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## **STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GAMBLING VENUES POLICY**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report presents a Statement of Proposal to amend the Gambling Venues Policy. If the Committee agrees, the Statement of Proposal will be referred to Council to initiate the special consultative procedure as required by the Gambling Act 2003.

### **2. Executive Summary**

Council adopted a Gambling Venues Policy in 2007 in accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2003. This policy outlines the Council's approach to class 4 gaming machines (non-casino gaming machines [NCGMs] or "pokies") and Totalisator Agency Boards (TAB's). The policy must be reviewed every three years.

Under the Gambling Venues Policy, the Wellington district has been split into seven different zones (Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern, Onslow, Lambton [excluding Central Area Zone] and the Central Area Zone. Although there are a number of general conditions:

- There are no limitations on the number of TABs, NCGMs or venues allowed in the Central Area Zone
- There is a "cap" on the number of NCGMs allowed in the remaining six 'capped' zones.

Since the adoption of the Gambling Venues Policy in 2007, the total number of gaming machines in the Wellington district decreased in 2008 but increased slightly in 2009. The total number of gaming machine venues in the Wellington district has also decreased. Further detail is available in **Appendix A** of the Statement of Proposal.

Overall, the current policy is meeting its stated objectives in that the number of NCGMs is not increasing. However, this review has identified five 'areas of concern' within the district which are vulnerable to problem gambling. These five areas (Tawa, Johnsonville, Miramar, Karori, and Newtown) have also been found to contain significant clusters of NCGMs.

Evidence from Ministry of Health studies and feedback from the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand suggests that, of all the different

gambling modes available, NCGMs cause the most harm from gambling and increased access to NCGMs results in more problem gambling.

To address this issue, this paper is proposing that the number of NCGMs in the 'areas of concern' be gradually reduced over time by changing the approach in the suburban capped zones from a fixed cap to a population based cap (based on a ratio of 1 machine : 300 people). This means that when NCGM numbers in these areas decline due to natural attrition, they will not be replaced above the established caps. At the same time, this approach also allows the potential for NCGM numbers to increase in other parts of the city that are not considered to be 'at risk' and where NCGM numbers are well below the cap.

The anticipated slow decline in numbers would mean no sudden impact on the funding for sporting, recreation and community organisations generated through Wellington's NCGMs. Any decline might also be offset by growth in numbers outside areas of concern.

Under the Gambling Act 2003, Council is required to undertake the special consultative procedure before making any amendment to the Policy.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. *Receive the information.***
- 2. *Note that under the Gambling Act, 2003, Council must review its Gambling Venues Policy every three years.***
- 3. *Note that although the current policy is meeting its stated objectives, a new approach is being proposed requiring amendment in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedure in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.***
- 4. *Agree to the Statement of Proposal (attached as **Appendix 1**) and the draft Gambling Venues Policy (attached as **Appendix 2**) – noting;***
  - (a) The current policy approach sets a fixed "cap" on gaming machine numbers in six (suburban) zones but sets no limit on gaming machine numbers in the Central Area Zone.*
  - (b) Five 'areas of concern' were identified within the Wellington District. These were located in the Northern, Southern, Western zones and, to a lesser extent, the Eastern zone.*
  - (c) These "areas of concern" contain significant clusters of NCGMs and numbers of NCGMs and NCGM venues have not significantly reduced in these areas since the implementation of the initial Gambling Venues Policy.*
  - (d) The remaining capped zones (the Lambton and the Onslow zones) have 'caps' significantly higher than the number of NCGMs within the zones.*
  - (e) Officers are proposing a population-based cap on NCGM numbers (set at a ratio of 1 machine to 300 people) to be established in the capped suburban zones under the policy.*

5. **Delegate** to the Chief Executive and the Social Portfolio Leader the authority to make any minor editorial changes to the Statement of Proposal required as a result of decisions of this committee prior to the Statement of Proposal being considered by Council.
6. **Recommend** to Council that it:
  - Note the findings included in the Statement of Proposal.
  - Approve the Statement of Proposal to amend the Gambling Venues Policy.
  - Agree to initiate the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 and as required by the Gambling Act 2003
  - Delegate to the Chief Executive and Social Portfolio leader the authority to make editorial changes, required as a result of decisions of Council, prior to the Statement of Proposal being released for public consultation.
7. **Note** that the draft Gambling Venues Policy will be presented to SPC in June 2010 following public consultation.

## 4. Background

### 4.1 The Gambling Act 2003

The Gambling Act 2003 came into effect on 18 September 2003. The objectives of the Act are, amongst other things, to control the growth of gambling and prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling. The Department of Internal Affairs is the primary regulator of the gambling sector, however, under the Act, territorial authorities were required to have a policy in place by March 2004 which:

- specifies whether or not class 4 venues (venues with non-casino gaming machines or “pokies”) may be established in its district and, if so, where they may be located
- may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at any class 4 venue (the Gambling Act establishes a limit of 9 machines on gaming machines venues).
- specifies whether or not TAB stand-alone venues may be established in the district.

In the determination of where NCGM venues may be located (or the maximum machines number in an area or in an individual venue) the policy may have regard to the following:

- the characteristics of the district and parts of the district;
- the location of kindergartens, early childhood centres, schools, places of worship, and other community facilities;
- the number of non-casino gaming machines that may be permitted to operate at any venue or class of venue;
- cumulative effects of additional opportunities for gambling in the district;
- how close any venue should be to any other venue;

- what the primary activity at any venue should be.

A policy may only be amended or altered by a territorial authority using the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act, 2002.

