

**From:** [Kathie Forster](#)  
**To:** [LIA review](#)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding the NSW Local Impacts Assessment  
**Date:** Saturday, 17 June 2017 8:05:47 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the review of the NSW Local Impacts Assessment (LIA) for poker machines.

In view of the clear evidence of the harm done by poker machines in the community, it is absolutely astounding that local councils are not allowed to consider the social impact of increasing the number of poker machines in a venue on their local communities. Such a restriction makes those responsible for the restriction complicit in the harm done to gambling addicts and their families.

The Local Impact Assessment needs to be strengthened by;

- The objective of the LIA process should be to prevent and minimise harm, not to grow the gambling industry or create dependency on gambling venues for community services;
- Communities need to be more proactively consulted and provided with transparent data on gambling in their local area and any associated political gifts or donations disclosed;
- The Authority needs to take a more comprehensive role in application process and managing consultation;
- The LIA process should be updated to include all measures of harm and detriment to communities. For example, there is new research that shows the majority of health harm from gambling is caused to people previously categorised as low or moderate risk;
- There should be no exceptions to the LIA process; and
- Further discussion and consultation is required for the review and amendment of the LIA process.

It's crazy that if a community wants to oppose a poker machine application, councils aren't allowed to include the devastating social impacts in their case against the proposal.

I look forward to hearing recommendations for much more rigorous assessment of applications for more poker machines, so that their devastating impacts on the community are at least considered.

Yours sincerely, Kathie Forster [REDACTED] Australia

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Please reply to Kathie Forster at [REDACTED]

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