

Attachment 1: Summary of Submissions (Class 4 Gambling and TAB Policy Review 2017)

No	Name	Org	GM Cap	Cap comment	Relocation of venues	Relocation comments	General Comments
1	Alex Fielder	N/A	191		No relocations		
2	Tanya Piejus	New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT)	225	Keep the current cap of gaming machines at 225 – to allow modest growth and ensure the continuation of community funding from gaming trusts. See full submission for further details.	Town centre only	Maintain the current relocation policy (option 1) to allow venue owners to move for their own business reasons, as well as when they are forced to for reasons beyond their control. See full submission for further details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaming trusts return around \$260 million to the New Zealand community every year in grants, while implementing the Gambling Act's stringent requirements for preventing and minimising harm from gambling. Many grassroots organisations would struggle or cease to operate without gaming trust funds. TLA gambling venue policies are critical to maintaining the infrastructure that allows community funding from gaming trusts to be sustainable long term. Sinking lid and restrictive relocation policies destroy this infrastructure. Council needs to take a balanced approach to community benefit and potential harm from gambling. Reducing the number of gaming machines in communities does not reduce problem gambling, which has been consistent at a rate of around 0.5% of the adult population since 2007, despite a decrease of around 5,000 gaming machines since then. Allowing gaming venues to relocate out of areas of high deprivation is more effective in reducing problem gambling. It is not gaming machines that are the problem, it is the behaviour of a small percentage of people with complex psychological issues who make a personal choice to gamble. See full submission for further details.
3	Julie McLeod	Towncentre Taupo	Sinking lid		No relocations		Towncentre Taupo would like to see TDC take every opportunity to reduce the number of machines in Taupo. Where possible, TCT would like to see the hours for gaming reduced in an effort to reduce the harm caused to those with a gambling addiction. TCT would like to see a greater return of funds collected from local machines returned to the local community. The Board understands that Taupo currently has a great loss of funds to outside the region compared to the funds collected through the machines. In order to retain more funds locally, TCT would like to see an active campaign letting the community, schools, sport clubs and art groups know how to apply for these funds.
4	Catie Noble	Taupo District Chamber of Commerce and Industry	191	47% of members surveyed chose this option. See attached document	Town centre only	60% of members surveyed chose this option	

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5	Robyn Woods	Toi Te Ora Public Health	Sinking lid	<p>Toi Te Ora supports policies that prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling. Toi Te Ora recognises Taupo District Council's proposed policy cap reduction to 191 machines (from the existing cap of 225 machines) as a step in the right direction. However, we propose the following amendment to the draft policy as per the Options Analysis: ?</p> <p>The implementation of a sinking lid, where the cap would initially fall to 182, this being the number of gambling machines currently operating in the district. Under a sinking lid approach the cap would continue to reduce as venues close (Analysis Options - Gaming Machine Numbers: option 3). A sinking lid policy will mean the number of gaming machines will not increase and if a venue closes, the machines cannot be transferred or replaced elsewhere. This will result in a natural attrition in the number of venues and machines over time, but would not affect existing venues or current community grant funding in the short term as the decline occurs slowly</p>	Sensitive land clause proposed.	Regardless of the size of the cap adopted, Toi Te Ora also recommends that the policy includes a sensitive land use clause whereby class 4 venues must be a more than a minimum distance from residential areas, schools, marae, and community centres.	<p>Gambling is a public health issue and Class 4 gambling machines are the most harmful cause of problem gambling. Harm from gambling can include economic and job loss, relationship breakdown, depression, suicide and gambling-related crime. Harms often extend beyond gamblers to encompass family members including children, friends, employers and colleagues. At-risk gambling is associated with higher levels of smoking, hazardous alcohol consumption, other drug use, and poorer self-rated health, as well as higher usage of health and allied services. Gambling harm exacerbates inequities within communities, with Maori and Pacific peoples more likely to suffer gambling harm (whether as a result of their own or someone else's gambling)¹. View full copy of submission for further details.</p>