## **4.2 The Wellington City Council Gambling Venues Policy**

The Wellington City Council adopted a Gambling Venues Policy for the Wellington District in March 2004. The objectives of the Gambling Venues Policy are to:

- Manage the growth of gaming machines in areas of concern
- Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
- Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

Under the 2004 policy, class 4 gaming venues were allowed to be established anywhere in Wellington subject to a number of conditions. One of these was that the total number of gaming machines in any Electoral Ward (except the central business district of the Lambton Ward) was not allowed to exceed the ratio of 1 machine to 250 people at any time. This ratio was arrived at by considering the provision and density of machines in the Wellington district, ward by ward, and set a ratio that stabilised or reduced the concentration of machines in the Southern, Eastern and Northern wards. For the purposes of the policy, the population of each Electoral Ward from which the ratios were calculated are set out as follows:

<b><i>Electoral Ward</i></b>	<b><i>Population</i></b>	<b><i>Maximum Machines</i></b>
<i>Southern</i>	<i>28,886</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>Northern</i>	<i>36,557</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>Eastern</i>	<i>31,125</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Onslow</i>	<i>15,558</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Western</i>	<i>18,271</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>Lambton (excluding the CBD)</i>	<i>13,644</i>	<i>55 (107)<sup>1</sup></i>

The 2004 Gambling Venues Policy employed 2001 ward boundaries as the basis for grouping communities for which caps were set. It was agreed that if the ward boundaries changed, future gambling policies would continue to operate with the boundaries as established at the time the policy was adopted.

In accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Act, the Gambling Venues Policy was reviewed three years after its adoption (in 2007). This review changed the Wellington district framework from **six wards** to **seven zones** (Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern, Onslow, Lambton, and the Central Area

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<sup>1</sup> The original figure provided by Statistics New Zealand for the population of the Lambton gambling zone was incorrect and the cap imposed on the Lambton gambling zone should have been '107' instead of '55'. This has had no meaningful impact on this zone as the number of NCGM venues has been declining.

Zone) and changed the policy from a ‘population-based’ cap approach to a fixed number ‘cap’ approach.

Although there are a number of general conditions:

- There are no limitations on the number of TABs, NCGMs or venues allowed in the Central Area Zone
- There is a fixed “cap” on the number of NCGMs allowed in the remaining six ‘capped’ zones. These caps were initially based on NCGM: population ratios in the 2004 policy, but then converted to specific fixed caps in the 2007 policy.

TAB venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington District, subject to the provisions of the Wellington City District Plan and meeting application and fee requirements. In respect of these venues, the Gambling Venues Policy only applies to applications for the establishment of stand-alone Board venues. It does not cover the installation of TAB terminals in premises not owned or leased by the TABs (e.g. hotels, bars and clubs).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 NCGM Numbers in Wellington since 2007

The following table illustrates the change in NCGM numbers in the Wellington district (by zone) since 2007 compared to the cap on each zone.

Gambling Venue Zone	No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007	No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008	No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009	Cap on No. Machines
Southern	115	97	115	116
Northern	150	130	146	146
Eastern	122	113	113	125
Onslow	9	9	9	62
Western	38	38	35	73
Lambton (excluding Central Area Zone)	9	0	0	55
Central Area Zone	391	382	379	No limit
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>797</b>	

#### *Since 2007 - All zones:*

- The total number of NCGMs in the Wellington District zones decreased significantly in 2008 but increased slightly in 2009.

#### *Since 2007 - Capped Zones:*

- The **total number** of NCGMs has remained relatively consistent. The numbers in the Southern, Northern and Eastern zones dropped in 2008 but increased again to the cap figure in the Southern and Northern zones in 2009. Numbers in the Lambton zone dropped to zero.
- NCGM numbers in some zones are significantly below the caps: Onslow zone (9 to cap of 62), Lambton zone (0 to cap of 55); and Western zone (35 to a cap of 73)
- NCGM **venue** numbers have remained relatively consistent since 2007

Zone	Northern	Onslow	Southern	Eastern	Lambton	Western
<b>Change since 2007</b>	Unchanged (10)	Unchanged (9)	Unchanged (8)	Drop from 10 to 8	Drop from 1 to 0	Drop from 3 to 2

- The decline in venues was mainly at sports clubs (3 out of 4) with few NCGMs
- NCGM venues in the capped zones are dominated by bars/pubs that hold the majority of NCGMs. The remaining venues tend to be sporting clubs (nearly all of them bowling clubs) or RSA clubs with smaller NCGM numbers (1-3).

***Since 2007 - Non-capped zone:***

- NCGM numbers in the Central Area Zone dropped by 12 (from 391 to 379)
- NCGM venues dropped from 25 to 24 (all are pubs/bars).

***5.2 Number of Wellington TAB Venues since 2007***

There are 8 stand alone TAB venues across Wellington city. This figure has not changed since 2007.

***5.3 Community Revenue from NCGMs since 2007***

Approximately one third of the income generated by NCGMs is allocated to local gaming trusts to be distributed to ‘not-for-profit’ sector and recreation organisations that provide services to the community. Revenue sourced from Wellington’s NCGM, therefore, part-funds sporting, recreation and community organisations and associated social infrastructure in Wellington City.

Historical grants/revenue for the Wellington district from NCGM funded community trusts (from April 2005 to August 2009) totalled \$38,395,178.79<sup>2</sup>. Stakeholders have indicated that declining NCGM numbers and venues are likely to impact on the revenue received from this source, and may impact on the ability of some community organisations to provide services and activities.

