

Draft Gambling Policy 2019

Summary of Proposal

What is Gambling Policy?

The Gambling Act 2003 (the Act) and the Racing Act 2003 require all territorial authorities to have a policy relating to Class 4 Venues and Board Venues respectively. Both Acts specify that the policy must be reviewed every three years, taking into account the social impacts of gambling in the District.

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.

In reviewing this policy, the Council must have regard to the social impact of gambling within the District. A comprehensive Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been undertaken by staff at the Whakatāne District Council staff.

Draft Social Impact Assessment

The draft SIA explores the level of risk and the costs and benefits of gambling to the District. The demographic profile of Whakatāne District has not radically changed since 2016, and many of the gambling risk factors evident at that time are currently measuring at a similar level.

Following guidance from the Ministry of Health, a medium risk assessment suggests that the policy response should restrict Class 4 and Board Venue locations, as well as the total number of machines allowed in the District. Given this guidance it is considered prudent that the current policy be retained.

Policy Options

The sections below discuss the main policy options of the Draft Gambling Policy which are:

1. Limit on the number of gaming machines in the District
2. Limit on the location of venues in the District
3. Limit on the number of gaming machines in a venue
4. Limit on the number of Board Venues
5. Primary activity of a venue
6. Merging of clubs
7. Relocation of a venue

How can I have my say on the Policy?

The Council has not yet made a final decision about the Policy and welcomes your feedback. Any person or organisation is welcome to make a submission on the Draft Gambling Policy. The Council will take into account all submissions when it decides on the final content of the Policy.

The following documents are available on Whakatāne District Council's website:

- Draft Gambling Policy 2019
- Draft Gambling Policy 2019 - Maps
- Draft Gambling Policy 2019 - Social Impact Assessment
- Draft Gambling Policy 2019 – Statement of Proposal
- Draft Gambling Policy 2019 – Summary of Proposal
- Draft Gambling Policy 2019 – Fact Sheet

Hard copies are available from:

- Whakatāne District Council, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
- Whakatāne Library, 49 Kahahoroa Drive, Whakatāne
- Edgecumbe Library, 38 College Road, Edgecumbe
- Ōhope Library, 4 Harbour Road, Ōhope
- Murupara Library / Service Centre, Civic Square, 48 Pine Drive, Murupara.

Consultation will take place during the period from **25 March to 29 April 2019**.

Formal submissions can be made:

- Online at www.whakatane.govt.nz/gambling-review
- In hard-copy by filling in the attached submission form and delivering to the Council office.

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

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 29 April 2019.

Submitters should note that their submission will be copied and made available to the public after the submission period closes.

Submissions should include your name, address, telephone number and email address and should state if you wish to speak to Council in support of your submission. Hearings of submissions are scheduled to be held in May. The Council will contact in writing, all submitters who wish to be heard to advise the confirmed time, date and venue of the hearing.

Council will then deliberate on any changes required and adopt the final Gambling Policy.

OBJECTIVE: DATE: REF: