
**Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application
164 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan**

**Queanbeyan Leagues Club Ltd (242285)
September 2010**



Prepared by:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

- I. This document is a Local Impact Assessment Class 1 to accompany a Threshold Increase Application made for approval of a 'mid range' gaming machine threshold increase of 40 for Queanbeyan Leagues Club Ltd (the "Applicant") at premises situated at 164 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan NSW (the "Venue") located in the Band 1 Local Government Area (the "LGA") of Queanbeyan. The Applicant has operated at the Venue for nearly 50 years and provides hospitality based recreational pursuits and community based enterprises for its members and their guests. This LIA provides relevant gaming data, social data and issues of concern to the Local Community so that the Authority can determine whether additional gaming machines will provide a positive contribution to the Local Community.

2. RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

- II. Chapter 2 of this Report details the mandatory and additional responsible conduct of gambling measures put in place by the Applicant at the Venue. The Applicant operates its gaming machine operations in strict accordance with legislated and 'best-practice' interventions and initiatives modelled on its Responsible Service of Gambling House Policy (see Appendix 1). The Applicant has also implemented additional measures to ensure compliance with recent amendments to the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and associated Regulations. The Applicant is a member of ClubSafe, and has adopted its best practice guidelines and policies.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY

- III. Chapter 3 of this Report details the communities potentially affected by the approval of the Application. The Queanbeyan LGA is the Local Government Area of the Venue and a map illustrating the extent of the LGA and the location of the Venue is included as Appendix 2. An area extending 5kms from the Venue has been identified as the Local Community for the purpose of assessment. Chapter 4 provides a demographic description of the LGA and Local Community.

4. POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

- IV. Chapter 5 of this Report details the positive contributions resultant from approval of the Application to the Local Community. These include the benefits arising out of the construction of a variety of enhancements to two local sporting sites – Freebody No.2 Oval and David Madew Oval to the value of \$100,000. The local community and the LGA are urban growth areas with a significant young population which require adequate social and recreational infrastructure. These facilities are currently not of a standard to either adequately cater to the local community population for sporting and recreational endeavours nor encourage participation in sport. The planned additions of a shaded viewing deck, wheelchair access ramp and lighting will render these sites more user-friendly, more comfortable and more accessible, and as a result will encourage more local residents, including the LGA's markedly large population of young people, to participate in the recreational forms these sporting grounds offer. Other positive contributions include additional employment and additional state taxes. A total quantifiable positive contribution is estimated of \$429,663.

5. CONCLUSION

- V. Given the satisfaction of the requirements of the Act and Regulation through the conduct of gaming machine operation at the Venue in a responsible manner and the evidence of substantial positive contributions to the Local Community, it is the Applicant's belief that this LIA meets the requirements of the Legislation.

1 INTRODUCTION

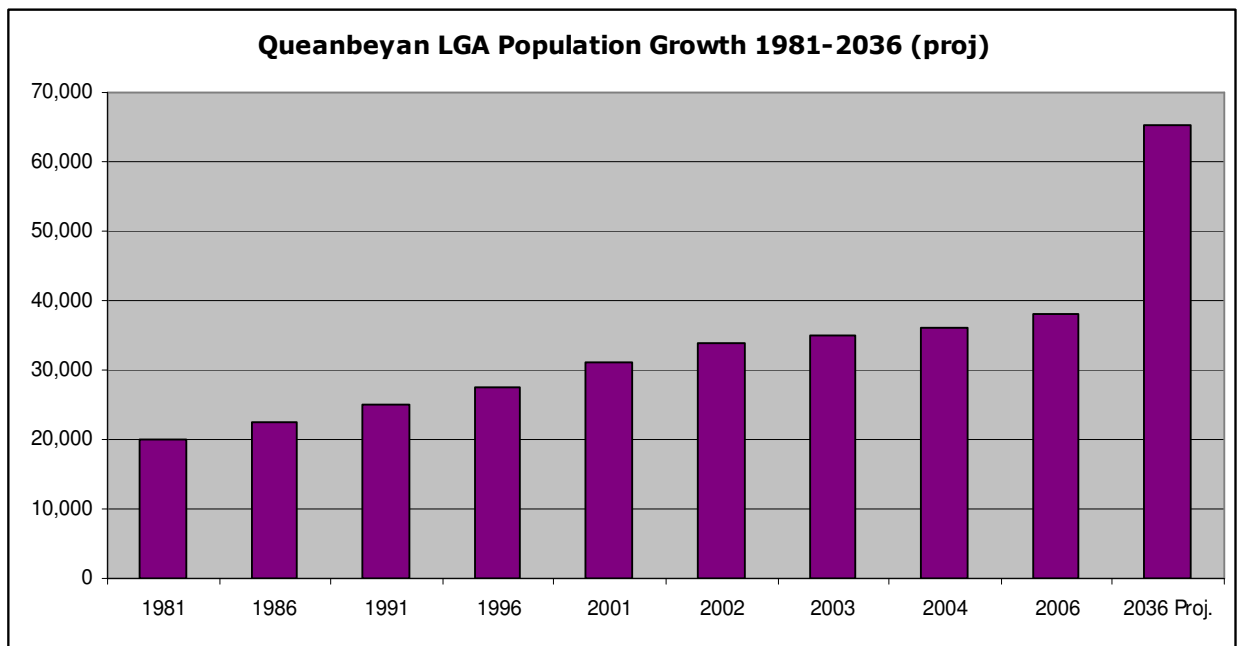
- 1.1 This Report is a Local Impact Assessment ("LIA") Class 1 to accompany a Threshold Increase Application for a Band 1 Local Government Area venue of 'mid range increase' of 40 gaming machines for Queanbeyan Leagues Club Ltd ("the Applicant"). The Applicant is located at 164 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan NSW ("the Venue") in the Queanbeyan Local Government Area ("the LGA").
- 1.2 Methodology
- 1.3 In respect of LIAs relating to threshold increase applications, the LIA Guidelines provide that the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority ("the Authority") can only approve an LIA where the LIA complies with the requirements of the [Gaming Machines] Act [2001] and the [Gaming Machines] Regulations [2008] ("the Legislation") and demonstrates that gambling activities will be conducted in a responsible manner. The Guidelines further state that an LIA Class 1 must demonstrate that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the venue will provide a positive contribution towards the Local Community in which the venue is situated.
- 1.4 Applicant Details and History
- 1.5 The Applicant, founded in 1963, was established in order to promote and support the development of rugby league in the area. The Venue was destroyed by fire in 1972 and was subsequently rebuilt, since this time it has had four renovations, with its most recent redevelopment and refurbishment having been completed in 2005. The Applicant has now grown to over 11,500 members and employs 84 staff on a full time, part time and casual basis. The Applicant is a major sponsor of the Canberra Raiders Rugby League team and is the local area's major contributor to rugby league and sport in general.
- 1.6 Current Applicant Services, Facilities and Donations
- 1.7 The Venue includes a bar, Blue q Café, alfresco terrace areas and gaming and wagering facilities, as well as function and meeting rooms. The Applicant provides donations to a number of organisations throughout the local community including Jerrabomberra Public School, Queanbeyan High School, Queanbeyan Scout Group, Queanbeyan Men's Shed, Open Family ACT, Men of League Foundation, Axis Youth Centre and the Lions Club of Queanbeyan, providing \$2.6 million in donations in 2009. 2010 marks 20 years of partnership between the Applicant and the ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group. The Applicant has a particular commitment to supporting local sporting groups. As well as being a major sponsor of the Canberra Raiders, the Applicant is the primary sponsor of Queanbeyan Rugby Union Football Club, Queanbeyan Leagues Swimming Club and Queanbeyan United Hockey Club, amongst others. The Applicant is part of the Canberra Raiders Group, which is comprised of seven registered clubs across the ACT/NSW and an additional two in southern Queensland.
- 1.8 Financial performance of the Applicant
- 1.9 The Applicant had a total revenue in 2009 of \$23.1 million and a pre-tax profit of \$6.7 million. Gaming machine revenue for 2009 was \$19.7 million, representing 85.2% of total revenue. Total bar revenue was \$1.4 million (6.1%) and food and catering revenue was \$1.6 million (6.8%). The Applicant paid \$4.7 million in gaming machine duty in 2009. The Applicant made donations of \$295,000 in the year ending 31 October 2009 and had a total employee benefits expense of \$3.86 million.

