

Gambling Policy Review 2019 – Fact Sheet

What is a Gambling Policy?

The Gambling Policy (Class 4 Venue and Board Venue) focuses on non-casino gaming machines (pokies) and Board Venues (stand-alone TABs). It specifies whether gaming machine venues may be established in the District, and if so, where they may be located. It also specifies restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at that venue. The Gambling Policy also determines whether or not new TABs may be established in the District and if so, where they may be located.

What are the objectives of the Gambling Policy?

- To control the growth of gambling
- To prevent and minimize the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling
- To reduce the exposure of under 18s to gambling
- To reduce the total number of gaming machines in the District
- To facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling.

Why is the Gambling Policy being reviewed?

The Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Act 2003 requires local councils to review their gambling policies and make them available for community submissions every three years.

How has the Gambling Policy review been carried out?

Whakatāne District Council has carried out a draft Social Impact Assessment (SIA) which has informed the revision. The draft SIA concludes that the Whakatāne District has a medium risk of harm from gambling activities and that the level of risk has not changed significantly since the last review.

What are the key findings of the Social Impact Assessment?

- About 70% of New Zealand's population gamble each year. In 2017/18, \$2.3 billion was spent on all gambling nationwide. Over 50% of this was spent on gaming machines.
- Gambling can benefit local communities by providing entertainment, employment opportunities and through funding for national sports and community organisations. Last year, organisations in the Whakatāne District received \$2.5 million from gaming trusts. .
- In 2017/18, over 10,000 people throughout New Zealand sought help for problem gambling. Some were people affected by the gambling of others. Gaming machines were blamed by half of these people.
- In Whakatāne, 36 people received help for problem gambling in 2017/18, a reduction of 10% on the previous year.
- Whakatāne District currently has 55 machines per 10,000 people, lower than the national average of 38 machines per 10,000 people.
- Māori people are more likely to experience problem gambling than people of other ethnicities. The District has a high risk rating in this area because of the high percent of Māori living here.

OBJECTIVE: DATE: REF:

- Living in a high deprivation area is a major risk for problem gambling. The highest level of deprivation scores 10 on the scale, while Whakatāne scores 8.
- Just over \$10.2 million was spent on gaming machines in the Whakatāne District in 2017/18.
- Based on a scale set by the Ministry of Health, the Whakatāne District has an overall medium risk of gambling harm.

What are the key proposed changes to the Policy?

No changes have been proposed to the current policy. This is because the current Gambling Policy appears to be working well and the Social Impact Assessment showed that the risk of gambling harm has not changed since 2016 when the Policy was last reviewed.

How can I find out more information?

The draft Gambling Policy and draft Social Impact Assessment are available on the Council's website www.whakatane.govt.nz/haveyoursay or can be collected from Council offices in Whakatāne and Murupara or any library in the District. Alternatively you can call the Council on 07 306 0500 to request that copies be sent to you.

How can I make a submission?

The draft Gambling Policy is now available for community input, along with the draft Social Impact Assessment which has helped to inform the Policy revision. The Council has not yet made a final decision about the Policy and welcomes your feedback. Public submissions on the draft Policy opened on **25 March and will close on 29 April 2019**.

Formal submissions can be made:

- Online at www.whakatane.govt.nz/haveyoursay
- In hard copy by printing a submission form or collecting one from our Council offices

Informal submissions can be made by commenting on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil/

What if I want to speak to Council?

You will need to let us know that you would like to present to Council. You will need to provide your name and contact details so you can be allocated a time to speak to Council. You will be advised of the date and time when you can make your submission. Council then deliberate on any changes required and adopt the final Gambling Policy.