***5.4 Assessment of the Policy to date***

Beyond the objectives outlined in the purpose of the Gambling Act<sup>3</sup>, the objectives of Wellington City Council Gambling Venues Policy are to:

1. Manage the growth of gaming machines in areas of concern
2. Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
3. Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

By setting a ‘cap’ on the suburban zones, the current policy has managed the ***growth*** of NCGMs in ‘areas of concern. Since 2007, the number of NCGMs has decreased in the Eastern, Western and Northern zones and has not been allowed to rise above the cap in the Southern zone. In this respect, therefore, the Gambling Venues Policy can be said to have met objective one of the policy.

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<sup>2</sup> Gambling Report with Grants and Analysis - PGFNZ

<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the Act is to—  
 (a) control the growth of gambling; (b) prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling; (c) authorise some gambling and prohibit the rest; (d) facilitate responsible gambling; (e) ensure the integrity and fairness of games; (f) limit opportunities for crime or dishonesty associated with gambling; (g) ensure that money from gambling benefits the community; (h) facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling

Allowing specific numbers of gaming machines and venues in the suburban zones and unrestricted NCGM numbers and unrestricted NCGM /TAB venues within the Central Area Zone (and unrestricted TAB venues across the district), has ensured that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling within the Wellington District can do so, thereby meeting objective two of the policy.

Meanwhile, the requirement on NCGM venues to hold a liquor licence (and the controls and monitoring this entails) ensures that NCGMs are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age (objective three of the policy).

Although the current ‘cap’ has kept machine numbers at a fixed level in the “areas of concern”, these machines are likely to be having an impact on vulnerable members of the community as a result of problem gambling. The policy could, therefore, could take a more proactive position to address the risk of problem gambling associated with NCGMs in the identified ‘areas of concern’.

For this reason, it is recommended that the ‘areas of concern’ are targeted by setting a population-based cap on NCGM numbers in the capped suburban zones and that this is adopted as the new policy approach. These caps would be based on a NCGM: population ratio of 1 machine to 300 people within the currently capped zones.

### **5.5 ‘Areas of Concern’ for Gambling in the Wellington District**

For the purposes of this review, the Wellington District was assessed for ‘areas of concern’ using Ministry of Health socio-demographic ‘risk factors’ found in regression analysis to be significantly associated with problem gambling. These included:

- identifying as being of Māori or Pacific ethnicity (approximately 4 times more likely than the total population to experience gambling related harm<sup>4</sup>)
- having fewer educational qualifications
- living in areas of higher neighbourhood deprivation.
- being aged 35–44 years

Using these criteria, five areas within the Wellington district were identified as having populations with the socio-demographic profiles of a higher likelihood of engaging in problem gambling activities. These five ‘areas of concern’ included areas in each of Tawa, Johnsonville, Miramar, Karori, Newtown; suburbs located in the ‘capped’ Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern zones.

It was also noted that these ‘areas of concern’ had significant clusters of NCGMs, an issue given the studies linking accessibility to NCGMs by susceptible populations with problem gambling. The numbers involved were as follows.

<b>Suburb of concern</b>	<b>No. of NCGMs</b>	<b>Zone</b>
Tawa	41	<b>Northern Zone</b>
Johnsonville	87	<b>Northern Zone</b>
Miramar	18	<b>Eastern Zone</b>
Karori	35	<b>Western Zone</b>
Newtown	72	<b>Southern Zone</b>

<sup>4</sup> Informing the 2009 problem Gambling Needs Assessment: Report for the Ministry of Health

## **5.6 Trends in Problem Gambling**

The Gambling Act 2003 defines a *problem gambler* as ‘a person whose gambling causes harm or may cause harm’. Harm is also defined in the Act, in very broad terms, recognising the fact that the impact of problem gambling goes far beyond the immediate impact of the problem gambler to affect family, friends and the wider community.

One of the key ways of measuring problem gambling in New Zealand is assessing the number of people that access the national Gambling Helpline. Although between 2003 and 2006, there was a 41.4% decrease in national numbers for new clients accessing the Gambling Helpline, in 2007 there were increases in all categories of new clients resulting in a 9.8% increase in the overall number of new clients.

The Helpline also helps to identify those modes of gambling which cause the most harm and NCGMs continue to be identified as the primary mode of problem gambling cited by clients:

- In 2007, 75.6 % of new Helpline clients and 66.8 % of new face-to-face intervention clients cited NCGMs as the primary mode of problem gambling.
- In 2008, 80% of gambler callers to the gambling Helpline and 64% of clients presenting to face-to-face services cited NCGMs as the primary gambling mode in 2008.

NCGMs also continue to be the primary mode of problem gambling cited by Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGFNZ) clients (and Ministry of Health survey reports) as causing the most harm, however, data about mode of gambling specific to the Wellington branch was not available at hand for this report.

A financial evaluation of NCGMs also supports the evidence that they play a significant role in problem gambling. When NCGM activity between 2006 and 2008 is compared against their proportion of the total gambling expenditure for other gambling activity, they appear to be greatly disproportionate. NCGM activity represents only 15.6%<sup>5</sup> of New Zealand’s total gambling activity yet, between 2003-2008, represent 46-52% of the total gambling expenditure.

## **5.7 Policy Options**

Attached (as **Appendix 1**) is a Statement of Proposal which discusses seven options for the Gambling Venues Policy. They are:

1. Population-based cap on NCGM numbers for capped zones
2. No restrictions on NCGM venues or NCGM numbers
3. Restriction on location of NCGM venues
4. Restriction on NCGM numbers and location of NCGM venues (current policy position)

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<sup>5</sup> This aligns with findings of a 2001 Statistics New Zealand report “*Participation in the Eight Most Frequently Played Gaming Activities in the Six Months Preceding the Survey by Selected Characteristics*” which reported that NCGMs represented only 14% of the total activity.



5. Restriction on total NCGM numbers in Wellington district
6. Total Restriction on NCGM venues and numbers
7. Restriction on NCGM venues

Officers recommend a population-based cap on NCGM numbers for capped zones (1). A draft policy reflecting this option is attached as part of the Statement of Proposal.

The overall impact of this approach would be a slow decline in NCGM numbers (as a result of natural attrition of venues), within targeted 'areas of concern' while allowing growth to continue in the other parts of the city (Central Area zone, the Onslow zone, Lambton zone and, to an extent, the Western zone) where potential for growth in NCGM numbers still exists. Because of this, the immediate impact on community funding is likely to be minimal.

### **5.8 Stakeholder Engagement**

As part of the review of the Gambling Venues Policy, Council officers have engaged with a representative section of the NCGM stakeholder community (including gaming trusts, funding recipients, and non-governmental organisations that deal with problem gambling issues). Key stakeholders engaged to date include Mana Whenua and those listed below:

- Hospitality Association of New Zealand (HANZ)
- Pub Charity (Wellington City)
- The New Zealand Lion Foundation
- The New Zealand Community Trust
- The Shakespeare Globe Company
- Cuba Street Carnival.

In general, this group was concerned that any reduction in NCGM numbers would impact on the funding (generated from NCGM revenue) for Wellington's sporting, recreation and community activities.

From the Wellington Council of Social Services (WELCOSS)

- Wesley Care
- The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand
- The Salvation Army (including Pacific Island peoples representation)

In general this group supported a cap on NCGM numbers in Wellington that was lowered over time (i.e. a sinking lid).

### **5.9 Consultation**

If the Strategy and Policy Committee agree to the proposed policy approach, the Statement of Proposal will be forwarded to Council on 24 February to initiate the Special Consultative Procedure. Consultation would open on 2 March and close on 9 April. Oral hearings would take place on 22 April and consultation results returned to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 10 June 2010 for consideration.

Targeted consultation processes (involving key stakeholders) and general consultation with the wider public will be undertaken. The Statement of Proposal, a Summary of Information, and submission forms will be produced and distributed through a range of mechanisms (including libraries, the Council

website etc.). Notice of the consultation process will also be included in newspapers and the Council website.

### **5.10 Financial**

There are no specific financial implications associated with this policy.

### **5.11 Climate Change**

There are no specific climate change implications associated with this policy.

## **6 Conclusion**

A review of the Gambling Venues Policy is a requirement of the Gambling Act 2003. A Statement of Proposal has been prepared which outlines Council's responsibilities under the Act and updates the main findings since 2007.

Officers recommend that a population-based cap on NCGM numbers be established in the capped suburban zones and adopted as the new policy approach.

Under this option, NCGM venues could be established anywhere across the Wellington district although there would be a population-based cap on the total number of NCGMs permitted within the current suburban zones. These caps would be set, based on a machine: population ratio of 1 machine to 300 people within the currently capped zones.

## **7 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Statement of proposal which includes the updated social report and a recommended draft Gambling Venues Policy

Appendix 2: Current Gambling Venues Policy (2007)

Contact Officer: *Brian O'Sullivan, Policy Team*

## Supporting Information

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This policy is required under the Gambling Act 2003. It addresses the 10 year priority of the LTCCP to promote strong, safe and healthy communities.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*There are no direct LTCCP implications in this report.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*There are no specific Treaty of Waitangi considerations in this report.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*If agreed by Committee, any amendments to the Gambling Venues Policy will require the Special Consultative Procedure.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Mana whenua will be specifically consulted as part of the Special Consultative Procedure.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*There are no specific legal issues identified in this report.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*The report recommends an amendment to the current Council Policy.*

# **Statement of Proposal**

## **Draft Gambling Venues Policy**

**February 2010**

# Proposal to Amend the Policy Approach under the Current Gambling Venues Policy

## 1. Overview:

- 1.1 This Statement of Proposal (**statement**) invites submissions on the Wellington City Council (the **Council**) proposal for its Gambling Venues Policy. This policy covers the number and location of class 4 non-casino gaming machines [NCGMs] (or “pokies”) and Totaliser Agency Boards (TAB) in the Wellington district.
- 1.2 Under the Gambling Act, 2003, Council must review its Gambling Venues Policy every three years. Following a review of the current policy, the Council proposes to target identified ‘areas of concern’ within the Wellington district by setting a population-based cap on NCGM numbers in the capped suburban zones. These caps would be based on a NCGM: population ratio of 1 machine to 300 people within the currently capped zones.
- 1.3 The proposed approach would facilitate a gradual decline in NCGM numbers (as a result of natural attrition of venues and machines), within targeted ‘areas of concern’ while allowing growth to continue in other parts of the city (the Central Area zone, the Onslow zone, the Lambton zone and, to an extent, the Western zone) where some potential for growth in NCGM numbers continues to exist.
- 1.4 As required by section 87 of the Local Government Act 2002, this statement of proposal includes:
  - A statement of the reasons for the proposal; and
  - An analysis of the reasonably practicable options available (including the proposal)
  - Other information that is relevant to the proposal
- 1.5 Under the draft policy:
  - There are no limitations on the number of TABs, NCGMs or venues allowed in the Central Area Zone.
  - There is a population-based “cap” on the number of NCGMs allowed in the six ‘capped’ suburban zones (based on a ratio of 1 machine: 300 people) as outlined below.

Gambling Venue Zone	Current Cap	Cap at ratio of 1 Machine: 300 people
Northern	146	136
Onslow	62	53
Lambton	107 <sup>6</sup>	95
Central	No limits	No limits
Western	73	67
Southern	116	100
Eastern	125	114

1.6 Class 4 gaming venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington district, subject to the following restrictions.

