

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment

**The Australian Hotel Nowra
Cnr Kinghorne & North Streets
NOWRA NSW 2541**

**June 2017
Licence No. LIQH40019976**

Executive Summary

Proposal

The Australian Hotel, Nowra is proposing to increase its gaming machine threshold by three (3) being an increase from 13 to 16.

The Premises

The Australian Hotel, Nowra is an existing hotel, located at the corner of Kinghorne & North Streets, Nowra. The internal floor space is approximately 1,409.36 m².

The hotel has been operating in Nowra since the grant of the licence in May 1954.

Nowra is in the local government area of Shoalhaven City Council, which is a Band 2 LGA as determined by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Definition of Local Community

For the purposes of this application the local community is defined to include Nowra, the township, from which the majority of trade is drawn for the hotel.

Positive Contribution to the Local Community

The applicant is able to demonstrate that the increase in the gaming machine threshold will provide a positive contribution towards the local community as the hotel proposes to donate \$21,000.00 to Catholic Care, Nowra. The donation will benefit the residents of Nowra.

Responsible Gaming Measures

The Hotel operates the hotel gaming facilities in a responsible manner. No change to the manner of operation will be affected should this application be granted.

1. Introduction

This report, a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) Class 1 accompanies an application for Threshold increase for the Australian Hotel, Nowra (the Hotel). The Hotel is situated in the Shoalhaven Local Government area (LGA) a Band 2 LGA. The application made is for a low range increase of 3 gaming machines.

Prior to granting the Threshold Increase Application the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority must be satisfied the LIA complies with the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and the Gaming Machines Regulation 2008. The Guidelines confirm that the LIA must demonstrate that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the subject premises will provide a positive contribution towards the Local Community.

2. Proposal in Detail

The Hotel is seeking to increase the gaming machine threshold from 13 to 16, an increase of 3. This Class 1 LIA is to be considered in conjunction with the attached Application for gaming machine threshold.

The Hotel has an internal floorspace of 1,409.36 m². The Hotel lodged a similar application in 2016 and approval was given after amendment to the application to increase the GMT by 1 to 13.

The Hotel consists of a public bar, bistro, outdoor garden area, restricted gaming area, drive through bottle shop and first floor accommodation together with managers unit. There are TAB facilities adjacent to the gaming area of the hotel. The Hotel attracts custom for its good quality and value meals and friendly atmosphere. The operation of gaming machines at the Hotel does not detract from the character of the Hotel or the enjoyment of patrons using the Hotel for purposes other than gaming.

Catholic Care, Nowra (Wollongong Diocese)

Located at 55 Worrige Street, Nowra. The organization provides a wide range of social welfare services in the Local Community as well as the Wollongong Diocese.

Counselling services are provided to children, adults, couples and families suffering from grief, loss, family and relationship difficulties, stress, anxiety, depression and changes in personal or family situations (eg. Drug, alcohol and gambling issues affecting family relationships).

The donation is considered to be of great advantage as it will assist the organization to extend counseling support and social development group learning activities to students in primary and secondary schools.

Definition of Local Community

We have where available reviewed the 2016 Census data and provided same in this LIA.

For the purposes of this application the definition of Local Community is considered to include the township of Nowra. Nowra is a township with a population of approximately 9,193 persons with a median age of 43. There is an adult indigenous population of approximately 6.6%. The majority of the population are English speaking.

Nowra is located in the Shoalhaven LGA on the south coast of NSW. The LGA consists primarily of small coastal and rural townships. Nowra/Bombaderry, Milton / Ulladulla and Huskisson and Sussex inlet being its major centres. The LGA has an area of approximately 4,531.km².

The LGA population, already in the order of 100,000 is expected to grow by an additional 20,000 persons by 2036.

The township does not include the population of North, South or West Nowra and excludes Worrigea to the South. In terms of available information for Socio-economic disadvantage the Shoalhaven LGA, of which the township of Nowra forms a substantial part, scored 954.6 – nowra being 815.3. Shoalhaven has SEIFA indicators that are generally below the State of NSW averages for LGA's.

However, the ABS undertakes a different exercise with SEIFA scores and ranks LGA's in deciles. The first being the most disadvantaged and the 10th the most advantaged. Shoalhaven ranks, as compared with all LGA's, in the fourth or fifth decile for each category of its SEIFA indicators. This method, rather than comparing on a higher to lower average score (where there are a number of very high scoring LGA's that skew such an assessment) allows comparison with all LGA's.

