

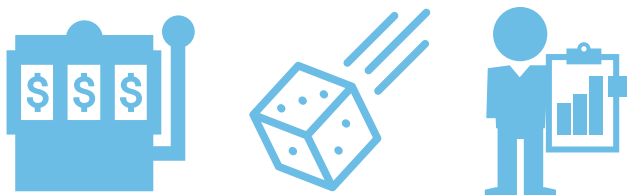
WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gambling Policy Review 2016

Submissions close
5pm - Friday,
22 April

What is the 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 or not gaming machine venues may be established in the District and, if so, where they may be located. It also specifies any 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 minimise 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 Racing Act 2003 require 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 which has helped to inform the Policy revision.

The draft Social Impact Assessment 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?

- Gambling is fairly common in New Zealand. In 2011/12, 1.8 million adults gambled.
- Since 2004, around \$2 billion has been spent on gambling each year in New Zealand. The largest part of this is spent on gaming machines.
- In 2014/15, half of the people receiving help for problem gambling in New Zealand mostly used gaming machines.
- Having less than 75 gaming machines per 10,000 people is considered to be low risk. The Whakatāne District currently has 55 machines per 10,000 people. The national average is 38 machines per 10,000 people.

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- Māori and Pacific people are more likely to experience problem gambling than people of other ethnicities. Because a large percentage of residents in our District are Māori, the District has a high risk rating in this area.
- Living in a high deprivation area is a major risk factor for problem gambling. The highest score on the deprivation scale is 10, and the Whakatāne District scores 8.
- There is a low level of local problem gambling help available in the Whakatāne District.
- In 2014/2015, around \$8.3 million was spent on gaming machines in the Whakatāne District. Organisations in the District received just over \$2.3 million in grants from gaming trusts in the same year.
- 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?



Limiting the number of machines:

Based on the findings of the draft Social Impact Assessment, the draft Gambling Policy proposes limiting the number of gaming machines to 141 (six per 1,000 District residents over the age of 18). Because the District now has 181 gaming machines in 13 venues (down from 245 in 19 venues in 2003), that would effectively mean that no applications for new machines could be approved until the total number of gaming machines in the District falls below 141.

Limiting the location of new gambling venues:

The Policy revisions would also seek to limit the location of new gambling venues in areas with the highest levels of gambling risk.

Limiting new venues to areas zoned 'Business Centre':

The proposed Policy limits new gaming machine and Board Venues to locations that are zoned as 'Business Centre' in the Proposed District Plan, and that are at least 50 metres away from premises with sensitive uses, such as schools and churches.

Treating relocations as new applications:

An additional section has been included which proposes that applications to relocate existing gaming machine venues will be treated as new applications, except in specific, exceptional circumstances. This includes where the current venue is located outside of a permitted area and is proposing to relocate into a permitted area.

How can I find out more information?



The full Gambling Policy Review Proposal is available on Council's website, www.whakatane.govt.nz, or can be collected from Council offices in Whakatāne and Murupara. 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 21 March and will close on 22 April 2016.

FORMAL SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE:

- online at www.whakatane.govt.nz/gambling-policy-review
- in hard copy by printing a submission form or collecting one from our Council offices

INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE:

- by commenting on the Gambling Policy post 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 and provide your name and contact details so you can be allocated a time to speak to Council.

Hearings of submissions are scheduled for 4 May 2016, and the Council will then deliberate on any changes required and adopt the final Gambling Policy.

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5pm - Friday,
22 April



Email for submissions:
submissions@whakatane.govt.nz

Email for
information enquiries:
info@whakatane.govt.nz