- All gaming venues must have a full and current on-licence (with a designation) or club liquor licence under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.
- Applicants whose licences were held on 17 October 2001 may have a maximum of either 9 machines, or the number of machines lawfully operated on 23 September 2003, whichever is the higher number.
- Applications seeking Ministerial discretion to increase the number of gaming machines at a club venue above 9 will not receive consent.
- Applications seeking Ministerial discretion to increase the number of gaming machines at a club, as a result of clubs merging, will receive consent subject to the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act.
- Meeting Council application and fee requirements.
- Obtaining any necessary resources consents under the Wellington City District Plan or Resource Management Act.

1.7 TAB venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington District, subject to the provisions of the Wellington City District Plan and meeting application and fee requirements. In respect of TAB venues, the Gambling Venues Policy only applies to applications for the establishment of stand-alone Board venues. It does not cover the installation of TAB terminals in premises not owned or leased by the TAB (e.g. hotels, bars and clubs).

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<sup>6</sup> The review revealed that the original figure provided by Statistics New Zealand for the population of the Lambton gambling zone was incorrect. This means that the cap imposed on the Lambton gambling zone was inappropriate and should be '107' instead of the current '55'. This has had no impact, however, on the regulation of this gambling zone as the number of NCGM venues has been declining. In 2007, there was only one NCGM venue with a total of 9 machines. As of Dec 2009, there are no NCGM venues and no NCGM machines within this gambling zone.

## **Have your say**

1.8 The consultation period runs from 2 March 2010 to 9 April 2010. Additional copies of this Statement of Proposal may be viewed online at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz), obtained from a Wellington City Council service centre or requested by phone (499 4444).

1.8.1 Submissions on the statement may be made to Council from 2 March 2010 until 5:00pm on 9 April 2010. Submissions can be made:

- Electronically at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)
- Or, in writing to Wellington City Council:

Gambling Venues Policy Review:  
c/o Brian O'Sullivan  
Policy Group  
Wellington City Council  
101 Wakefield Street  
PO Box 2199  
WELLINGTON 6140

1.8.2 Any person who makes a submission will have the opportunity to be heard by Council, but must make that request. Oral submissions will be heard by Council on 22 April 2010.

1.8.3 The Local Act 2002 requires the Council to make all written submissions on this consultation available to the public. This requirement is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987.

## **How to get more information:**

1.9. Further information, including the reports referred to in this document, is available on the Council's website [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)

## 2. Reasons for the Proposal

The Council is reviewing its Gambling Venues Policy as a requirement of the Gambling Act 2003. The policy must be reviewed every 3 years.

The Gambling Act 2003 came into effect on 18 September 2003. The purpose of the Act is, amongst other things, to control the growth of gambling and prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling. The Department of Internal Affairs is the primary regulator of the sector, however, under the Act, territorial authorities are required to have a policy in place that:

- specifies whether or not class 4 venues (venues with non-casino gaming machines or “pokies”) may be established in its district and, if so, where they may be located
- may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at any class 4 venue<sup>7</sup>.
- specifies whether or not TAB stand-alone venues may be established in the district.

In addition, the Racing Act 2003 required territorial authorities to consider a policy for the establishment of new stand alone TAB premises. The policy excludes TAB terminals in premises not owned or leased by the TAB (e.g. hotels, bars and clubs).

NCGM and TAB venues must have a venue licence issued by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). A prerequisite for such a licence is consent from the local authority. All consents must be in accordance with adopted policy.

If territorial local authority consent is given, the DIA determines whether or not to approve the application.

The Gambling Act also states that a venue hosting gaming machines cannot have gaming machines as its primary purpose. The Gambling Act requires that territorial local authority consent must be sought by all venues that:

- are seeking a licence for the first time
- are seeking to increase machine numbers
- have a licence that has lapsed for 6 months or more

The proposed policy has been developed to meet the requirements of the Gambling Act 2003.

## 3. Policy Objectives

Beyond the objectives outlined in the purpose of the Gambling Act<sup>8</sup>, the Wellington City Council adopted a Gambling Venues Policy for the Wellington District in March 2004. The objectives of Gambling Venues Policy are to:

- Manage the growth of gaming machines in ‘areas of concern’.

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<sup>7</sup> The maximum number of machines allowed in any venue licensed after 17<sup>th</sup> October 2001 is 9 machines. Venues licensed prior to this date are allowed up to a maximum of 18 machines, but no more than they legally held as at September 2003.

<sup>8</sup> The purpose of the Act is to—  
(a) control the growth of gambling; (b) prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling; (c) authorise some gambling and prohibit the rest; (d) facilitate responsible gambling; (e) ensure the integrity and fairness of games; (f) limit opportunities for crime or dishonesty associated with gambling; (g) ensure that money from gambling benefits the community; (h) facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling



- Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
- Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