1.10 Gaming machine indicators

- 1.11 The Applicant operates 313 gaming machines currently. The Applicant had a profit per gaming machine (total turnover less payouts) of \$62,896 for the 2009 year. The average net profit per gaming machine for the Queanbeyan LGA in 2008 was \$52,522. The Applicant projects that each additional gaming machine will return a profit of \$55,769 for the first year of operation. It is expected that for the first 12 months of operating the additional gaming machines that the total gaming revenue of the Venue will not increase as gaming revenue is expected to be redistributed across the existing and new gaming fleet.

1.12 Proposal

- 1.13 The LGA is experiencing significant population growth given its proximity to the major employment sector of Canberra and access to major transport links. This trend will continue over the next 25 years where the population is projected to increase by 72% by 2036 with 65,400 persons in the LGA compared to 38,100 in 2006. The chart below shows the population growth since 1981:



Source: Adapted from the Office of the Commissioner for sustainability and the environment

- 1.14 To meet this growth and in keeping with its role in the local community and LGA, the Applicant is proposing with the assistance of Queanbeyan City Council to assist in the improvement of two local sporting grounds. These two projects include the construction of a viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp at Freebody No.2 Oval and the installation of lighting at David Madew Oval. Each of these improvements is designed to meet the current and future needs of the Local Community and LGA. As identified in recent Council documents, the improvements will address the ongoing issue of poor quality local sporting facilities, increased accessibility to recreational sites (particularly for the physically disabled), encourage wider usage of the subject venues, extend the hours of usability for these facilities and ensure the sun-safety of users of these venues. The Applicant will contribute \$100,000 in total to these projects.

- 1.15 Additional employment will also be generated at the Venue, as will increased taxes. Further detail in relation to the positive contributions is provided later in this Report.

2 RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

2.1 The Applicant's gaming machine operation is in strict accordance with legislated and optional responsible gambling measures and is considered best practice in this area. A copy of the Applicant's House Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Gambling is included at Appendix 1. The Applicant operates its responsible gambling house policy which is drafted in accordance with the legislative requirements stated in the Gambling Legislation Amendment (Responsible Gambling) Act 1999, the Registered Clubs Act 1976, the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and accompanying regulations. The Applicant's harm minimisation strategies include:

- All employees involved in gaming related duties hold a responsible conduct of gambling qualification in an approved course;
- All prize winners receive prizes in accordance with clause 13 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The prize schedule of the Applicant is operated in accordance with clause 14 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant maintains certain records as per clause 18 and 19 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant maintains records relating to gaming machine prizes as per clause 15 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- No inducements as specified in clause 48 of the *Gaming Machines Regulation* are offered by the Applicant to gamble;
- Player information brochures in relevant community languages are kept in the Venue as per clauses 22, 23 and 24 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- Signage containing wordage as per clauses 26, 25 and 49 of the *Gaming Machines Regulation* are located in conspicuous positions in all gaming areas of the Venue;
- All jackpot link monitors are located in gaming or bar areas only;
- The identities of any prize winners are not published;
- The Applicant does not promote gambling outside the Venue, including not providing gambling signage which draws attention to the availability of gaming machines in the Venue, includes a term or expression frequently associated with gambling or relates to gambling franchise or gambling business;
- The Applicant maintains records of its player loyalty scheme in compliance with clauses 42, 43 and 44 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant operates its player loyalty scheme in accordance with section 45 of the *Gaming Machines Act*, specifically provisions relating to the promotion of cash prizes over \$1,000, exchanging prizes for cash, redemption of bonus points for cash and advises of availability of player activity statements upon request;
- All gaming machines at the Venue are located in areas which do not attract members of the public who are outside the Venue or are contrary to public interest;
- The Applicant operates its gaming machine operations in accordance with the ClubsNSW Code of Practice;
- No minors are ever allowed access to gaming areas of the Venue;
- Strong links are maintained with established referral systems problem gambling counselling services;
- The Applicant operates the ClubSafe self-exclusion scheme in compliance with clause 47 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- Consumer information on the chance of winning maximum prizes and jackpots is

- made available in the gaming area;
- Gaming machines notices on the dangers of excessive gambling are placed in all required areas;
- Signage on the unavailability of credit facilities, both through access to credit funds via Automatic Teller Machines and through no facility at the venue;
- No cashing of third party cheques is possible;
- Clocks are clearly visible in all areas of the Venue as per clause 28 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- No gaming cash payments over \$2,000 are made;
- No cash prizes in gaming promotions;
- Only the provision of opt-in marketing is undertaken and only as part of the Applicant's full suit of promotions;
- All direct advertising of gaming is contained within the Venue premises and is not visible outside the Venue; and
- The availability of player activity statements by players upon request is well known.

