



MEDIA RELEASE

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FORMER MAITLAND CLUB SECRETARY CONVICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION AND SALE OF POKER MACHINES

A former Secretary of a Maitland licensed club has been convicted and fined \$5,500 and given a two-year good behaviour bond for his role in the illegal possession and sale of poker machines.

Chad McLetchie, who was Secretary of Maitland Park Bowling and Sporting Complex, pleaded guilty to three offences in Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court on Tuesday 8 November following an investigation by Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Mr McLetchie took possession of 23 poker machines that were damaged in a fire at the club in December 2014 and written off for insurance purposes.

He later arranged to sell eight of these machines to a gaming machine technician for \$10,000. A number of the machines were refurbished and then sold to venues in the Hunter and Central Coast.

Mr McLetchie no longer has any involvement with the club, which was unaware of the offences.

Mr McLetchie pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful possession of an approved gaming machine, one count of unlawfully selling an approved gaming machine and one count of wilfully obstructing Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors in the exercise of their powers. He was also ordered to pay Liquor & Gaming NSW's costs of \$2,000.

Liquor & Gaming NSW's Director of Compliance Operations, Sean Goodchild, said the Gaming Machines Act 2001 imposes serious penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for illegal possession or sale of gaming machines.

"Such offences can threaten the integrity of the gaming industry and lead to a lack of public confidence in regulatory controls," Mr Goodchild said.

"It is against the law to be in possession of a gaming machine in NSW unless properly authorised, with maximum potential penalties of up to \$11,000 and or 12 months imprisonment. Suspect gaming machine sales can be reported for investigation on 02 9995 0837 or complaints@olgr.nsw.gov.au"

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