#### 4. Current Situation

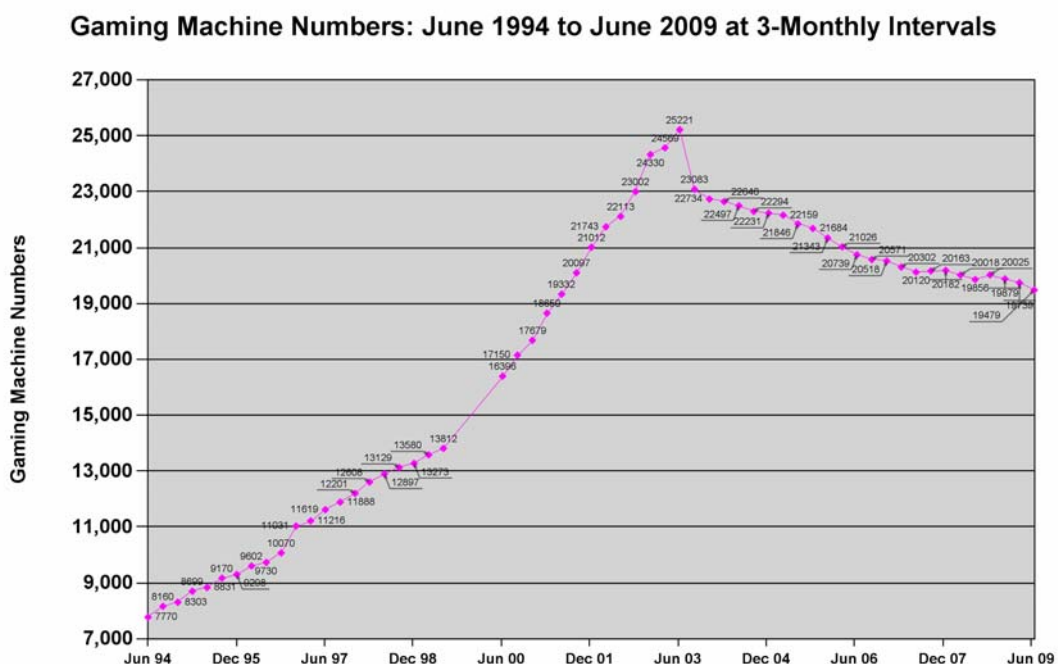
Under the current Gambling Venues Policy, the Wellington district is split into seven different gambling zones; Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern, Onslow, Lambton (excluding Central Area Zone) and the Central Area Zone. Although there are a number of general conditions:

- There are no limitations on the number of TABs, NCGMs or venues allowed in the Central Area Zone
- There is a fixed “cap” on the number of NCGMs allowed in the remaining six ‘capped’ zones but no restriction on the number of venues.

Zone	Fixed Cap on No. Machines
Southern	116
Northern	146
Eastern	125
Onslow	62
Western	73
Lambton (excluding Central Area Zone)	107
Central Area Zone	No limit

#### 4.1 Trends in the Numbers of NCGMs and NCGM and TAB Venues since the introduction of the Gambling Act

The total number of NCGMs in New Zealand rose dramatically between 1994 and 2003. Since the Gambling Act 2003 was introduced (in September 2003), numbers have dropped markedly from a peak of over 25,000 in 2003 to 19,739 reported in March 2009.



A combination of factors is believed to have contributed to this decline:

- The introduction of the Gambling Act (Sep 2003) and subsequent amendments introduced (since 2004) to ensure “host responsibility”
- The introduction of ‘Smoke Free’ legislation, where individuals must smoke in a designated outdoor area, (encouraging breaks from continuous gambling - an action shown to have some effect on gambling habits)
- the poor public perception of NCGMs
- the economic downturn.

Although, nationally, there were fewer NCGMs overall, NCGM venues continue to be concentrated in more deprived areas.

#### 4.2 Change in NCGM Numbers in Wellington since 2007

In Wellington City, the number of NCGMs followed a roughly similar trend to the national trend from 2003 to 2007. In September 2003, at the time of the Act being introduced, the number of NCGMs in Wellington City was 1050 while the number of venues was 78. By December 2007, the number of NCGMs had dropped to 834 and the number of venues to 59.

Table One illustrates the geographical spread of NCGMs since 2007 in the Wellington district (by zone) compared to the cap on each zone.

<b>Table One: No. of NCGMs Per Zone from Dec 2007</b>				
<b>Gambling Venue Zone</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>	<b>Cap on No. Machines</b>
Southern	115	97	115	116
Northern	150	130	146	146
Eastern	122	113	113	125
Onslow	9	9	9	62
Western	38	38	35	73
Lambton (excluding Central Area Zone)	9	0	0	(107)
Central Area Zone	391	382	379	No limit
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>797</b>	

The key points to note from the above information are as follows:

##### All zones:

- The total number of NCGMs in the Wellington District zones decreased significantly in 2008 but increased slightly again in 2009.

##### Capped zones:

- The number of NCGMs in the capped zones has remained relatively consistent. The numbers in three zones dropped in 2008 but increased again in two zones to the cap figure in 2009 (Southern and Northern zones).
- The decrease in machine numbers in 2008 and the subsequent increase in 2009 was due predominantly to changes of business/ownership of 2 pubs/bars at the same venue.

- The total number of NCGMs in some capped zones remain significantly below their established caps:
  - Onslow zone (9 to a cap of 62)
  - Lambton zone (9 to a cap of 107); and
  - Western zone also remains lower than its established cap (35 to a cap of 73)

#### Non-capped zone:

- The number of NCGMs in the Central Area Zone has dropped slightly by 12 (from 391 to 379)

### **4.3 Change in Number of Wellington NCGM Venues since 2007**

The total number of NCGM venues in the Wellington District dropped from 59 in 2007 to 54 in 2008 and remains at this figure as of September 2009. Trends in NCGM venues in the capped zones and the non-capped zone since the adoption of the revised Gambling Venues Policy in 2007 are as follows:

#### Capped zones:

- The number of NCGM venues in the capped zones has remained relatively consistent since 2007
  - The Northern zone remains unchanged (10)
  - The Southern zone remains unchanged (8)
  - The Onslow zone remains unchanged (9)
  - The Eastern zone dropped from 10 venues to 8 (the two were a bowling club and a golf club).
  - The Western zone dropped from 3 to 2 (1 bowling club)
  - The Lambton zone dropped from 1 venue to 0.
- The minor decline in venues was predominantly in sports clubs (3 out of 4) that have very few gaming machines
- NCGM venues in the capped zones tend to be dominated by bars/pubs that also hold the vast majority of NCGMs. The remainder of the venues tend to be sporting clubs (nearly all of them bowling clubs) or RSA clubs with smaller NCGM numbers (1-3). The one exception was the Johnsonville RSA with 13 NCGM.