Responsible Gambling Measures

The Hotel operates gambling activities in a responsible manner. These will continue to operate if this application is granted. The responsible gambling measures undertaken by the hotel include:

- Gaming machines in the hotel do not operate for the purposes of gambling during the gaming machine shutdown hours
- Compliance with the prohibited publication of gaming machine advertising and signage requirements

- Gaming machines are not located in a manner designed to attract attention of members of the public outside the hotel
- Prohibition on offering promotional prizes in the form of cash, a promotion price that exceeds \$1,000 in value, on the exchange of a promotional prize for cash, or any bonus or reward points accumulated under a player reward scheme to be redeemed for cash (except where permitted by the legislation)
- Problem gambling counseling services are available
- Refusal to accept prize winning cheques
- Prohibition on the issuing of prize winning cheques unless the patron is identified in accordance with the Gaming Machines Act
- No cash dispensing facility being offered which is capable of providing cash from a credit card account
- Limitations on the cashing of cheques being adhered to
- Compliance with anti money laundering requirements
- Compliance with the industry codes of practice - the hotel has adopted the AHA Gamecare Self-Exclusion Program and the AHA Gambling Code of Conduct is displayed in the gaming room
- Access by patrons to a self-exclusion scheme and the availability of and information about are published in the hotel
- Minors are not permitted to operate gaming machines and are not permitted in the gaming machine areas
- Availability of information, in specified languages, for patrons and the display of the changes of winning a major prize from the operation of any gaming machine in the hotel
- All gambling notices and signage as prescribed by the Gaming Machine Regulations being displayed in the hotel or on each gaming machine, as relevant
- A clock in good working order operating where the gaming machines are located
- No gambling inducements are provided
- All staff associated with gaming machines have completed the responsible

gambling course and a copy of each certificate is kept in a register in the hotel

Community Concerns

The Hotel and its management are not aware of any community concerns, however, if any arise they will be addresses following the notification requirements relevant for this type of application.

Conclusion

1. The Hotel has conducted gambling responsibly in the past and has demonstrated that it will be able to continue to do so in the future.
2. The Hotel application being granted and the threshold increase approved will provide a positive contribution towards the Local community, as demonstrated, by the contribution of \$21,000.00 towards Catholic Care, Nowra.
3. These funds will assist Catholic Care, Nowra, in providing beneficial services to the residents (in particular students) of the Local Community who are in need and families or members thereof affected by issues including gambling but in particular in counseling and educational services providing children with strategies and mechanisms to cope with varying circumstances as they arise.
4. This LIA has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Gaming Machines Regulation 2008 (as amended) and the Gaming Machines Act 2001. It defines the Local Community and outlines the positive contribution proposed to be provided should the Threshold Increase Application be approved and details the responsible gaming steps taken at the Premises.
5. It is respectfully submitted that the test as set out in the Guidelines, the Regulation and Act have been met and the application should be approved.



Chris Thompson
Solicitor for Applicant
Gwynne Thompson, Solicitors

27/6/2017.



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WOLLONGONG

hope begins with us

3 May 2017

Mr Michael Dennis
The Australian Hotel
Cnr Kinghorne and North Streets
NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Mr Dennis,

Donation by the Australian Hotel Nowra

I refer to your generous offer to donate a sum of \$21,000.00 to CatholicCare.

As a community organisation dedicated to delivering social welfare services, CatholicCare would be extremely grateful to receive your donation, and would plan to use the funds to extend the social development of students in Catholic Schools in the Shoalhaven area via counselling support and group-learning activities.

CatholicCare provides a wide range of initiatives to support the social and emotional wellbeing of students. Regular feedback demonstrates that school principals, staff and families highly value the pastoral support provided by the School Student and Family Program across the Diocese.

Some principals' feedback on the support provided by the School Student and Family Program:

- Working collaboratively with counsellor; her involvement in staff meetings on anxiety and suicide prevention; opportunity to discuss student needs with teachers has been invaluable.
- The group sessions have been very successful with senior students, very effective in dealing with students who have similar issues and targets more of our community needs
- Addressing a complexity of issues with high sensitivity and professionalism has been highly beneficial for students. These include separation, anxiety, depression, anger management, social interaction.
- The accessibility of counsellor's time and expertise when I needed it most is to be commended. Being available to parents and consistency of feedback to the classroom teachers worked well.
- Counsellor has worked with very complex clients and diverse needs, achieved a wonderful outcome to benefit students and families.

Thankyou for your support, and the opportunity to further assist the school students in the Nowra area. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Austin
Director

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