2.2 The Applicant has also implemented additional measures to ensure compliance with recent amendments to the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and associated *Regulation*, this includes:

- No ATM in the Venue permits the dispensing of cash withdrawn from a credit account
- Any unclaimed prizes are now processed as follows:
 - The Applicant places any unclaimed jackpot winning tickets not claimed within 12 months in a conspicuous area of the Venue for one month;
 - Any unclaimed gaming machine tickets or jackpots not claimed during the 12 month period are now to be paid into the Community Development Fund;
- All prize winning cheques now clearly state - 'Prize winning cheque – cashing rules apply'; and
- Individuals who has self-excluded must apply in writing after their initial exclusion period before they are allowed re-entry to the Venue.

2.3 The Applicant is a member of ClubSafe, and has adopted its best practice guidelines and policies. As such, the Applicant goes beyond compliance with current legislation.

3 LOCAL COMMUNITY

3.1 Definition of Local Community

3.2 The Legislation provides that there must be a positive contribution from approval of the Application. The approach to which the Applicant has defined its **Local Community** has been developed through its **analysis of** its membership **penetration in the surrounding area**. Generally a registered club will have a membership penetration in urban and semi-urban areas of approximately 5kms. This assessment is linked heavily to legislative requirements pertaining to compulsory membership of any person residing within 5kms of the registered club in question. In the context of the information set out above, the Local Community is defined as encompassing:

- The following suburbs: Dodsworth, Karabar, Letchworth, Oaks Estate and Queanbeyan; and
- Parts of the following suburbs: Fyshwick, Googong, Greenleigh, Hume, Jerrabomberra, Pialligo and Symonston.

- 3.3 It is submitted therefore, that this defined area meets the requirements of the Act, Regulation, and Guidelines. A diagram of the Local Community is included in Appendix 3.

4 DEMOGRAPHY

- 4.1 Queanbeyan LGA is located in southern NSW, on the eastern border of the ACT, about 12 km south-east of Canberra and about 250km south-west of Sydney. The LGA is bounded by the ACT to the north and west, and Palerang LGA in the east and south. Covering an area of approximately 173km², the LGA is predominately rural, with expanding residential areas, particularly in the north-west, close to Canberra. It comprises approximately 15,118 private dwellings and is a sub-region of the Queanbeyan Statistical Sub-Division. In June 2006, its population was estimated at 35,974 and its population density was 229.7 persons per square kilometre. In 2006 74% of the population were aged 18 years and over. This compares to 76% for NSW at the same period. The median age of people residing in the LGA in 2006 was 34 years compared to the state median of 37 years. 82.9% of the population is Australian-born. The population of the Queanbeyan LGA grew at an annual rate of 1.8% between 2007 and 2008. This figure is significantly higher than the NSW annual rate of growth, which was 1.1% for the same period.
- 4.2 In August 2006, the rate of unemployment in the Queanbeyan LGA was estimated at 2.9%, significantly lower than the NSW rate of 5.9%. Queanbeyan LGA has a SEIFA (2006 social-economic index of relative advantage-disadvantage) of 1041, which is higher than the State average of 978. An alternative measure of SEIFA is provided by the ABS. Each LGA in NSW has been ranked in deciles (ranges of 10 percent). The first decile denotes the most disadvantaged LGAs, the tenth decile, the most advantaged. Queanbeyan LGA falls in the ninth decile. It therefore ranks close to the top of all NSW LGAs. The advantage of using this method to analyse SEIFA is that it allows comparison with all LGAs, not simply a State average, which is skewed by a small number of very high SEIFA estimates for certain LGAs. This is emphasised by the fact that in 2006 only 50 of 151 LGAs (excluding Unincorporated NSW) or 33.1% of all LGAs, had a SEIFA in excess of the NSW average.
- 4.3 The LGA is characterised by its relatively young population, as evidenced by its median age of 34, compared to 37 for NSW. The proportion of the population aged less than 18 years is relatively high at 26%, compared to the NSW figure of 24%.
- 4.4 The LGA is characterised as one of the more affluent regional areas in Australia, currently experiencing considerable prosperity in connection with its proximity to Canberra. Demographic indicators provide evidence for this view, with unemployment very low at 2.9% and the median household income of \$1,181 higher than the State average of \$1,036. The LGAs proximity to the ACT and Canberra allows it access to significant services and employment opportunities making a favourable area for population growth. As discussed earlier in this document, the LGA is experiencing significant population growth which is expected to continue for the immediate future.

5 POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- 5.1 General
- 5.2 The granting of the Application will yield a significant social and economic benefit for the Local Community and LGA through a number of major and ancillary positive contributions,

including:

1. The construction of a shaded viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp to enhance spectator facilities at Freebody No. 2 Oval;
2. The installation of flood lighting at David Madew Oval;
3. Additional employment; and
4. Additional state taxes.

5.3 Construction of a shaded viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp at Freebody No. 2 Oval

5.4 *Freebody No. 2 Oval*

5.5 Freebody No. 2 Oval, located within Freebody Recreational Reserve, is regularly used by a variety of local sporting organisations, including Queanbeyan Cricket Association (which has junior and senior players) and Queanbeyan Kangaroos Junior Rugby League Club. The Oval is also used regularly by Queanbeyan West Public School.

5.6 At present, the Oval does not have any player or spectator facilities, which detracts from the potential recreational pleasure it otherwise offers to members of the Local Community. However, in conjunction with the Federal Government, Queanbeyan City Council plans to construct a small structure at the site that will house a meeting/viewing room, change rooms, toilets and a kitchenette. The development application has been approved, and the Federal Government has pledged \$1.3 million towards the \$1.6 million project. Further information pertaining to the planned construction of player/spectator facilities can be found in Appendix 5.

5.7 *The project*

5.8 The Applicant has been approached by Queanbeyan City Council to provide funds that will facilitate the enhancement of the planned facilities (as described above). These extra funds would allow for the addition of a shaded viewing deck, a wheelchair access ramp, and power. The shaded viewing deck will provide sun protection for both players and spectators, and the wheelchair access ramp will allow disabled persons access to the Oval. The inclusion of these additions to the planned facilities will serve to render them at safer, more user-friendly and more widely accessible.