#### Non-capped zone:

- NCGM venues dropped from 25 to 24 (all are pubs/bars).

Full details are provided in **Appendix A**.

### **4.4 Number of Wellington TAB Venues since 2007**

There are 8 stand alone TAB venues across Wellington city. This figure has not changed from 2007.

### **4.5 Trends in NCGM Gambling Expenditure**

Between 1984 and 2005, total gaming expenditure (total money lost by players) in New Zealand increased every year, before dropping slightly in 2005/06 (to \$1.977 billion). In 2006/07 and 2007/08, the total gaming expenditure increased again and was \$2.024 billion in 2008.

Table two (below) summarises the total gaming expenditure statistics for 2006–2008 for the four main types of recorded gaming activity (racing, New Zealand Lotteries Commission, NCGMs and casinos).

**Table Two:** Gambling expenditure, 2006–2008

Gambling venue	2003 \$ m	2004 \$ m	2005 \$ m	2006 \$ m	2007 \$ m	2008 \$ m
Casinos	457	484	472	493	469	477
NZ Lotteries Commission	239	282	280	321	331	346
Racing	234	239	247	258	269	273
NCGMs (outside casinos)	941	1035	1027	906	950	938
<b>NCGMs as % of total gambling expenditure</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Total</b>	1871	2039	2027	1977	2020	2034

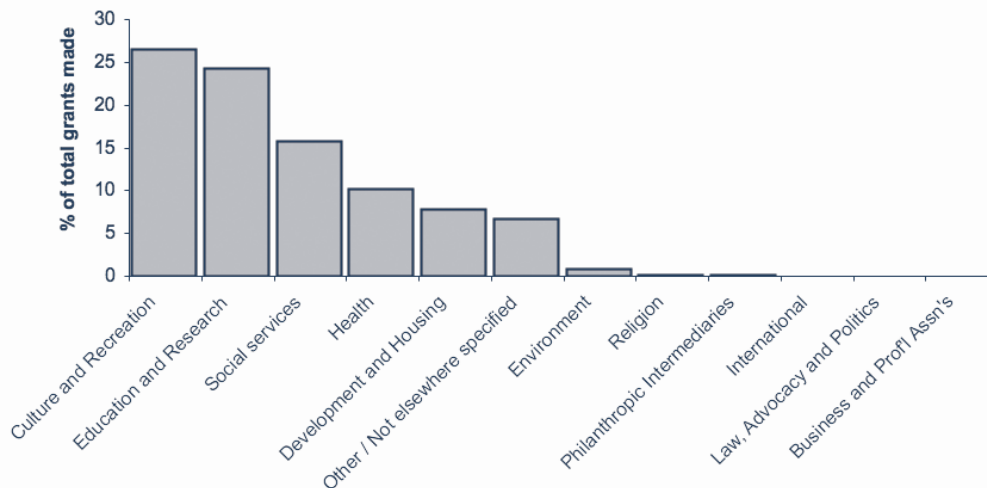
Source: Gambling Expenditure Statistics, The Department of Internal Affairs (2009).

Total gambling expenditure in New Zealand continues to be dominated by NCGMs although there has been a minor decline in the NCGM proportion of the total gambling expenditure. Quarterly NCGM gaming expenditure collected for the Wellington district since 2007 (See **Appendix B**) also suggests there has been a slight decline in gambling expenditure within the Wellington district. The Wellington district’s proportion of the total NCGM gambling expenditure (in New Zealand), however, appears to remain relatively constant.

#### 4.6 Revenue from NCGMs

Although individuals lose money on NCGMs, there are benefits to some sections of the general community from these machines. Approximately one third of the income generated by NCGMs is allocated to local gaming trusts to be distributed to ‘not-for-profit’ sector and recreation organisations that provide services to the community. Revenue sourced from Wellington’s NCGM, therefore, part-funds sporting, recreation and community organisations and associated social infrastructure in Wellington City.

The following graph shows the national distribution of funding to various ‘not-for-profit’ community organisations by gaming trusts indicating that a significant proportion of national revenue from NCGMs funds activities in the Culture and Recreation, Education and Research, Social Services, Health and Development and Housing sectors. In 2006, BERL estimated that gaming machine societies provided over 45% of the funding in the first category (Culture and Recreation) to sports activities alone.



Historical grants/revenue for the Wellington district from NCGM funded community trusts (from April 2005 to August 2009) totalled \$38,395,178.79<sup>9</sup>. The largest recipient sectors were 'Other Sports' (23%), 'Community Groups' (22%), 'Education' (10%) and 'Soccer' (8%). Some stakeholders have raised concerns that declining NCGM numbers and venues might impact on the revenue received from this source, and may impact on the ability of some community organisations to provide services and activities. Stakeholders from the New Zealand Trust, the Shakespeare Globe, the Lion Foundation and Cuba Street Carnival have all indicated that funding from gaming trusts is becoming increasingly scarce in Wellington City. In 2006 Wellington City received the 4<sup>th</sup> highest per-capita funding from gaming trusts.

#### 4.7 The Social Impact of NCGMs

The Gambling Act 2003 defines a *problem gambler* as 'a person whose gambling causes harm or may cause harm'. *Harm* is also defined in the Act, in very broad terms, recognising the fact that the impact of problem gambling goes far beyond the immediate impact on the problem gambler to affect family, friends and the wider community.

It should be noted that, in general, it is very difficult to obtain accurate data on problem gambling because of the 'shame barrier' associated with it. Much of the problem gambling activity takes place outside of supervision and is not recorded or measured unless an individual decides to 'present' to an organisation such as the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGFNZ) or the national Gambling Helpline.