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6	Jarrold True	Class 4 Working Party	225	The current cap of 225 machines is appropriate given the significant measures that are already in place to minimise the harm from gaming machines. See full submission for further details.	Town centre only	The current policy includes a reasonable relocation provision that was adopted following the last full public consultation. There is no evidence to justify the introduction of a new restriction on relocations. The current flexible relocation policy is positive. It allows gaming venues to move to new, modern, refurbished premises. Allowing local businesses to upgrade their premises and provide a more modern, attractive offering to the public helps to revitalise business districts, improves the local economy and encourages tourism. See full submission for further information.	It is acknowledged that Council needs to strike a balance between the costs and benefits of gaming machine gambling. It is accepted that a small percentage of people (0.5% of people aged 18 years and over) have a problem with their gambling (all forms of gambling). However, for the vast majority of people, casual expenditure on gaming machines is a form of entertainment that they participate in and enjoy, without any harm being caused. Gaming machines also provide a considerable amount of community funding (over \$3.25 million annually) to local community groups and clubs. 47. Gaming machine numbers are in natural decline, and gaming machine participation is reducing. However, the harm minimisation measures that are now in place have never been higher. In light of the new regulations now in place, the status quo cap of 225 machines is entirely appropriate. The introduction of a more restrictive policy is unlikely to reduce problem gambling, but will inevitably reduce local community funding opportunities and may encourage people to seek out other forms of gambling, including offshore-based internet and mobile phone-based gambling. This form of gambling is very harmful and provides no return to the local community and no contribution to employment, taxation and health services in New Zealand. 48. Council is asked to retain the current relocation provision, which enables operators to move from rundown premises to new, modern, premises, to move out of earthquake-prone buildings, and to re-establish after a fire or natural disaster. See full submission for further details.
7	Tina Winikerei	arc Counselling Services	Sinking lid	The impacts of harm (the costs) outweigh the disadvantages identified. See full submission for further details.	Not specified		People accessing our service have increased month by month, yet there is limited resource for service in the Mental Health and addiction sector. The reduction of access to gambling machines/outlets will certainly go a long way to helping to reduce alcohol, drug and gambling abuse in our community. Please see full submission for further details.

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8	Eru Loach	Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand	Sinking lid	<p>The Problem Gambling Foundation recommends that the Council adopt a "sinking lid" policy: a district wide ban on any additional class 4 gambling venues or machines (reduction in the number of venues and machines over time as a result of existing venues closing and machines not being re-licensed). A "sinking lid" policy would reduce the number of venues over time but would not affect existing venues or current community funding in the short term. A district-wide ban on any new venues or machines would reduce the harm caused by gambling, including the social and economic harm. Please see full submission for further details.</p>	No relocations	<p>Allowing venues to transfer will not lead to a reduction of venues, and therefore will not reduce harm from gambling in the way that a strong "sinking lid" policy would. Please see submission for further details.</p>	<p>Electronic gambling machines (pokies) are not a harmless product that a few "weak willed" individuals need help with. These machines are designed to addict and are doing significant harm, which is why 2 in 5 regular gambling machine users develop a problem at some point. The 2.5% of our population experiencing direct—and often severe—harm from gambling is just the tip of the iceberg. Each person with a gambling problem affects about 5-10 others. This means as many as 500,000 people are affected by the significant economic, health, personal, and social costs that gambling problems cause in New Zealand. The harms caused by gambling problems extend beyond individuals, affecting their families, friends, workmates, businesses and our community. For example, a study of gambling machines in Christchurch suggested that gambling machines in the region resulted in lost economic output of \$13 million, lost household income of \$8 million, and lost employment for 630 full-time equivalents. See full submission for further details.</p>
9	Pastor Bryce Miller	Taupo Baptist Church	Sinking lid	<p>We strongly recommend the Council reconsider Option 3, a sinking lid cap. As the Councils own SIA states "Harm from gambling can include, among other things, relationship breakdown, depression, suicide, reduced work productivity, job loss, financial problems (including debt and bankruptcy, and various types of gambling-related crime). Refer to submission for further details.</p>	Not specified		<p>The entertainment value, the income, the employment opportunities and the grant monies available as a result of gambling machines do not outweigh the possible future harm as a result of gambling that would be done to the members of our community, particularly the negative social impact it would most certainly have on children and young people in our district. As a church, we strongly support any measures to reduce the damage done to lives in our community and we strongly encourage the Council to reduce the number of gambling machines and venues in our district. <i>View the full submission for more details.</i></p>

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10	Andrew Hill	Ministry of Education	191	<p>Taupo District Council is reviewing its Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy. The Ministry of Education supports the proposed Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy, in particular the proposed reduction from 225 gaming machines to 191.</p> <p>The Ministry also supports the current application requirements, including the following: 12.1.6 evidence of the distance to any education facility, community facility, place of worship, residential buildings or other Class 4 or TAB venues Please refer to the full submission for further details.</p>	Sensitive land clause proposed.		<p>The Ministry of Education is concerned with the access and exposure of students to gambling and we feel the proposed application standards are inadequate and request that the application requirements and the Taupo Gaming Policy Area are amended. Relief Sought: The Ministry of Education requests that the following additional requirements are added to the proposed policy. The suggested wording is provided below (under lined and in red). 12. Application for consent 12.1.7 No Council consent to class 4 gambling licences shall be issued for any premises which is located within 100 metres of Taupo Primary School and within 200 metres of any other legal site boundary of an existing school or early childhood education centre or site designated for an education facility or early childhood education centre. 12.1.8 Where an application for a class 4 gambling venue is located closer than 500 metres to an existing school or early childhood education centre or site designated for an education facility or early childhood education centre then the applicant shall provide a copy of the application directly to these facilities or the Ministry of Education, which shall be considered as affected parties to the application.</p>