5.9 *Amount to be contributed*

5.10 This part of positive contribution project is estimated to cost \$20,000 in total, all of which will be donated by the Applicant pending the success of this Application. The *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020* identifies the limited availability of State and Federal Government funding as one of the Council's key challenges in its attempts to deliver the various elements of its *Strategic Plan* and is indicative of the significance of the funding that the Applicant seeks to facilitate.

5.11 *Benefit to the Local Community*

- *Youth*

5.12 The Applicant's LGA and Local Community are characterised by the relative youth of their respective populations. This higher than average proportion of people aged less than 18 years is indicative of the area's particular need for appropriately appointed sporting

facilities to accommodate the recreational requirements specific to the area's young people and growing population. The Queanbeyan City Council's *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020* identifies the creation of recreational opportunities for youth as one of its goals, noting the management and maintenance of parks and sporting fields as one of the means by which it is working to realise this aim (p. 19). This coupled with the significant population growth of the LGA over the next 25 years provides added support to the need for additional recreational and sporting facilities in the area.

- 5.13 The Oval is currently primarily used by junior rugby league and cricket players, as well as primary school students. Any enhancement of the appeal and usability of the Freebody No. 2 Oval will serve to encourage more young people to make use of the site, whether by active participation in sport or as passive spectators, and will facilitate the safe and convenient use of the site by the Local Community's youth.

- *The provision of recreational pleasure and support for general health and well-being*

- 5.14 Sporting facilities such as ovals of this type have the potential to offer the enjoyment provided by either active or passive participation in sport as well as support for general health and well-being. Both of these benefits are specifically identified as Council objectives in its *Social Plan 2005-2010: Towards a Healthy Community*, and are linked therein to the provision, maintenance and improvement of local sporting grounds (p. 121).

- 5.15 The generally poor quality of sports and leisure facilities as they are currently provided in the area is also an issue identified separately within the *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020*. The Council commissioned a community survey that was undertaken during the latter half of 2008, upon which this Plan is largely based. One of the key priorities to arise out of this process was the need to address the current substandard quality of local sporting facilities and lack of access to adequate facilities (p. 8).

- 5.16 In their current state, the facilities available to users of the Oval are inadequate and render the site inconvenient and unappealing, and discourage its wider usage. The planned construction of a meeting/viewing room, kitchenette and amenities will go far to address this inadequacy and thereby meet the Local Community's recreational needs, as identified by local Council. However, these facilities would be markedly enhanced by the addition of a shaded viewing deck, allowing spectators and players to view matches in a comfortable and convenient shaded outdoor space. Such an addition would no doubt add to the appeal of the Oval and thereby encourage more local residents to participate either actively by playing sport or passively as supporters and spectators.

- 5.17 The construction of a shaded viewing deck would also assist the Council in "providing, maintaining and monitoring shaded public environments to prevent skin cancer", an objective detailed in the *Social Plan 2005-2010* (p. 56). Such a deck would help to ensure the sun-safety of all those involved in playing and viewing sport at the Oval.

- *Accessibility for the disabled*

- 5.18 The wheelchair access ramp, another of the additions that would be made with funds generated by the granting of the Application, would benefit disabled residents of the Local Community and LGA in that, by increasing the accessibility of Freebody No.2 Oval, it would encourage physically disabled individuals to participate more fully in the recreational life of the Community. Page 119 of the Social Plan states that "all people should have the opportunity to improve their quality of life through participation in a diversity of recreation opportunities". It goes on to state explicitly that "people with disabilities" should be "welcomed and included in recreation, leisure and public space in

Queanbeyan" (p. 128). In order to achieve these objectives, the Plan seeks that Council to "support the development of mixed use facilities available for recreation and leisure (modified where required)" (p. 128).

5.19 The installation of flood lighting at David Madew Oval

5.20 *David Madew Oval*

5.21 David Madew Oval, located within Madew Regional Park, currently hosts a variety of sporting competitions and training sessions, and is primarily used by Jerrambomberra Touch Football Club and Monaro Panthers Football Club's junior members. At present, the Oval does not have floodlighting facilities, a situation that limits its usability, given that games and training sessions cannot be scheduled into the evening.

5.22 *The project*

5.23 The Applicant has been approached by Queanbeyan City Council to assist in funding the installation of lighting at the Oval. This is part of a larger Council upgrade to the lighting on a number of sporting fields. Council does not currently have the funds to include in this greater project the work required at David Madew Oval. This work will involve the purchase and installation of two poles, four light heads, cabling and control gear.

5.24 *Amount to be contributed*

5.25 The project is estimated to cost \$80,000 in total, all of which will be donated by the Applicant pending the success of this Application. As noted above, the Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020 identifies the limited availability of State and Federal Government funding as one of the Council's key challenges in its attempts to deliver the various elements of its Strategic Plan and is indicative of the significance of the funding that the Applicant seeks to facilitate.

5.26 *Benefit to the Local Community*

5.27 The benefits to the Local Community provided by the improvement and upgrade of local sporting venues have been outlined in some detail above in relation to the Freebody No.2 Oval project and apply equally here. The installation of floodlighting will extend the Oval's hours of use and thus allow for the scheduling of additional games later into the evening. Similarly, it will provide extra time for training sessions for junior soccer players belonging to Monaro Panthers Football Club, 300 of whom currently train at this facility.

5.28 As with the abovementioned benefits, this project will facilitate the wider usage of the Oval, which will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of Queanbeyan residents.

5.29 Construction related benefits

5.30 Based on the total cost of the project being \$100,000, using in-put/out-put construction multipliers provides that this will generate approximately \$279,600 in construction related add-on benefits. Using this same modelling, a further two full-time construction related positions will be created.

5.31 Additional employment

5.32 The revenue generated by the additional gaming machines will result in a further two part-time positions becoming available at the Venue. The benefits expense of the additional

two positions will be approximately \$46,000 per annum.

5.33 Additional taxes

5.34 Additional state taxes are estimated to average \$739,657 per annum. The proportion of this amount which flows back to the Local Community (estimated on a per capita basis) is \$4,063.

5.35 Summation of positive contributions to Local Community

5.36 From this information it is estimated that the additional gaming machines will result, either directly or indirectly in an additional \$429,663 in funds, will directly benefit the Local Community.

