

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment

The Governor

**9-13 Waterloo Road
Macquarie Park NSW 2113**

Licence No. LIQH440018989

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Executive Summary

Proposal

The Governor at Macquarie Park (Licence No LIQH440018989) is seeking to increase its gaming machine threshold from 0 to 20.

The Governor

The Governor is a new hotel located at 9-13 Waterloo Road, Macquarie Park NSW. It is not in the immediate vicinity of a school, hospital or place of public worship.

The internal floor space of the hotel is approximately 4,494 m².

Macquarie Park is in the local council area of the City of Ryde which is classified as a Band 2 by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. As there are no gaming machine entitlements in Macquarie Park, this suburb is not typical of a Band 2 area.

Definition of Local Community

For the purpose of this application, the local community is defined to include Macquarie Park and the suburbs of the City of Ryde LGA.

Positive Contribution to 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 make two donations:

- \$346,875.56 (\$246,875.56 grant funding and \$100,000 in-kind funding) to Macquarie University at North Ryde (located within the Ryde LGA) for research on liquor consumption in the local community and development of an education programme for implementation within the local community to change drinking attitudes and behaviour among the youth and increase youth awareness of alcohol drink behaviour and the consequences. The donation and the resulting education programme will benefit residents of the local community by reducing crime associated with the consumption of alcohol, in particular, with binge drinking and to improve the general health and well-being of the local community.
- \$55,000.00 to the Lisa Harnum Foundation to employ a full time caseworker for a Safe Room in the Macquarie Park Shopping Centre which will provide support for women and their children within the local community who have experienced some form of domestic abuse.

Responsible Gambling Measures

The venue operates its gambling activities in a responsible manner. These will continue to operate if this application is granted.

Proposal in Detail

The Governor (Licence No LIQH440018989)

The Governor is seeking to increase its gaming machine threshold from 0 to 20. This Class 1 LIA is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Application for a gaming machine threshold increase.

The Governor is a new hotel located at 9-13 Waterloo Road, Macquarie Park NSW in the local government area of the City of Ryde. This local council area is classified as a Band 2 by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. As there are no gaming machine entitlements in Macquarie Park, this suburb is not reflective of a hotel normally located in a Band 2 LGA.

The suburb of Macquarie Park has Macquarie Business Park as its focus. This area is now Sydney's second largest business district and is on track to become Australia's fourth largest CBD (behind Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane) by 2030. By this time it is expected to create 40,000 new jobs. The 2016 census shows that 42.0% of workers in Macquarie Park were professionals and 33.4% in the Ryde LGA, significantly higher than the NSW figure of 23.6%. The City of Ryde projects that Macquarie Park will mature into a premium location for globally competitive businesses and strong links to the university and research institutions and an enhanced sense of identity. Residential and business areas will be better integrated and an improved lifestyle will be forged for all those who live, work and study in the area. On the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage, Ryde LGA has a score of 1067 and is in the 10th Decile - Decile 1 being the most disadvantaged. The hotel is located in an area where there is little evidence of disadvantage.

The hotel is not situated in the immediate vicinity of a school, hospital or place of public worship.

The internal floor space of the hotel is 4,494 m².

Apart from gaming machines, the hotel will offer a wide range of facilities for patrons including a bistro, TAB, bottle shop, roof top lounge, garden and restaurant. Because of these other facilities the operation of gaming machines at the hotel will not detract unduly from the character of the hotel or from the enjoyment of persons using the hotel otherwise than for the purposes of gambling.

The licensee will be a member of the Ryde Liquor Accord.

Definition of Local Community

For the purpose of this application, the local community is defined as the City of Ryde local government area and includes the City of Ryde, Denistone, East Ryde, Eastwood, Gladesville, Macquarie Park, Marsfield, Meadowbank – Melrose Park, North Ryde - Chatswood West, Putney, Ryde (Field of Mars), Ryde (Santa Rosa), Ryde (South), Ryde (Top Ryde), West Ryde from which the majority of the trade of the hotel is drawn.

Positive Contribution to Local Community

The Governor intends to make a positive contribution to the local community by offering two donations, as set out below:

1. Macquarie University Research

The Governor proposes to contribute towards research on the consumption of alcohol by donating \$346,875.56 (\$246,875.56 grant funding and \$100,000.00 in-kind funding) to Macquarie University at North Ryde (located within the Ryde LGA) for research on liquor consumption in the local community and development of an education programme to change drinking attitudes and behaviour among the youth and increase youth awareness of alcohol drink behaviour and the consequences.

A submission from Macquarie University, entitled *Improving the Drinking Culture in Australia*. This details the Research Objectives, Approach, Proposed Method and Costs of the research, together with the academic qualifications and biographies of the research team.

This research will have the following objectives:

- Provide insight into the drivers of the drinking culture amongst Australian youth to formulate a comprehensive understanding of the socio-cultural factors which lure adolescents to binge drink
- Inform stakeholders in terms of intervention strategies to change drinking attitudes and behaviours amongst the youth
- Increase youth awareness of alcohol drinking behaviours and their consequences through an educational programme and other intervention strategies, to include:
 - how to drink in moderation, as opposed to binge drinking; and
 - the local community expectations regarding the consumption of alcohol including the expectations of licensed venues, the police and Liquor and Gaming.

The proposed study emanates from the binge drinking culture which is prevalent among young people. It is suggested that this culture is driven by a complicated mix of powerful social forces including, but not limited to, social customs, current normal behaviour and expectations. It appears that many young people would prefer to face the negative consequences of being drunk (and often disorderly) rather than preferring to drink in moderation and being labelled a social pariah. To fit in, young people expect that all members of the group will drink to the same level of intoxication.

Within the Ryde LGA, Macquarie University has 40,000 students (mainly young adults between 18 and 25) and a number of primary and secondary schools, all providing an education to potential binge drinkers. It is anticipated that these students, and future students, will benefit from this research.

This donation to Macquarie University will provide a positive contribution towards the local community as the resulting education programme is aimed at reducing crime associated with the consumption of alcohol, in particular, with binge drinking, and improving the health and lifestyle generally of the local community. The benefit from this research will be on-going, as it could lead to a cultural change.

2. Lisa Harnum Foundation

The Governor proposes to make a donation of \$55,000.00 to the Lisa Harnum Foundation which supports women and their children who have experienced some form of domestic abuse, by offering counselling, casework, education, group work, transitional housing and outreach services.

The donation is to be used by the Lisa Harnum Foundation to employ a full time caseworker and will contribute in the setting up of another Safe Room within the Macquarie Park Shopping Centre.

Responsible Gambling Measures

The venue 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:

- the gaming machines in the hotel do not operate for the purposes of gambling between the approved shut down hours
- compliance with the prohibited publication of gaming machine advertising and signage requirements
- the gaming machines are not located in a manner that is designed to attract the attention of members of the public who are outside the hotel
- problem gambling counselling services are available
- the refusal to accept prize winning cheques
- the 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
- the 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 Programme 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 chances 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 is unaware of any specific community concerns but these will be addressed if they arise following the advertising and notification requirements associated with this application.

Conclusion:

1. The hotel has demonstrated that gambling activities in The Governor will be conducted in a responsible manner: and
2. The hotel has demonstrated that the increase in the gaming machine threshold will provide a positive contribution towards the local community as the hotel proposes to donate:
 - \$346,875.56 to Macquarie University at North Ryde for research on alcohol consumption and development of an education programme for implementation within the local community to change drinking attitudes and behaviour among the youth and increase youth awareness of alcohol drink behaviour and the consequences; and

- \$55,000.00 to the Lisa Harnum Foundation for the employment of a caseworker who will contribute in the setting up of a Safe Room within the Macquarie Park Shopping Centre.



Waterloo Projects Pty Ltd
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