



HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

GAMBLING VENUE POLICY 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

The Gambling Act 2003 required Horowhenua District Council to develop with its communities, and subsequently adopt, a policy on Class 4 gambling venues, i.e. pokie machine sites and TAB outlets. The policy was adopted by Council on 17 March 2004.

This policy has now been reviewed as required by the Gambling Act 2003, and the Policy is limited to Class 4, non-casino, gambling machine (pokie) venues and New Zealand Racing Board owned TAB outlets.

The Council has determined that a 'sinking lid' gambling venue policy will be used to control and, in time, reduce the number of Class 4 gaming machine venues and TAB outlets in the District.

The 'sinking lid' policy will not permit the establishment of new Class 4 gaming machine venues or TAB outlets and it will not permit gaming machine societies to increase the number of gaming machines in the District.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of this policy are:

- To control gaming machine gambling and TABs in the Horowhenua District;
- To cap the number of gaming machines in the Horowhenua District;
- To cap the number of Class 4 gaming machine venues and TAB outlets in the Horowhenua District;
- To reduce the number of gaming machines through attrition (this does not affect repair and/or replacement of existing gaming machines);
- To prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling;
- To facilitate community involvement in decisions about gambling;
- To recognise there are negative social, economic and health impacts from problem gambling.

3. GAMING MACHINES AND GAMING VENUES

The following shall apply as the policy of the Horowhenua District Council:

- No additional Class 4 gaming machine venues and TAB outlets are to be established in the Horowhenua District;
- All gaming machines as at the date of adoption of this policy may continue until such time as the venue does not hold a licence for gaming machines or is a TAB outlet;
- If a venue has not held a licence for gaming machine gambling and TAB outlets within the last six (6) months, the District Council will not allow the re-establishment of a Class 4 gaming machine venue or as a TAB outlet;

- Class 4 venues are able to relocate to an alternative venue and are able to operate the existing number of machines, or nine (9), whichever is the lesser. The venue site proposed for relocation will not be closer than 150 metres to schools, Early Childhood Centres and the like, and can only be located in the District where Class 4 venues are a permitted activity under the Horowhenua District Plan or where a resource consent to undertake the activity proposed is granted.
- Existing Class 4 venues may not increase the number of gaming machines that exist at the date of this policy.

4. **MERGED CLUBS**

Where clubs holding a Class 4 Gaming Venue licence decide to merge, the maximum number of gaming machines allowed will be thirty (30), or the sum of the machines operating in the merged clubs prior to the merger, whichever is the lesser.

5. **CLASS 4 VENUES - VACATION OF PREMISES**

A Class 4 venue that is forced to vacate its existing venue through no fault of its own, ie, an act of God such as a fire, will be granted a consent to continue its gaming activity in another venue or rebuilt premises at the same location for the same number of machines that they were licensed to operate before the act of God occurred, subject to –

1. The current Class 4 venue operator is intending to and will be conducting Class 4 gambling at the new location,
2. The vacated site will not be able to be used by any other Class 4 operator to operate Class 4 Gaming,
3. The Class 4 operator and venue operator are the same as those cited in the venue agreement for the existing venue and the proposed new venue,
4. The Class 4 operator has been conducting class 4 gambling at the existing venue within the last 4 weeks,
5. Any new Class 4 Venue, temporary or permanent, will not be located closer than 150 metres to schools, Early Childhood Centres and the like,
6. Any new Class 4 Venue, temporary or permanent, must be located in the District where Class 4 venues are a permitted activity under the Horowhenua District Plan or where a resource consent to undertake the activity proposed is granted.

Note : An Act of God, does not include matters such as normal building demolition, termination of lease, and the like.

6. **TAB BOARD VENUES**

Current TAB Board venues are able to relocate to a new location within the same town in the District subject to meeting requirements of the District Plan or other legislation.

7. **ADOPTION, COMMENCEMENT AND REVIEW**

This policy was adopted at the duly notified Council meeting held on 5 September 2007, and after completion of the special consultative procedure, and takes effect from 6 September 2007.

This policy will be reviewed within three (3) years as required by Section 102(5) of the Gambling Act 2003.