6 CONCLUSION

5.37 This LIA, pursuant to Section 37 of the *Gaming Machines Amendment Regulation 2009*, defines the Applicant's Local Community, details the positive contributions that the Applicant will provide to the Local Community if the Application is approved, and details the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in place at the Venue.

5.38 The Applicant is a community based registered club which provides needed community support through additional donations exceeding those required through CDSE contributions. The Venue provides a central meeting place for its Local Community, including numerous recreational and social facilities and opportunities existing for the benefit of members and guests. The Applicant is the major contributor to Rugby League in the local area, supporting sporting endeavours more widely through its various contributions.

5.39 The Applicant operates gaming at the Venue in compliance with mandated Legislative requirements and operates a best-practice style of interventions and procedures. The Applicant enforces this strict approach based on its House Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Gambling conducting regular in-house training for all of its gaming staff, each of whom holds qualifications in the Responsible Conduct of Gambling.

5.40 The positive contributions put forward in this LIA will not occur without the approval of the Application. There is no doubt that the planned construction projects at the local sporting grounds in question will positively contribute to the Local Community of the Applicant in that they will increase the accessibility and convenience of the relevant sites and thus result in increased utilisation of the recreational spaces they offer. The LGA is set to grow considerably over the next 25 years. Given the current population suffers from a lack of adequate community, recreational and sporting facilities will ensure there are some facilities for the local population. This project is substantial and is targeted specifically at the Local Community of the Venue.

5.41 Other positive contributions include the construction related benefits stemming from the project, additional employment at the Venue and additional state taxes. A total economic positive contribution is estimated at \$429,663 to the Local Community.

5.42 It is therefore provided that the test as set out in the Guideline and Legislation is met and the Applicant submits that the Application should be approved.

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1.5 The Applicant, founded in 1963, was established in order to promote and support the development of rugby league in the area. The Venue was destroyed by fire in 1972 and was subsequently rebuilt, since this time it has had four renovations, with its most recent redevelopment and refurbishment having been completed in 2005. The Applicant has now grown to over 11,500 members and employs 84 staff on a full time, part time and casual basis. The Applicant is a major sponsor of the Canberra Raiders Rugby League team and is the local area's major contributor to rugby league and sport in general.

1.6 Current Applicant Services, Facilities and Donations

1.7 The Venue includes a bar, Blue q Café, alfresco terrace areas and gaming and wagering facilities, as well as function and meeting rooms. The Applicant provides donations to a number of organisations throughout the local community including Jerrabomberra Public School, Queanbeyan High School, Queanbeyan Scout Group, Queanbeyan Men's Shed, Open Family ACT, Men of League Foundation, Axis Youth Centre and the Lions Club of Queanbeyan, providing \$2.6 million in donations in 2009. 2010 marks 20 years of partnership between the Applicant and the ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group. The Applicant has a particular commitment to supporting local sporting groups. As well as being a major sponsor of the Canberra Raiders, the Applicant is the primary sponsor of Queanbeyan Rugby Union Football Club, Queanbeyan Leagues Swimming Club and Queanbeyan United Hockey Club, amongst others. The Applicant is part of the Canberra Raiders Group, which is comprised of seven registered clubs across the ACT/NSW and an additional two in southern Queensland.

1.8 Financial performance of the Applicant

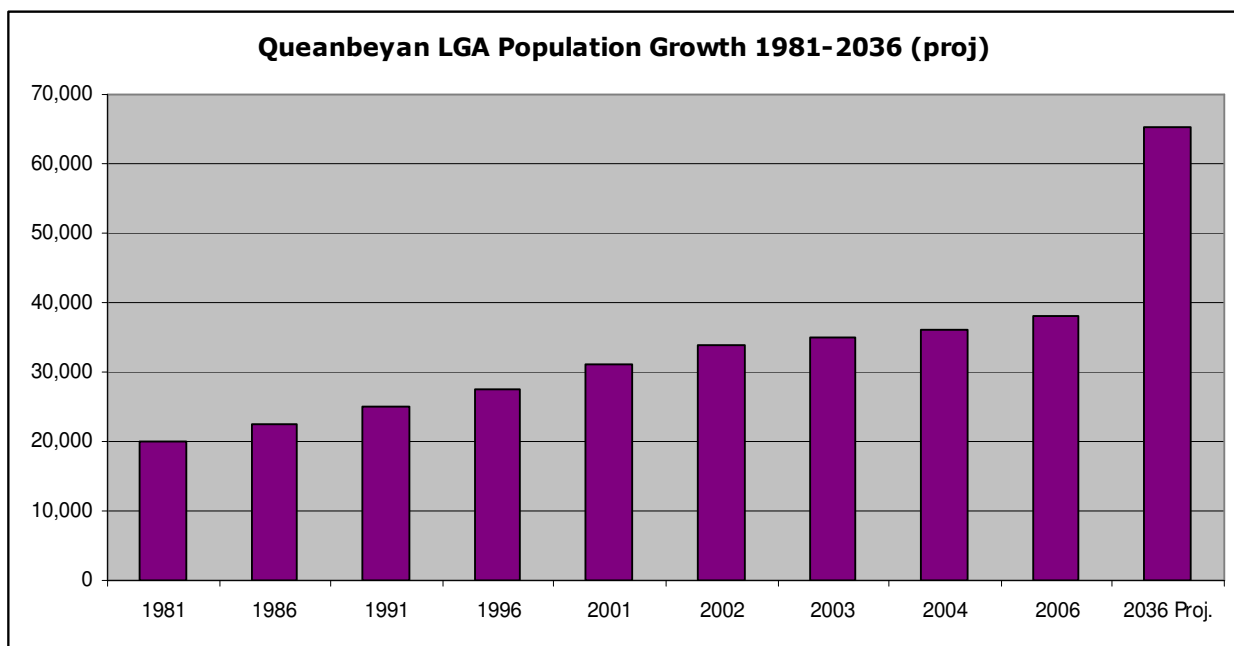
1.9 The Applicant had a total revenue in 2009 of \$23.1 million and a pre-tax profit of \$6.7 million. Gaming machine revenue for 2009 was \$19.7 million, representing 85.2% of total revenue. Total bar revenue was \$1.4 million (6.1%) and food and catering revenue was \$1.6 million (6.8%). The Applicant paid \$4.7 million in gaming machine duty in 2009. The Applicant made donations of \$295,000 in the year ending 31 October 2009 and had a total employee benefits expense of \$3.86 million.

