



Mr Tony Johnston
Pigott Stinson Lawyers
By email to: t.johnston@pigott.com.au

3 April 2024

Dear Mr Johnston

Application No.	1-8620117004
Applicant	Queanbeyan Sports & Community Club Limited
Application for	Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT) increase with Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (LIA)
Licence name	The Queanbeyan Bowling Club Ltd
Licence number	LIQC300242269
Decision date	20 September 2023
Licensed trading hours	Monday to Sunday 5:00 AM – 5:00 AM
Gaming machine shutdown hours	Monday to Sunday 4:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Premises	97 Campbell Street Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Legislation	Sections 3, 34, 35 and 36, of the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i> Section 53 of the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i>

**Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
Application for a GMT increase with Class 1 LIA – The Queanbeyan Bowling Club Ltd**

We **refuse** the application under section 34 of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*.

Statement of reasons

Overall, we are concerned that approving the application is likely to be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community. We are not satisfied that the proposed increase will provide a positive contribution towards the local community.

We note that it is the third LIA application from the venue since 2019 and that the proposed increase would result in an overall increase of 60 machines since that time. We are concerned that the proposed 27% increase on the venue's current number of gaming machines is considerable, particularly due to the venue operating in an area where there is a high density of gaming machines and availability of late night gaming, both factors which contribute to high rates of gambling harm.

Our findings

Procedural requirements

The Local Impact Assessment (LIA) meets the relevant procedural requirements.

The Authority is satisfied that the manager of the club holds a recognised competency card with a current RCG endorsement.

Community impact

Local and broader communities

The relevant 'local community' is the community in the suburb of Queanbeyan and the relevant 'broader community' comprises the Local Government Area of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional.

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 recommends proceeding with caution in cases where these exceed NSW average figures. The following risk indicators have been identified for the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional LGA:

- the proportion of the population who are Indigenous is slightly above the NSW average
- the proportion of lone person households is slightly above the NSW average

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 or fail to facilitate the balanced development, in the public interest, of the gaming industry due to:

- the proposal seeks to increase the hotel's gaming machine threshold by 20 (from 74 to 94), a 27% increase on the current threshold, which we view as significant
- the venue being located in a Band2 SA2 area with unrestricted trading hours and offering late night gaming for 14 hours per week
- the venue being located in an area exhibiting two of six ORG identified problem gaming risk factors.

Our concerns are mitigated by the:

- average annual profit per gaming machine at the venue which is lower than average rates for clubs located in the LGA and for comparable venues
- below average problem gambling rates in the Local Health District compared to NSW rates.

We understand that the venue advertises to trade until 2:00AM seven days a week and that the full scope of licensed hours is currently not utilised. However, we are concerned that the unrestricted trading hours means that gaming could continue for 28 hours of post-midnight gaming per week, 14 hours of these during the higher risk post-2:00AM period.

Whilst the gaming plan of management (GPOM) exceeds the Authority's minimum requirements, the plan does not include the gaming incident register provision or the responsible gambling officer (all hours) condition.

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 material we received about the application, including:

Application Material

- Completed application dated 20 March 2023
- Liquor Licence Documents dated 4 September 2023
- Class 1 Local Impact Assessment for Gaming Machine Threshold Application for the premises 'The Queanbeyan Bowling Club Limited (LIQC300242269)'
- Club Gaming Code of Practice dated March 2023

- Gaming plan of management (GPOM) documents prepared for 'Queanbeyan Sports and Community Club Limited' and dated February 2021
- Floorplan location indicating the current Licenced area, the approved Club Functions and Non-Restricted area as well as location of Gaming Machines x 74
- Applicant responses to assessment and submissions.

This decision will be published on the [Liquor & Gaming NSW website](#).

If you have any questions

Please contact the case manager, Michelle Stark, at michelle.stark@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Lamb

Chairperson

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