

GAMBLING CLASS 4 VENUE POLICY 2014

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. 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.

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 in the District.

The 'sinking lid' policy will not permit the establishment of new Class 4 gaming machine venues 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 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 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 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 ;
- If a venue has not held a licence for gaming machine gambling within the last six (6) months, the District Council will not allow the re-establishment of a Class 4 gaming machine venue;
- 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 – RELOCATION POLICY

A Class 4 venue that is forced to vacate it's existing venue through no fault of it's own, or chooses to relocate (because the current venue is deemed to be earthquake-prone; the current lease has come to an end; the venue is required to move due to public works acquisition; or the venue wishes to relocate to a new or refurbished premises) will be granted a consent to continue it's gaming activity in another venue or rebuilt premises for the same number of machines that they were licensed to operate 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 Gambling,
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 exiting 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, kindergartens, places of worship, and other community facilities,
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.

6. ADOPTION, COMMENCEMENT AND REVIEW

This policy was adopted at the duly notified Council meeting held on 5 November 2014, and after completion of the special consultative procedure, and takes effect from 6 November 2014.

This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the TAB Venue Policy within three (3) years of being adopted by Council.