



The Coordinating Officer
Local Impact Assessment Review
Liquor & Gaming NSW
GPO Box 7060 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Submission regarding the Local Impact of poker machines

I request that my submission remain confidential, or published only if my personal details are redacted, since it would identify an individual with a gambling problem.

From where I live on Sydney's city fringe, there are at least seven hotels within easy walking distance, each with multiple poker machines. These hotels stay open typically until 4am each day. They very obviously do not do so for people to simply have a drink since the bar areas are virtually deserted after about 1am on most nights. Rather, they stay open for the stayers who inhabit the pokie rooms. This is immoral and predatory.

There is a person very close to me who has regularly stayed until 4am and whose poker machine addiction is a constant problem. With seven pokie dens within easy reach, it is like having a heroin dealer on every corner.

Before poker machines were allowed into the pubs, hotels were struggling. The poker machines were gifted to them as a rescue measure, a market distortion which should never have been permitted and which should now be wound back. The harm poker machines cause is so well documented that there are no good reasons for their existence. Businesses should not be allowed to thrive on a business model which depends on addiction and suffering.

Hotels in Western Australia do not have poker machines yet they seem to have managed a business model which sees them surviving well.

While the poker machines should never have been allowed in hotels, it is now clearly difficult to reverse, however, publicans should be given ten years notice that there will be no poker machines permitted after that time and that they will be required to surrender each year, 10% of the number of machines they hold at the start of the ten year period (ie if they have 30 machines now, they would surrender 3 machines per year over the next 10 years).

This scourge must be ended.

Sincerely,