

Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ❖ Submission for Taree Aquatic Club (The Club)...Licence # 239144, for a LGA Band 2, Class 1 Application.
- ❖ The Club Premises are located at 1 Macquarie St Taree NSW 2430, incorporated in the Greater Taree Local Government Area (LGA) classified as Band 2 by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority, as part of the Gaming Machines Amendment Act. Following is a submission of a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment, requesting a threshold increase of 4 poker machines, which constitutes a low range increase according to this same Act.
- ❖ Taree Aquatic currently holds 33 approved entitlements for gaming machines and thus an increase of 4 poker machines would bring this overall total to 37.
- ❖ The forecasted net revenue from the extra 4 poker machines is expected to be circa \$85,845 per annum.
- ❖ Positive outcomes for NSW and specifically the Taree community are the expected increase in employment opportunities both directly and indirectly as a result.
- ❖ The projected annual net profit from the 4 additional poker machines, would allow the Club to support and maintain its current affordable pricing levels and assist with further community support.
- ❖ Primarily, by the expected growth in Revenue, Taree Aquatic intends to provide a special allocation of \$20,000 over 2 years. This amount, contributed above the Standard Contribution to the Category 1 Fund will be directed to those essential community Services as noted in Paragraph 2.6...Increased Spend on Community Grants below.
- ❖ The Club adheres to all harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures stipulated in the Liquor Act, Gaming Machines Regulations and the Gaming Machines Act. Taree Aquatic has also adopted the Clubs NSW Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code – “Best Practice Guidelines”, and is a member of the ClubSAFE Responsible Gambling Program. The club also utilises G-LINE and Mid North Coast Financial Counselling Service
- ❖ The Club follows all Responsible Gambling Policies.
 - All gaming related staff at Taree Aquatic Club are required to undertake in-house training, as well as completing a Liquor Administration Board approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course (RCG).
 - The subsequent information will establish that the Greater Taree community will benefit by the increase of 4 poker machines.

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Introduction

The following submission outlines an application for a threshold increase of 4 poker machines for Taree Aquatic Club Ltd pursuant to the recently amended Gaming Machines Act.

In accordance with the Gaming Machines Amendment Act, a submission follows for a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment, detailing the benefits the club will provide to the local community, as well as the range of harm minimisation and responsible gaming measures employed by the Club. A copy of this Local Impact Assessment is available for public inspection at the Club during operating hours.

It is projected an extra 4 poker machines, when fully operational, are forecast to generate circa \$85,845 pa in profit.

1.0...The Club

Located in the Greater Taree Local Government Area, Taree Aquatic has a Band 2 classification by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority as part of the Gaming Machines Amendment Act. The Club occupies the site at 1 Macquarie St Taree NSW 2430.

The Club was officially formed and affiliated with the Vaucluse Amateur Sailing Association in 1946, as the parent body was then called.

The first official home of the Manning River Vee-Ess Sailing Club was at the North Coast Steam Navigation Co's wharf shed, adjacent to the Martin Bridge.

In January 1947 the Vee-Jay Club was formed and was also housed in the wharf shed. Boat storage was then becoming a problem. In 1950 we decided to build a club shed at the foot of Macquarie Street. With the help of our bank which advanced us \$600.00, we built the shed with voluntary labour. This clubhouse, when completed, served as our home for eight years.

In 1957 our increasing fleet numbers and membership indicated that again we would have to do something regarding a larger clubhouse. In 1958, after receiving a Conditional Club Licence and a loan from our bank, plus the sale of debentures, we commissioned our builder to go ahead and build the first section of the brick building that we occupy today. The building was completed in December 1958.

By 1962 it was obvious that further additions would be necessary in the near future. Planning and building commenced and they were officially opened on 8 November 1968 by Mr Bill Northam.

At this time it would be fitting, not to forget the great debt of gratitude the members of this Club owe to those early founders in 1945-46, who worked hard and willingly to make this Club what it is today, and especially we owe a great deal to the Ladies Auxiliary formed in those early days, who have been a tower of strength to the Club over the years.

In 1976 the Club had the opportunity to purchase the property on the western side of Macquarie Street, adjacent to the Club. The property was purchased, but was sold again in the late eighties. It was then purchased again in the mid-nineties and will now become part of the Club's expansion in the near future.

At the 1988/89 AGM the name of the Club was changed to the Taree Aquatic Club, so as to cover a wider membership.

The first major extensions for some years were completed in 1999, with a new entrance and foyer, plus new offices.

Over the next few years the clubs profitability was driven by the very successful nightclub that operated on Saturday nights. While the night club was financially successful, other areas of the club where not as profitable as they should have been and in 2003 a decision was made to change the way the club was managed and return to a focus on service, fine food and membership. This proved to be a turning point for the club.

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Since 2003 the club has gained a reputation for fine food and customer service and redeveloped the club to improve the facilities for members.

In 2007 stage 1 of our capital redevelopment program was completed incorporating a larger and refurbished gaming room, larger and refurbished lounge and dining areas and a relocation of the northern fire escape and toilet facilities to the Macquarie Street side of the club. The existing balcony at the front of the club was extended and enclosed and a new balcony was constructed at the northern end of the club. The clubs offices and meeting rooms were moved to the cottage at 2 Macquarie Street to free up valuable space for members facilities.

In 2010 stage 2 was completed and incorporated a new kitchen, new toilet facilities and storage rooms and a further improved vista of the river.

The Taree Aquatic Club has always been financially viable to safeguard its vision of providing hospitality and entertainment in a safe environment with a goal of providing quality products and services to a high standard, along with a commitment of continual improvement whilst supporting the community.

Taree Aquatic Club has 7,300 members at September 2015 and supports 15 Staff overall.

The Club provides live dinner music on Saturday nights. Carefully selected solo artists perform in the restaurant from 6:30pm - 10:30pm with a range of instruments and music styles.

The Club Opening Hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday...10.30am – Midnight...Tuesday & Thursday... 9.30am – Midnight.
Sunday 11.30.am – Midnight ((or earlier)...Public Holidays...11.00.am – Midnight (or earlier)
Closed on Christmas Day & Boxing Day

The club provides a Courtesy Bus

The clubs courtesy bus runs as follows:

Tuesday	2:00pm -- Take Home
Thursday	2:00pm -- Take Home
Friday	5:00pm - 6:00pm -- Pick Up And Take Home
Friday	8:30pm & 9:30pm -- Take Home
Saturday	5:00pm - 6:00pm -- Pick Up And Take Home
Saturday	9:00pm, 10:00pm & 11:00pm -- Take Home

Note: For pickups simply phone the club to make a booking. Other pickups or drop offs may be available with advance notice depending on staff availability.

Car parking is provided on crown land, public road and land owned adjacent to the club. A total of approximately 60 spaces are available

The additional income generated by the increase in entitlements, will benefit both the club and the community, by the expectation of engaging additional employees and greater community funding. This increase of 4 poker machines will provide positive community benefits if approved.

Street View



Overhead map view



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2.0...Benefits to the Local Community

Taree Aquatic Club will continue to build ties with community groups and sporting groups.

The club currently provides additional donations of circa \$10,000 exceeding the legislated requirements with Regular beneficiaries - Taree Aquatic Sailing Club, Taree Aquatic Power Boat Club, Taree Neighbourhood Kitchen, and Taree Rotary Club.

Several of these expected benefits are of increased employment, upholding of the club's pricing & services and enhanced spend in the local area should offset any negative outcomes.

2.1...Local Community Related Issue

Due to the legislative requirements expressing compulsory membership for those patrons who reside within 5km of the venue, studies have shown that the majority of members & visitors are found to have been sourced within the scope of that range. The conclusion being that any improvements brought about by the approval of this application would be for the greatest benefit to the local community.

2.2...Increased Employment Opportunities

There is a real prospect for additional local employment opportunities. The growth of the club depends on this additional income, which will benefit the community by providing increased funding. To further define this, the additional poker machines may necessitate additional staff to cover the expected increase in demand for food, beverages, payouts and general customer service on the gaming floor. The additional 4 Gaming Machines applied for, have the potential to generate additional net revenue of circa \$85,845 per year, thus the expectation is that staff and wages would increase progressively on approval of this application. The current wages allocated to gaming for the club are circa \$44,000, Bonus and promotions of \$31,135 and Repairs & maintenance of \$51,163. This increase in gaming machines would also provide increased opportunities for external businesses. With an extra 4 poker machines, additional furniture, stools and signage are just a small portion of the changes required to the Floor area in the implementation phase. Furthermore, the projected increase in revenue through the extra poker machines foresee accelerated plans for additional facilities within the Club, which would result in further increases in employment, both directly and indirectly.

Any increase in employment would be extremely beneficial within the Greater Taree LGA, particularly in the current economic climate where the anticipated unemployment rate has been shown to be rising steadily. Given the great majority of our staff are drawn from our local community; a further benefit will be to keep additional funds local to the region.

2.3...Gaming Machine Expenditure

The club currently operates 33 gaming machines. The operational profit from Gaming machines as at 31st December 2013 was \$667,770. The Net Revenue before operational costs for period ending 31st December 2013 was \$794,068.

2.4...Increase Economic Activity in the Local Region

The projected increased revenue from the extra gaming machines are expected to allow greater proliferation of the Club's services and entertainment mix and thus attract visitors from outside the region, which will create further revenue injections into the community. A more attractive entertainment and gaming venue may potentially limit Taree residents from visiting venues outside the area, keeping their funds within the Greater Taree community.

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2.5...Overall Poker Machine Reduction

To gain an increase of 4 poker machines, Taree Aquatic Club would be required to purchase 6 and relinquish 2 to the NSW State Government to dispose of. This would lead to overall decrease state-wide of 2 poker machines.

2.6...Increased Spend on Community Grants

The projected increase in revenue from an extra 4 poker machines would provide the Club with the means to further increase community expenditure. It is the club's commitment to provide additional funding by Club Grants in excess of our regulatory requirements.

Any further increases expected by the additional gaming machines, will have a positive effect on the community of Taree, who obviously benefit greatly from the Club's support.

Provided this application is approved, Taree Aquatic Club will contribute an additional \$20,000 over 2 years at the rate of \$10,000 per annum. The additional Funds will be allocated above and beyond any standard CDSE Contributions. On approval of this submission, the Club will allocate the funds to the recipients as follows:

2015 – (1 month after approval)

- ❖ Taree Aquatic Sailing Club -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Aquatic Power Boat Club -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Neighbourhood Kitchen -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Rotary Club -- \$2.500

2016 – (12 months after approval)

- ❖ Taree Aquatic Sailing Club -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Aquatic Power Boat Club -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Neighbourhood Kitchen -- \$2.500
- ❖ Taree Rotary Club -- \$2.500

Total of \$20,000 over 2 years.

If approved, Taree Aquatic Club also intends to provide Management support and some capital to Lansdowne Bowling & Recreation Club. (Final Levels to be determined with consultation) The club will provide detailed reporting on a progressive basis.

3.0...Advertising, Promotions and Inducements to Gamble

Taree Aquatic Club does not offer any unlawful inducements to gamble such as free or discounted liquor promotions to gamblers or any schemes that allow distribution of free gambling credits to gaming machine players.

The Club does not use the word Casino in any description or promotion of the Club in signs or any advertising or promotional material, which is visible or audible from outside the premises. The Club's gaming machine signs comply with the Gaming Machines Act. The Club will not publish in any form information that identifies a winner of a prize, if requested not to do so in writing.

3.1...Electronic Surveillance

The Club operates DVRs' with a combination of analogue and digital cameras, 16 in total. The cameras cover the external and internal areas of the club plus the car park. The cameras are motion operated and the images are stored on hard drive for 21 to 30 days.

Surveillance cameras enable management to:

- ❖ Monitor car park to ensure that children are not left unattended in motor vehicles
- ❖ Monitor the behaviour of club patrons

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3.2...Compliance Committee

Taree Aquatic Club operates a comprehensive Incident Log for their compliance committee.

The management through the guidance of the General Manager and the Operations Manager are responsible for ensuring the Club's complies with Responsible Conduct of Gambling by undertaking audits of procedures throughout the year by way of weekly to quarter checklist audits.

The Club also maintains an OLGR Incident Register and forms part of the Club's Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) policy.

3.3...Gaming Related Staff Requirements and Training

All staff who undertakes in any gaming-related duties, have all completed a Liquor Administration Board approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course (RCG). As a member of ClubSAFE, all staff has trained in the ClubSAFE program and additional training has been provided for gaming area staff and Duty Managers in assisting problem gamblers and processing self-exclusions. This training goes beyond the minimum requirements of the legislation and focuses on how staff can properly assist problem gamblers. The ClubSAFE Manual is available to all staff for training and revision purposes for responsible gaming procedures.