1.10 Gaming machine indicators

- 1.11 The Applicant operates 313 gaming machines currently. The Applicant had a profit per gaming machine (total turnover less payouts) of \$62,896 for the 2009 year. The average net profit per gaming machine for the Queanbeyan LGA in 2008 was \$52,522. The Applicant projects that each additional gaming machine will return a profit of \$55,769 for the first year of operation. It is expected that for the first 12 months of operating the additional gaming machines that the total gaming revenue of the Venue will not increase as gaming revenue is expected to be redistributed across the existing and new gaming fleet.

1.12 Proposal

- 1.13 The LGA is experiencing significant population growth given its proximity to the major employment sector of Canberra and access to major transport links. This trend will continue over the next 25 years where the population is projected to increase by 72% by 2036 with 65,400 persons in the LGA compared to 38,100 in 2006. The chart below shows the population growth since 1981:



Source: Adapted from the Office of the Commissioner for sustainability and the environment

- 1.14 To meet this growth and in keeping with its role in the local community and LGA, the Applicant is proposing with the assistance of Queanbeyan City Council to assist in the improvement of two local sporting grounds. These two projects include the construction of a viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp at Freebody No.2 Oval and the installation of lighting at David Madew Oval. Each of these improvements is designed to meet the current and future needs of the Local Community and LGA. As identified in recent Council documents, the improvements will address the ongoing issue of poor quality local sporting facilities, increased accessibility to recreational sites (particularly for the physically disabled), encourage wider usage of the subject venues, extend the hours of usability for these facilities and ensure the sun-safety of users of these venues. The Applicant will contribute \$100,000 in total to these projects.

- 1.15 Additional employment will also be generated at the Venue, as will increased taxes. Further detail in relation to the positive contributions is provided later in this Report.

2 RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

2.1 The Applicant's gaming machine operation is in strict accordance with legislated and optional responsible gambling measures and is considered best practice in this area. A copy of the Applicant's House Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Gambling is included at Appendix 1. The Applicant operates its responsible gambling house policy which is drafted in accordance with the legislative requirements stated in the Gambling Legislation Amendment (Responsible Gambling) Act 1999, the Registered Clubs Act 1976, the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and accompanying regulations. The Applicant's harm minimisation strategies include:

- All employees involved in gaming related duties hold a responsible conduct of gambling qualification in an approved course;
- All prize winners receive prizes in accordance with clause 13 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The prize schedule of the Applicant is operated in accordance with clause 14 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant maintains certain records as per clause 18 and 19 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant maintains records relating to gaming machine prizes as per clause 15 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- No inducements as specified in clause 48 of the *Gaming Machines Regulation* are offered by the Applicant to gamble;
- Player information brochures in relevant community languages are kept in the Venue as per clauses 22, 23 and 24 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- Signage containing wordage as per clauses 26, 25 and 49 of the *Gaming Machines Regulation* are located in conspicuous positions in all gaming areas of the Venue;
- All jackpot link monitors are located in gaming or bar areas only;
- The identities of any prize winners are not published;
- The Applicant does not promote gambling outside the Venue, including not providing gambling signage which draws attention to the availability of gaming machines in the Venue, includes a term or expression frequently associated with gambling or relates to gambling franchise or gambling business;
- The Applicant maintains records of its player loyalty scheme in compliance with clauses 42, 43 and 44 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- The Applicant operates its player loyalty scheme in accordance with section 45 of the *Gaming Machines Act*, specifically provisions relating to the promotion of cash prizes over \$1,000, exchanging prizes for cash, redemption of bonus points for cash and advises of availability of player activity statements upon request;
- All gaming machines at the Venue are located in areas which do not attract members of the public who are outside the Venue or are contrary to public interest;
- The Applicant operates its gaming machine operations in accordance with the ClubsNSW Code of Practice;
- No minors are ever allowed access to gaming areas of the Venue;
- Strong links are maintained with established referral systems problem gambling counselling services;
- The Applicant operates the ClubSafe self-exclusion scheme in compliance with clause 47 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- Consumer information on the chance of winning maximum prizes and jackpots is

- made available in the gaming area;
- Gaming machines notices on the dangers of excessive gambling are placed in all required areas;
- Signage on the unavailability of credit facilities, both through access to credit funds via Automatic Teller Machines and through no facility at the venue;
- No cashing of third party cheques is possible;
- Clocks are clearly visible in all areas of the Venue as per clause 28 *Gaming Machines Regulation*;
- No gaming cash payments over \$2,000 are made;
- No cash prizes in gaming promotions;
- Only the provision of opt-in marketing is undertaken and only as part of the Applicant's full suit of promotions;
- All direct advertising of gaming is contained within the Venue premises and is not visible outside the Venue; and
- The availability of player activity statements by players upon request is well known.

2.2 The Applicant has also implemented additional measures to ensure compliance with recent amendments to the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and associated *Regulation*, this includes:

- No ATM in the Venue permits the dispensing of cash withdrawn from a credit account
- Any unclaimed prizes are now processed as follows:
 - The Applicant places any unclaimed jackpot winning tickets not claimed within 12 months in a conspicuous area of the Venue for one month;
 - Any unclaimed gaming machine tickets or jackpots not claimed during the 12 month period are now to be paid into the Community Development Fund;
- All prize winning cheques now clearly state - 'Prize winning cheque – cashing rules apply'; and
- Individuals who has self-excluded must apply in writing after their initial exclusion period before they are allowed re-entry to the Venue.

2.3 The Applicant is a member of ClubSafe, and has adopted its best practice guidelines and policies. As such, the Applicant goes beyond compliance with current legislation.

3 LOCAL COMMUNITY

3.1 Definition of Local Community

3.2 The Legislation provides that there must be a positive contribution from approval of the Application. The approach to which the Applicant has defined its **Local Community** has been developed through its **analysis of** its membership **penetration in the surrounding area**. Generally a registered club will have a membership penetration in urban and semi-urban areas of approximately 5kms. This assessment is linked heavily to legislative requirements pertaining to compulsory membership of any person residing within 5kms of the registered club in question. In the context of the information set out above, the Local Community is defined as encompassing:

- The following suburbs: Dodsworth, Karabar, Letchworth, Oaks Estate and Queanbeyan; and
- Parts of the following suburbs: Fyshwick, Googong, Greenleigh, Hume, Jerrabomberra, Pialligo and Symonston.

