consultation with Jay Bacik, CEO of Life Education an additional one off payment of \$12000 will be made to provide learning opportunities on site at Oatley Primary School, St Josephs Primary School Oatley, and Oatley West Primary School where issues of gambling addiction, drug and alcohol dependence will be the focus for the 990 students who will be funded to participate.

Subject to approval of the application for an increase in gaming machine threshold from 26 to 30 and in consultation with Life Education and Kogarah Council Community Grant Program this \$20000 funds will be distributed within this financial year. Copies of letters from both organizations have been included in Appendix 2

5 Consultation

As required a copy of this LIA and the application to increase the Gaming Machine Threshold have been given to the local council at Kogarah and the Hurstville Police. Notification has been sent to the Council of Social Services of NSW and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service that this application has been made and that there are 30 days in which they can make a submission. Kogarah Council informed me that to their knowledge there are no organisations in the Kogarah LGA which receive funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund and I was unable to find any through the OLGR website that were located in Kogarah LGA.

An advertisement has been placed in the St George Leader and in the front window of the Oatley hotel notifying the local community that this application can be viewed on the OLGR website and that a submission can be made within 30 days.

Copies of notifications have been included in Appendix 3

6 Conclusion

It is submitted that this information meets the guideline for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment necessary as a component of an application to increase the gaming machine threshold at the Oatley Hotel. As The owner of the Hotel I have held the licence and operated the hotel with my family for 33 years and since 1977 have strived to add value to the local community and be a positive impact on the commercial and social fabric of the Oatley suburb, its residents and visitors. All services of the hotel are delivered in a responsible manner so as to minimize harm and negative impact to individuals and the wider community

The increase in the poker machine threshold from 26 to 30 will not detract from the Hotel or the area but will allow the business to continue to provide employment and entertainment facilities to the community. It will more importantly also allow a significant contribution to the education of the children of Oatley in making positive life choices in relation to crime, gambling, drugs and alcohol through provision of funds to Life Education and through Kogarah Council's Community Strategic Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Humphreys', written in a cursive style.

John William Humphreys

Licensee -Oatley Hotel