3.4...Problem-Gambling Counselling

Taree Aquatic Club is a member of the "ClubSAFE" program.
ClubSAFE is the club industry's Responsible Conduct of Gambling Program.
Details of ClubSAFE are available at:

(<http://www.clubsnsw.com.au/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutUs/ClubsNSWServices/ClubSAFEProgram/default.htm>)

The Taree Aquatic utilises ClubSAFE Counselling 1800 997 766 and Gambling Help (G-LINE) on 1800 858 858 and Mid North Coast Financial Counselling Service

The club displays a notice of the name and contact details of this and other providers. If a patron enquires about problem gambling counselling, staff will ensure that the person is made fully aware of ClubSAFE, G-Line, or any other provider near the gambler's residence. Any person identified as a problem gambler, will also be advised of the club's Self-Exclusion Scheme. ClubSAFE brochures, detailing information on counselling and the G-Line service, are also prominently displayed and readily available at the Club. The club and all staff take an active role in ensuring this information is available and known to any potential problem gamblers.

3.5...Harm Minimisation and Responsible Gambling Measures

In order to provide a responsible gambling environment and comply with the relevant legislation, Taree Aquatic Club has adopted the Clubs NSW Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code of Practice – Best Practice Guidelines and is a member of the Club Safe Responsible Gambling Program. The Club has lodged a Responsible Gambling Affidavit with the Liquor Administration Board.

Furthermore, it has made all necessary changes to comply with the requirements of Gaming Machines Regulation and the Gaming Machines Act. Details of the 2009 Act and recent Amendments are available for viewing at:
(<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/act+49+1999+ed+0+Y?>)

The revised Legislation for *Registered Clubs Regulation 2015* can be accessed at:

(<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/subordleg+479+2015+cd+0+N/?dq=Regulations%20under%20Registered%20Clubs%20Act%201976%20No%2031>)

Relating directly to Amendments to the Liquor Act, Responsible conduct of gambling activities, the Club complies with all aspects of this legislative framework.

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Taree Aquatic Club – Responsible Conduct Of Gambling Procedures.

The Taree Aquatic Club adheres to relevant legislation, harm minimisation measures and Responsible Conduct of Gambling by:

- ❖ Ensuring all employees of Taree Aquatic Club are certified with Responsible Conduct of Gambling by approved trainers.
- ❖ The Club does not advertising gaming related promotions or have gaming related signage visible from the street.
- ❖ The Club adheres to a minimum six hour shutdown period each day unless approval otherwise has been granted.
- ❖ Does not provide gaming promotional prizes exceeding the value of \$1,000 to be in the form of cash or allow gaming promotional prizes to be redeemed for cash.
- ❖ The ATM is located out of the gaming area and does not accept credit cards.
- ❖ The Club does not supply inducements to gamblers by way of free alcohol or credits for gaming to patrons.
- ❖ All required harm minimisation signage is visible and available to patrons of the Club.
- ❖ All gaming related payments over **\$5,000** are paid by crossed cheque marked Prize Winning Cheque cashing Rules Apply.
- ❖ Winning patron details are not displayed without their permission in writing.
- ❖ Unclaimed Prizes are be advertised within the Club prior to 12 months and if remain unclaimed are paid to Office of Liquor and Gaming.
- ❖ Allowance is made for the disposal of accumulated jackpot amounts into the Community Development Fund or ClubGrants Scheme.
- ❖ The Club is a member of ClubSAFE and a participant in their multi venue self-exclusion scheme.
- ❖ Minors are prohibited from entering the gaming area and not permitted to play gaming machines anytime.
- ❖ The Club operates Multi terminal gaming machine but they do not exceed 15% on our total entitlement threshold.
- ❖ All gaming machines and subsidiary equipment are authorised and the Club is in accordance with the Club's gaming machine threshold.
- ❖ The Club takes all reasonable care to ensure poker machine are maintained as they have been authorised and are serviced by a licensed technician who holds and displays a current license.
- ❖ The Club ensures all poker machines remain connected and communicating with the Central Monitoring System (CMS).

3.6...Self-Exclusion Scheme

The Club is a member of the multi venue self-exclusion scheme operated by ClubSAFE.

Appropriate staff training has ensured that staff knows when to talk to patrons about self-exclusion and how to process their request. As part of this scheme, the Club:

The club or an employee cannot refuse a participant's request to participate in the scheme.

On receipt of a request, the Duty Manager will explain the process to the person and present the relevant documentation.

Allows a participant to obtain independent legal or professional advice, at the participant's expense, before signing the appropriate forms as to the meaning and effect of the undertaking.