- 3.3 It is submitted therefore, that this defined area meets the requirements of the Act, Regulation, and Guidelines. A diagram of the Local Community is included in Appendix 3.

4 DEMOGRAPHY

- 4.1 Queanbeyan LGA is located in southern NSW, on the eastern border of the ACT, about 12 km south-east of Canberra and about 250km south-west of Sydney. The LGA is bounded by the ACT to the north and west, and Palerang LGA in the east and south. Covering an area of approximately 173km², the LGA is predominately rural, with expanding residential areas, particularly in the north-west, close to Canberra. It comprises approximately 15,118 private dwellings and is a sub-region of the Queanbeyan Statistical Sub-Division. In June 2006, its population was estimated at 35,974 and its population density was 229.7 persons per square kilometre. In 2006 74% of the population were aged 18 years and over. This compares to 76% for NSW at the same period. The median age of people residing in the LGA in 2006 was 34 years compared to the state median of 37 years. 82.9% of the population is Australian-born. The population of the Queanbeyan LGA grew at an annual rate of 1.8% between 2007 and 2008. This figure is significantly higher than the NSW annual rate of growth, which was 1.1% for the same period.
- 4.2 In August 2006, the rate of unemployment in the Queanbeyan LGA was estimated at 2.9%, significantly lower than the NSW rate of 5.9%. Queanbeyan LGA has a SEIFA (2006 social-economic index of relative advantage-disadvantage) of 1041, which is higher than the State average of 978. An alternative measure of SEIFA is provided by the ABS. Each LGA in NSW has been ranked in deciles (ranges of 10 percent). The first decile denotes the most disadvantaged LGAs, the tenth decile, the most advantaged. Queanbeyan LGA falls in the ninth decile. It therefore ranks close to the top of all NSW LGAs. The advantage of using this method to analyse SEIFA is that it allows comparison with all LGAs, not simply a State average, which is skewed by a small number of very high SEIFA estimates for certain LGAs. This is emphasised by the fact that in 2006 only 50 of 151 LGAs (excluding Unincorporated NSW) or 33.1% of all LGAs, had a SEIFA in excess of the NSW average.
- 4.3 The LGA is characterised by its relatively young population, as evidenced by its median age of 34, compared to 37 for NSW. The proportion of the population aged less than 18 years is relatively high at 26%, compared to the NSW figure of 24%.
- 4.4 The LGA is characterised as one of the more affluent regional areas in Australia, currently experiencing considerable prosperity in connection with its proximity to Canberra. Demographic indicators provide evidence for this view, with unemployment very low at 2.9% and the median household income of \$1,181 higher than the State average of \$1,036. The LGAs proximity to the ACT and Canberra allows it access to significant services and employment opportunities making a favourable area for population growth. As discussed earlier in this document, the LGA is experiencing significant population growth which is expected to continue for the immediate future.

5 POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- 5.1 General
- 5.2 The granting of the Application will yield a significant social and economic benefit for the Local Community and LGA through a number of major and ancillary positive contributions,

including:

1. The construction of a shaded viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp to enhance spectator facilities at Freebody No. 2 Oval;
2. The installation of flood lighting at David Madew Oval;
3. Additional employment; and
4. Additional state taxes.

5.3 Construction of a shaded viewing deck and wheelchair access ramp at Freebody No. 2 Oval

5.4 *Freebody No. 2 Oval*

5.5 Freebody No. 2 Oval, located within Freebody Recreational Reserve, is regularly used by a variety of local sporting organisations, including Queanbeyan Cricket Association (which has junior and senior players) and Queanbeyan Kangaroos Junior Rugby League Club. The Oval is also used regularly by Queanbeyan West Public School.

5.6 At present, the Oval does not have any player or spectator facilities, which detracts from the potential recreational pleasure it otherwise offers to members of the Local Community. However, in conjunction with the Federal Government, Queanbeyan City Council plans to construct a small structure at the site that will house a meeting/viewing room, change rooms, toilets and a kitchenette. The development application has been approved, and the Federal Government has pledged \$1.3 million towards the \$1.6 million project. Further information pertaining to the planned construction of player/spectator facilities can be found in Appendix 5.

5.7 *The project*

5.8 The Applicant has been approached by Queanbeyan City Council to provide funds that will facilitate the enhancement of the planned facilities (as described above). These extra funds would allow for the addition of a shaded viewing deck, a wheelchair access ramp, and power. The shaded viewing deck will provide sun protection for both players and spectators, and the wheelchair access ramp will allow disabled persons access to the Oval. The inclusion of these additions to the planned facilities will serve to render them at safer, more user-friendly and more widely accessible.

5.9 *Amount to be contributed*

5.10 This part of positive contribution project is estimated to cost \$20,000 in total, all of which will be donated by the Applicant pending the success of this Application. The *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020* identifies the limited availability of State and Federal Government funding as one of the Council's key challenges in its attempts to deliver the various elements of its *Strategic Plan* and is indicative of the significance of the funding that the Applicant seeks to facilitate.

5.11 *Benefit to the Local Community*

- *Youth*

5.12 The Applicant's LGA and Local Community are characterised by the relative youth of their respective populations. This higher than average proportion of people aged less than 18 years is indicative of the area's particular need for appropriately appointed sporting

facilities to accommodate the recreational requirements specific to the area's young people and growing population. The Queanbeyan City Council's *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020* identifies the creation of recreational opportunities for youth as one of its goals, noting the management and maintenance of parks and sporting fields as one of the means by which it is working to realise this aim (p. 19). This coupled with the significant population growth of the LGA over the next 25 years provides added support to the need for additional recreational and sporting facilities in the area.

- 5.13 The Oval is currently primarily used by junior rugby league and cricket players, as well as primary school students. Any enhancement of the appeal and usability of the Freebody No. 2 Oval will serve to encourage more young people to make use of the site, whether by active participation in sport or as passive spectators, and will facilitate the safe and convenient use of the site by the Local Community's youth.

- *The provision of recreational pleasure and support for general health and well-being*

- 5.14 Sporting facilities such as ovals of this type have the potential to offer the enjoyment provided by either active or passive participation in sport as well as support for general health and well-being. Both of these benefits are specifically identified as Council objectives in its *Social Plan 2005-2010: Towards a Healthy Community*, and are linked therein to the provision, maintenance and improvement of local sporting grounds (p. 121).

