

Gaming Machine Reforms

The NSW Government is implementing new reforms to better manage community impacts of gaming machines. Local community caps have been imposed on gaming machine numbers in some areas, and transparency and consultation will be improved.

KEY REFORMS INCLUDE



Caps on gaming machine numbers

- Local community caps apply in areas with the highest potential for problem gambling and other harms linked to gaming machines.
- The caps help address concerns that some areas have too many gaming machines.
- Around 20 per cent of NSW communities are red zones for extra gaming machines.



Reducing problem gambling risks

- Under changes to the Local Impact Assessment scheme, smaller areas of around 10,000 people replace Local Government Areas (LGAs) for determining the type of assessment and community consultation needed. This allows better targeting of special measures to more localised areas.
- Greater weight is given to socioeconomic factors in local communities when assessing applications for extra gaming machines.



Consultation

- More agencies and organisations are consulted on applications to increase gaming machine numbers. These include welfare and financial assistance providers, Aboriginal, legal and health services, and local Gambling Help services.
- There are longer consultation periods, giving local communities more opportunities to have their say.



Community contributions

- The newly reconstituted Responsible Gambling Fund manages a centralised fund for contributions from venues seeking gaming machine increases.
- The fund supports local community projects that help prevent or reduce harms linked to gaming machines and other social and health issues.
- This makes the process more transparent and ensures contributions provide the most worthwhile and effective benefits to local communities.



Transparency

- Detailed statistics on gaming machine activity in every NSW LGA can now be accessed on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website for free.
- The data is updated every six months and includes the numbers of machines in individual venues and within LGAs, net profits for each LGA and rankings of net profit for all NSW venues.