

November 2017

CLASS 1 LOCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PEDENS HOTEL CESSNOCK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hotel

Peden's Hotel Cessnock currently stands in the Cessnock LGA at 198 Vincent Street Cessnock NSW 2325. The immediate Cessnock area is a tourism town with a population of 22,596 / LGA 55,862, located 154 kms north of Sydney.

Peden's Hotel Cessnock was purchased by the current owners in 2008. The Hotel license for Peden's Hotel Cessnock is currently held by one of the freehold owner's Mr Jeffery Joseph Callaghan. Mr Callaghan is an active member and secretary of the Cessnock Liquor Accord which actively tries to improve the community.

The hotel was last renovated in 2009 by the current owners and is in modern and clean condition.

Proposal

The Applicant seeks a "low range" Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT) increase of eight (8), from twelve (12) to make twenty (20).

Local Community

For the purposes of this application, the "local community" has been identified as the area of Cessnock.

Positive Contributions to Local Community

In terms of direct contributions to the local community, the Hotel currently provides extensive and on-going sponsorship to local sports clubs, charities, hospitals and the community's front-line services. This month alone the hotel has been a major sponsor of the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix and also donated \$8,000 to local charities via its social clubs.

As additional immediate support for the local community, the applicant is prepared to donate a sum of \$50,000. The Applicant proposes to donate \$30,000 to Cessnock Palliative Care Services & \$20,000 to Cessnock Rescue Squad to be expended at their discretion.

Location of Notifiable Premises in Vicinity

There is no school, place of worship or hospital located within 200 metres of the Hotel or in the immediate vicinity that requires notification.

November 2017

Introduction 1.

1.1 This Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (LIA) is being prepared pursuant to Section 36 of the Act to allow an application by Lamcor Pty Ltd ATF Francoise Sylvester FT & Joslee Pty Ltd ATF JJ & AL Callaghan FT (Owners) for a Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT) increase for Peden's Hotel License No 114915, to the Authority, for an increase of eight (8) at the Hotel i.e., from 12 to 20.

1.2 An LIA is required as Cessnock is located within the Local Government Area of Cessnock LGA ("Cessnock LGA"). Cessnock is categorised as a Band 2 LGA under the current Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing (OLGR) classifications.

The Hotel 2.

2.1 The Hotel, which first opened in 1904, is located in the main street of Cessnock.

2.2 The hotel has a licensed trading area of approximately 1065m²

2.3 The Hotel's current licensed trading hours are:

	START	CLOSE
MONDAY	5AM	3AM
TUESDAY	5AM	3AM
WEDNESDAY	5AM	3AM
THURSDAY	5AM	3AM
FRIDAY	5AM	3AM
SATURDAY	5AM	3AM
SUNDAY	10AM	MIDNIGHT

The hotel however currently does not go past midnight trade and opens from 10am Mon – Sat and 11am Sunday.

2.3 The Hotel attracts a wide variety of patrons ranging from 18 to 80. Children in the company of a responsible adult are permitted. Peden's Hotel is a family orientated hotel and families are very much encouraged. The Hotel caters for the immediate Cessnock community and the Hotel is a significant tourist and day-tripper facility for the Hunter Vineyard Region.

In consideration of this application we also note that in the last five years venue numbers have reduced especially with recent closure this month November 2017 of the Cessnock Ex Services Club which is adjacent to the hotel creating a reduction of 86 gaming machines which were located some 20m from the hotel's boundary. Other venues within close proximity that have closed include the former Aberdare Bowling Club & the Wentworth Hotel. The Royal Oak Hotel has also dispersed all of its machines in recent years.

November 2017

The Local Community 3.

3.1 Neither the Act nor the Regulation defines how the "local community "for the purposes of a Class 1 LIA is to be ascertained. It seems reasonable to limit the "local community "to the suburbs from Cessnock to Kurri Kurri.

3.2 People living in the greater regions of the Cessnock LGA can be, reasonably excluded, because while they may visit Pokolbin for its tourist facilities, they are more likely to patronise other Hotels closer to their locale with any regularity.

3.3 The 'permanent' population of Cessnock at the 2015 Census was in the order of 22,596 people. During peak holiday times, it increases. It also increases at weekends due to day-trippers and weekenders.

The Benefits to the Local Community 4.

4.1 The establishment offers a full range of liquor license-related services and has improved the amenity of the Cessnock community.

4.2 The inclusion of gaming facilities, meeting rooms and tourist facilities at the Hotel is beneficial to the Community to the extent that it provides services that residents presently need to travel to access. The amenity benefit to Cessnock extends to the increasing number of visitors to the area.

4.3 Peden's Hotel Cessnock contributes positively to the community and provides financial and in-kind support to local organisations. The hotel currently does and will continue to participate in charitable fundraising in the community. The Applicant will continue with contributions to the community that will clearly be relative to the commercial performance of the Hotel.

4.4 The Hotel proposes to donate a total of \$50,000 as immediate support to the local community. The Applicant will donate \$30,000 to the Cessnock Palliative Care and a further \$20,000 to the Cessnock Rescue Squad to be expended at their discretion.

Responsible Gambling & Harm Minimisation 5.

5.1 The provision of gaming machines is merely one aspect of the services and facilities provided at the Hotel.

5.2 The internal layout of the premises are designed to minimise the visibility of the gaming machine area from the public areas outside of the hotel building. The gaming machines within the hotel are in a location that the law allows and permits.

November 2017

5.3 The Hotel's gaming machine operation is conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the legislation in that-

- All staff involved in gaming duties hold a current and approved responsible conduct of gaming (RCG) certificate.
- The hotel will and does make arrangements through its industry association, AHA (NSW), for the provision of gambling counselling;
- The hotel will and does participate in the AHA (NSW) GameCare self-exclusion scheme;
- Staff will and does have training in self-exclusion and on-referral to counselling services;
- Pamphlets informing patrons of the dangers of problem gambling and of the availability of counselling and the self-exclusion scheme are displayed at the hotel in a number of community languages;
- All required signage and notices are and will continue to be displayed in conspicuous positions and will be maintained.
- Gambling and counselling service contact cards are attached to each bank of approved gaming machines;
- The hotel's automatic telling machine (ATM) is placed in a location outside of the gaming room. Patrons will not be able to make withdrawals on credit;
- There is no advertising or promotion of the availability of gaming machines within the hotel;
- The hotel will and does not provide credit;
- There is and will continue to be a limit of \$5,000 on cash payments for winnings;
- The Hotel will and does not cash cheques;
- The hotel will and does not provide any inducements to gaming;
- Staff are not permitted to play the gaming machines when on duty in the Hotel;
- No minors are to be permitted access to the gaming area at the hotel.

5.4 If the application for the GMT increase is granted, these practices will be maintained.

5.5 At all times the gaming room operates, the hotel will continue to engage a Bar Attendant Supervisor who provides supervision to the area. That enables the Supervisor to get to know patrons and make early detection of any possible signs of problem gambling.

November 2017

Conclusion 6.

6.1 The information provided in this Class 1 LIA complies with the Authority's Guidelines. In particular it:-

- Addresses the responsible gambling and harm minimisation measures to be undertaken by the hotel;
- Identifies the local community; and
- Provides information to show that a positive contribution will be made to that local community if this LIA is approved and the hotel's gaming machine threshold is increased by 8.