



14 August 2008
In reply please quote: Item 17

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The Hon. Andrew Fraser
Treasurer
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Dear Minister

Re: Review of Procedures for Approving the Licensing of Gaming Machines

At the annual conference of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland held recently in Gympie members resolved that representations be made to the State Government to review its procedures for considering applications for the licensing of gaming machines so that local governments have greater input into the decision-making process where it involves applications within the local government's area.

The Gaming Commission is the statutory authority for the licensing of gaming machines. The Commission seeks community comment when considering any application for new gaming machines, including the comments of the applicable local government, providing one month for comments to be submitted.

The Commission has issued guidelines identifying the type of comments to which they will give weight. Greater weight is given to comments supported by evidence relating to the impact on the community in which the gaming machines would be located. Lesser weight is given to general objections to gambling.

Objections raised by the former Councils within the region have typically been unsuccessful in having applications for gaming licences refused or modified by the Gaming Commission. The lack of success is considered, in part, due to the requirement that comments be application specific and supported by documented evidence. Putting together such information within the time given is often very difficult.

Your consideration of the matter and advice in due course would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**P PISASLE
PRESIDENT**