Ensures that all participants sign a written undertaking not to gamble in the Club which clearly states the period of exclusion. Furthermore, the Club does not allow a participant to withdraw from the undertaking without the consent of ClubSAFE, G-Line or Mid North Coast Financial Counselling Service who will ensure the participant undergoes a rigorous assessment process to ascertain the progress the person has made in managing their gambling problems. The Club employs a minimum **six month** exclusion period.

Ensures all appropriate information about gambling related counselling and treatment services are displayed and available to patrons, on relevant signage and in brochures within the Club.

Ensures staff is equipped to identify participants by displaying a recent photograph in areas accessible only to gaming staff as well as a folder with the details of all participants in it. The importance of identifying participants is emphasised in staff training.

Displays signs in the gaming area & reception foyer, advertising the accessibility of the self-exclusion scheme.

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4.0...Profile of the Greater Taree LGA, provided by 2011 Census Data

Greater Taree LGA - 2006					Greater Taree LGA - 2011					CHANGES	%
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006					Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011					2006 to 2011	Variation
Age Groups	Males	Female	Numbers	% Of Total	Age Groups	Males	Female	Numbers	% Of Total		
Under 12	3,504	3,407	6,911	15.31%	Under 12	3,413	3,283	6,696	14.38%	-215	-3.11%
12-17	2,198	2,092	4,290	9.50%	12-17	2,021	1,958	3,979	8.55%	-311	-7.25%
18-24	1,404	1,358	2,852	6.32%	18-24	1,475	1,423	2,898	6.23%	46	1.61%
25-34	1,763	1,977	3,740	8.29%	25-34	1,682	1,926	3,608	7.75%	-132	-3.53%
35-49	4,232	4,741	8,973	19.88%	35-49	3,837	4,372	8,209	17.64%	-764	-8.51%
50-59	3,243	3,330	6,573	14.56%	50-59	3,441	3,587	7,038	15.12%	465	7.07%
60-69	2,835	2,866	5,701	12.63%	60-69	3,412	3,496	6,908	14.84%	1,207	21.17%
70-84	2,480	2,686	5,166	11.45%	70-84	2,920	3,039	5,959	12.80%	793	15.35%
85+	329	600	929	2.06%	85+	457	789	1,246	2.68%	317	34.12%
Total	22,078	23,057	45,135	100.00%	Total	22,658	23,883	46,541	100.00%	1,406	3.12%

4.1...Demography

At the 2011 Census, there were 46,541 people in the Greater Taree local government area, of these 48.8% were male and 51.3% were female. Children aged 0 – 12 years made up 14.4% of the population and people aged 60 years and over made up 30.3% of the population. The medium age is 46 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 5.4% of the population

Population growth in the City of Taree between the 2006 Census and the 2011 Census was 3.12%. As a comparison, total population growth of Australia grew 7.63% for the same period. The average weekly income for residents within the City of Taree of \$1,633 and is lower than the state average of \$2,245.

5.0...Conclusion

Taree Aquatic Club has improved in their financial outlook over recent times.

The expected increase in Revenue from an additional 4 poker machines if approved at the club, would allow additional contributions within the local community. On approval of this submission, it is the club's commitment, to provide a further \$20,000 over 2 years, allocated to recipients as per Paragraph 2.6...Increased Spend on Community Grants, as well as providing Management support and some capital to Lansdowne Bowling & Recreation Club. (Levels to be determined with further consultation)

These additional funds will undoubtedly make a substantial difference to the health and well-being of families in the region. The club is undertaking every effort in all area of the club's operations, to ensure a positive future for its members and the community as a whole.

The Club has undertaken a number of measures to ensure that gambling activities are conducted in a responsible manner. Taree Aquatic Club has shown a very high level of legislative compliance over an extended period of time. To comply further, the club joined and fully participates in the ClubSAFE program, to expose its commitment as significant with responsible gambling compliance and attitude.

Taree Aquatic Club appreciates that they have met all the necessary Legislative requirements and in combination with the extensive harm minimisation and problem gambling initiatives undertaken, indicate a low range increase of 4 poker machines in the Club will result in a net positive outcome to the region.

Attachments

Richard Moore
Chief Executive Officer
Taree Aquatic Club
By Order, the Board of Directors

Appendix 1.... Policy-Responsible Conduct of Gaming
Appendix 2.... Policy-Funding for Community Assistance and Development
Appendix 3.... Policy-Cashing and Banking Cheques
Appendix 4.... Fire & Evacuation Floor Plan Level 1 2011

Prepared by



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