- 5.15 The generally poor quality of sports and leisure facilities as they are currently provided in the area is also an issue identified separately within the *Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020*. The Council commissioned a community survey that was undertaken during the latter half of 2008, upon which this Plan is largely based. One of the key priorities to arise out of this process was the need to address the current substandard quality of local sporting facilities and lack of access to adequate facilities (p. 8).

- 5.16 In their current state, the facilities available to users of the Oval are inadequate and render the site inconvenient and unappealing, and discourage its wider usage. The planned construction of a meeting/viewing room, kitchenette and amenities will go far to address this inadequacy and thereby meet the Local Community's recreational needs, as identified by local Council. However, these facilities would be markedly enhanced by the addition of a shaded viewing deck, allowing spectators and players to view matches in a comfortable and convenient shaded outdoor space. Such an addition would no doubt add to the appeal of the Oval and thereby encourage more local residents to participate either actively by playing sport or passively as supporters and spectators.

- 5.17 The construction of a shaded viewing deck would also assist the Council in "providing, maintaining and monitoring shaded public environments to prevent skin cancer", an objective detailed in the *Social Plan 2005-2010* (p. 56). Such a deck would help to ensure the sun-safety of all those involved in playing and viewing sport at the Oval.

- *Accessibility for the disabled*

- 5.18 The wheelchair access ramp, another of the additions that would be made with funds generated by the granting of the Application, would benefit disabled residents of the Local Community and LGA in that, by increasing the accessibility of Freebody No.2 Oval, it would encourage physically disabled individuals to participate more fully in the recreational life of the Community. Page 119 of the Social Plan states that "all people should have the opportunity to improve their quality of life through participation in a diversity of recreation opportunities". It goes on to state explicitly that "people with disabilities" should be "welcomed and included in recreation, leisure and public space in

Queanbeyan" (p. 128). In order to achieve these objectives, the Plan seeks that Council to "support the development of mixed use facilities available for recreation and leisure (modified where required)" (p. 128).

5.19 The installation of flood lighting at David Madew Oval

5.20 *David Madew Oval*

5.21 David Madew Oval, located within Madew Regional Park, currently hosts a variety of sporting competitions and training sessions, and is primarily used by Jerrambomberra Touch Football Club and Monaro Panthers Football Club's junior members. At present, the Oval does not have floodlighting facilities, a situation that limits its usability, given that games and training sessions cannot be scheduled into the evening.

5.22 *The project*

5.23 The Applicant has been approached by Queanbeyan City Council to assist in funding the installation of lighting at the Oval. This is part of a larger Council upgrade to the lighting on a number of sporting fields. Council does not currently have the funds to include in this greater project the work required at David Madew Oval. This work will involve the purchase and installation of two poles, four light heads, cabling and control gear.

5.24 *Amount to be contributed*

5.25 The project is estimated to cost \$80,000 in total, all of which will be donated by the Applicant pending the success of this Application. As noted above, the Queanbeyan Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020 identifies the limited availability of State and Federal Government funding as one of the Council's key challenges in its attempts to deliver the various elements of its Strategic Plan and is indicative of the significance of the funding that the Applicant seeks to facilitate.

5.26 *Benefit to the Local Community*

5.27 The benefits to the Local Community provided by the improvement and upgrade of local sporting venues have been outlined in some detail above in relation to the Freebody No.2 Oval project and apply equally here. The installation of floodlighting will extend the Oval's hours of use and thus allow for the scheduling of additional games later into the evening. Similarly, it will provide extra time for training sessions for junior soccer players belonging to Monaro Panthers Football Club, 300 of whom currently train at this facility.

5.28 As with the abovementioned benefits, this project will facilitate the wider usage of the Oval, which will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of Queanbeyan residents.

5.29 Construction related benefits

5.30 Based on the total cost of the project being \$100,000, using in-put/out-put construction multipliers provides that this will generate approximately \$279,600 in construction related add-on benefits. Using this same modelling, a further two full-time construction related positions will be created.

5.31 Additional employment

5.32 The revenue generated by the additional gaming machines will result in a further two part-time positions becoming available at the Venue. The benefits expense of the additional

two positions will be approximately \$46,000 per annum.

5.33 Additional taxes

5.34 Additional state taxes are estimated to average \$739,657 per annum. The proportion of this amount which flows back to the Local Community (estimated on a per capita basis) is \$4,063.

5.35 Summation of positive contributions to Local Community

5.36 From this information it is estimated that the additional gaming machines will result, either directly or indirectly in an additional \$429,663 in funds, will directly benefit the Local Community.

6 CONCLUSION

5.37 This LIA, pursuant to Section 37 of the *Gaming Machines Amendment Regulation 2009*, defines the Applicant's Local Community, details the positive contributions that the Applicant will provide to the Local Community if the Application is approved, and details the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in place at the Venue.

5.38 The Applicant is a community based registered club which provides needed community support through additional donations exceeding those required through CDSE contributions. The Venue provides a central meeting place for its Local Community, including numerous recreational and social facilities and opportunities existing for the benefit of members and guests. The Applicant is the major contributor to Rugby League in the local area, supporting sporting endeavours more widely through its various contributions.

5.39 The Applicant operates gaming at the Venue in compliance with mandated Legislative requirements and operates a best-practice style of interventions and procedures. The Applicant enforces this strict approach based on its House Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Gambling conducting regular in-house training for all of its gaming staff, each of whom holds qualifications in the Responsible Conduct of Gambling.

5.40 The positive contributions put forward in this LIA will not occur without the approval of the Application. There is no doubt that the planned construction projects at the local sporting grounds in question will positively contribute to the Local Community of the Applicant in that they will increase the accessibility and convenience of the relevant sites and thus result in increased utilisation of the recreational spaces they offer. The LGA is set to grow considerably over the next 25 years. Given the current population suffers from a lack of adequate community, recreational and sporting facilities will ensure there are some facilities for the local population. This project is substantial and is targeted specifically at the Local Community of the Venue.

5.41 Other positive contributions include the construction related benefits stemming from the project, additional employment at the Venue and additional state taxes. A total economic positive contribution is estimated at \$429,663 to the Local Community.

5.42 It is therefore provided that the test as set out in the Guideline and Legislation is met and the Applicant submits that the Application should be approved.