

NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Our ref: DF24/014008

Mr Sherif Mouakkassa
Thomson Geer Lawyers

18 July 2024

Dear Mr Mouakkassa

Application No.	1-9017067642 and 1-9017067654
Applicant	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
Application for	Gaming machine threshold (GMT) increase and gaming machine entitlement (GME) transfer
Application date	26 October 2023
Decision date	19 June 2024
Licence name	Bargo Sports Club
Licence number	LIQC300241963
Trading hours	Monday to Saturday 05:00 AM – 05:00 AM
Shutdown hours	Monday to Saturday 04:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Premises	3580 Remembrance Driveway Bargo NSW 2574
Legislation	Sections 3, 19, 34 and 37 of the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i>

Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Application for a GMT increase and GME transfer – Bargo Sports Club

We **refuse** the application above under section 19 and 34 of the *Gaming Machine Act 2001*.

Statement of reasons

Overall, we are concerned that the social impact of approving the application may be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community.

Our main findings

Procedural requirements

We are satisfied that the secretary of the club holds a recognised competency card with a current RCG endorsement.

Community impact

Local and broader communities

The local community for the purposes of this decision is the SA2 of Bargo. The broader community is the Local Government Area (LGA) of Wollondilly.

Office of Responsible Gambling identified risk factors

The Office of Responsible Gambling (ORG) has identified a number of problem gaming risk indicators for local areas and recommend proceeding with caution in cases where these exceed NSW average figures. The following risk indicators have been identified for the Wollondilly LGA:

- below average level of education and employment
- higher proportion of the population who identified as indigenous.

Findings of concern

We are concerned that if the application were granted it may increase the harm associated with the misuse and abuse of gambling activities or fail to facilitate the balanced development, in the public interest, of the gaming industry due to the:

- high gaming intensity at the destination venue, as suggested by the average profit per gaming machine being higher than comparable venues
- availability of late-night gaming – the venue is licensed to trade up to 28 hours post-midnight per week, 14 hours of these during the higher risk post-2:00AM period
- elevated local rates of problem gambling compared to the NSW average
- rate of gambling participation for gaming machines in the local health district being higher than the NSW average.

We acknowledge that the following may help to mitigate some of the risks:

- the destination venue being located in a Band 1 (low risk) SA2 area at the time the application was lodged (26 October 2023) and rebanded to a Band 2 SA2 area in November 2023
- the venue's gaming plan of management (GPOM) having been assessed as exceeding the Authority's standards for a venue of this risk profile
- grant of the application would see eight GMEs forfeited.

However, on balance, we are not satisfied that the proposed increase will provide a positive contribution towards the local community. We are concerned that the potential harm from approving the application outweighs any benefit to the local or broader community and accordingly, approval of the application is not in the public interest.

The material we considered

We considered the following material when making our decision:

- Completed applications dated 25 October 2023
- Liquor licence document as at 18 December 2023

- Proposed Gaming Plan of Management (GPOM) documents prepared for 'Bargo Sports Club' and dated 26 February 2024
- Applicant response to assessment and submissions.

This decision will be published on our website.

If you have any questions

Please contact the case manager, Marina Rahman, at Liquor & Gaming NSW if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Lamb

Chairperson

For and on behalf of the **Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority**