

NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Our ref: DF24/018655

Mr Glen Cook
Glen Cook P/L

29 August 2024

Dear Mr Cook

Application No.	1-8986571062
Applicant	MACQUARIE CLUB (DUBBO) LTD
Application for	Gaming machine threshold (GMT) increase with Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (LIA)
Application date	6 February 2024
Decision date	17 July 2024
Licence name	Macquarie Club (Dubbo) Ltd
Licence number	LIQC300237141
Trading hours	Monday to Sunday 05:00 AM – 05:00 AM (unrestricted)
Gaming machine shutdown hours	Monday to Sunday 04:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Premises	313 Macquarie Street Dubbo NSW 2830
Legislation	Sections 3, 34, 35, 36 and of the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i>

Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Application for a GMT increase with Class 1 LIA – Macquarie Club (Dubbo) Ltd

We **refuse** the Local Impact Assessment (LIA) under section 36 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 (the Act) and **refuse** the application for a gaming machine threshold (GMT) increase under section 34 of the Act.

Statement of reasons

We considered the risk factors and mitigating factors particularly in relation to the large increase in GMT proposed for a club with an above average gaming intensity in an area where gambling participation rates are significantly higher than the NSW average. We also considered the high rates of socio-economic disadvantage and the vulnerable population in both the Dubbo Regional LGA and the SA2 of Dubbo-South. We considered the potential benefits of the LIA but are not persuaded that they outweighed the potential harm.

Our main findings

Procedural and trading hour 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 Dubbo-South. The broader community is the Local Government Area (LGA) of Dubbo Regional.

Findings of concern

We are concerned that if the application were granted it is likely to increase the harm associated with the misuse and abuse of gambling activities and 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 indicated by the average profit per gaming machine being higher than comparable venues
- the location of the venue in an area of higher-than-average gaming and poker machine participation
- SA2 location factors identifying that the Dubbo-South community has an increased risk of experiencing gambling problems and gambling harm, due to the high rates of socio-economic disadvantage and vulnerable population
- the local council submission that notes the close proximity of the venue to a large aged care facility, which increases access to gambling machines to vulnerable members of the community.

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

- the venue is restricted by a licence condition from operating gaming machines after midnight on any day of the week
- the venue is located in Dubbo-South which is in a Band 2 (medium risk) area.

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.

We also considered the potential benefits of the LIA but were not persuaded that they outweighed the potential harm.

The material we considered

We considered the following material when making our decision:

- the application material
- liquor licence document as at 5 April 2023
- local impact assessment (LIA) dated 5 February 2024

- gaming plan of management for the licensed business
- SA2 location factors
- applicant response to assessment and submissions.

We note that this application triggers Guideline 16 as the venue is licensed to trade past 12:00AM (OETC), however, the licence has a no gaming past 12:00AM condition already in place.

This decision will be published on the [ILGA website](#) .

If you have any questions

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

Yours sincerely



Caroline Lamb

Chairperson

Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority