



Statement of Proposal - Taupō District Council Class 4 Gambling and TAB Policy Review

Taupō District Council is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy. This policy regulates the location and number of TAB venues, as well as regulating venues that house gaming machines (Class 4 venues) within the Taupō District.

Why do we need to review this policy?

The Gambling Act and Racing Act require Council to have a Class 4 Venues Policy and a TAB Board Venue Policy and these policies must be reviewed every three years. Our next review of this policy is now due.

What is Class 4 Gambling?

Class 4 Gambling refers to any activity that involves the use of gaming machines (also known as 'pokies') outside of a casino (e.g. in pubs and clubs), and may only be run by a licensed corporate society. Class 4 Gambling rules also state these machines can only be used to raise money for community organisations and for non-commercial purposes.

Council can use a policy to control the total number of machines in the district and per venue, and the location of these venues.

What is a TAB/Board Venue?

A Board Venue or TAB is a premise that is owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board where its main business is providing racing betting or sports betting services. A council must develop a policy which specifies whether or not new TAB venues may be established in that district and, if so, where they can be located.

What are we proposing to change and why?

When a review of a Class 4 Gambling Policy take place an assessment of the social impacts of gambling must be undertaken. We've recently completed a review that showed while the number of Class 4 gambling venues and machines has dropped in the Taupō District, the average spend has increased. Taupō also has a relatively high spend per head of population relative to other districts - the 17th highest spend of 67 local authority areas. This may be influenced by our role as a visitor destination.

There are limited ways a council can influence the harm caused by gambling. One way is to prevent new venues opening, and therefore decreasing opportunity for gambling to occur. This can be done by lowering the total number of machines that are allowed to operate in the district.

There is currently a cap of 225 machines allowed in the Taupō District at any time, and we are proposing the 2017 policy lowers the cap to 191 machines. This is the only significant change proposed to be made to the 2014 policy. A cap of 191 would allow one more venue to open, over and above the existing number of consented venues.

The application of the policy as also been amended to ensure it is consistent with legislation. Previously the policy has not applied to venues licensed prior to 2001, whereas the policy should apply to all TAB and Class 4 Venues.

You can view a full analysis of options at taupo.govt.nz/consultation.

We want to hear your views.

Do you want to share your views on anything relating to the 2017 review of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB policies?

You can make a submission:

Online at taupo.govt.nz/consultation

By email: hsamuel@taupo.govt.nz

Visit any council office in Taupō, Turangi or Mangakino.

Mail to: Hilary Samuel, Taupō District Council, Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3377.

We need to receive your submission no later than 5pm on 31 October 2017. We'll then contact submitters who wish to speak about their views to attend a Council hearing to take place in November.

Do you have concerns about your own or someone else's gambling? You can call the following free and confidential helpline: 0800 664 262.