The impact of technology (particularly the introduction of internet gambling for which there is no New Zealand research available) is believed to be significantly exacerbating the issue. For this reason, figures based on measures such as 'presentation' are likely to significantly under-estimate the size of the problem.

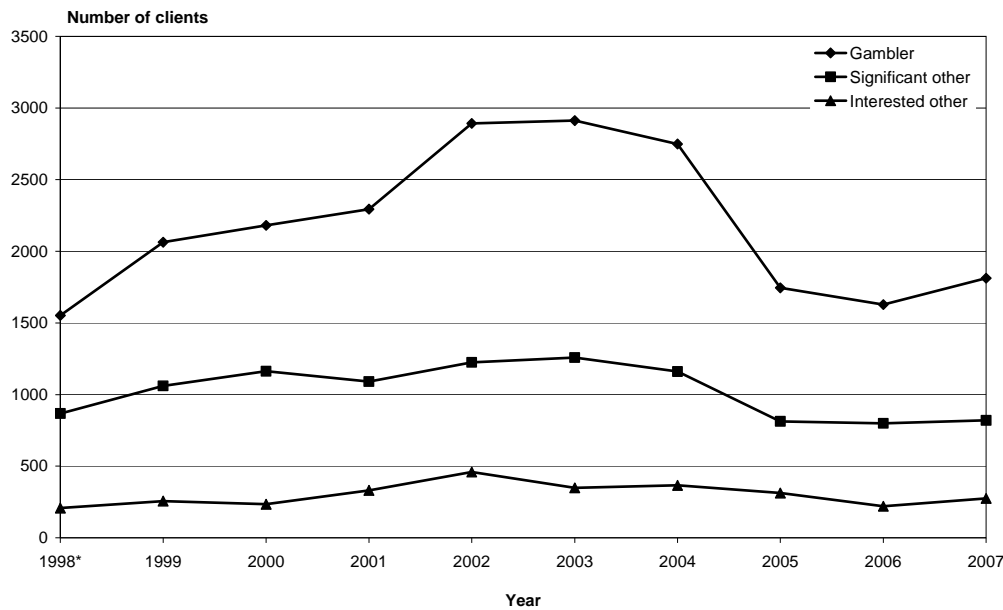
#### 4.8 Trends in Problem Gambling

Despite a decrease in numbers of new clients accessing the National Gambling Helpline between 2003 and 2006, increases in all categories of new clients

<sup>9</sup> Gambling Report with Grants and Analysis - PGFNZ

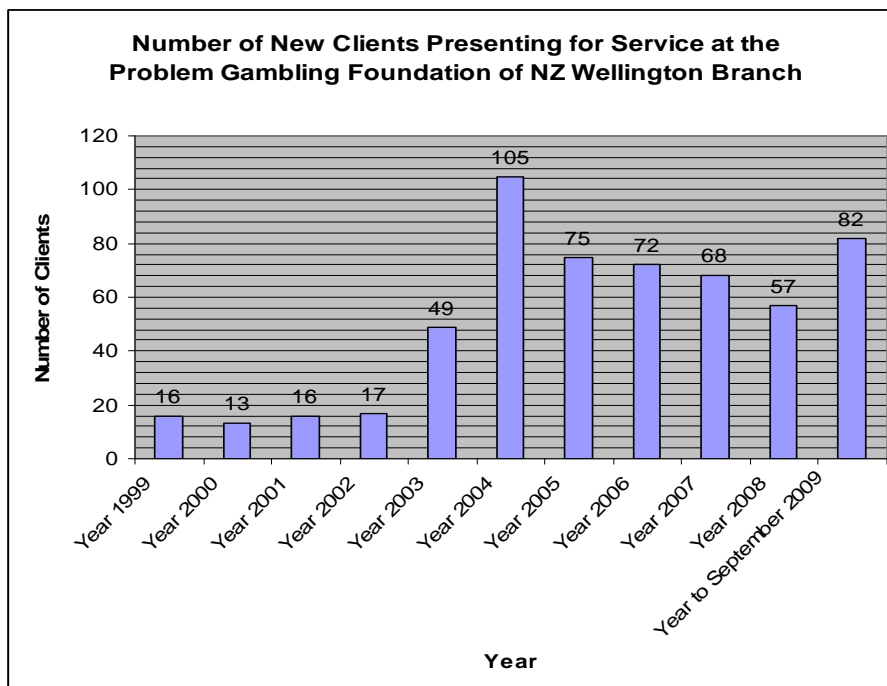
(resulting in a 9.8% increase in the overall number of new clients) was reported in 2007.

**Figure 1:** Gambling Helpline Ltd: new clients, by type, 1998–2007



Within the Wellington district, the PGFNZ have identified a 43% increase in overall client presentations to the service in 2009 (including 36% of clients who were Affected Others and 64% who were Gamblers). The reasons for increased client presentation are unknown, however the PGFNZ suspect it may be due to increased public health promotion activities and other Public Health initiatives such as Gamble Free Day which have helped to raise awareness within the local community.

The trend in presentations in the Wellington district since 1999 is illustrated below. The trend from 2003 appears to align with the national trend. As noted earlier, real figures are likely to be significantly higher.



#### **4.9 The Association between NCGMs and Problem Gambling**

There is a significant amount of research linking NCGMs with problem gambling. The **2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey** reported that NCGMs were the primary mode of gambling for those seeking help from face-to-face problem gambling intervention services (66.8%) and Gambling Helpline calls (75.6%). It also reported that NCGM activity was cited by 53% of people (Affected Others) as responsible for the problems they experience from someone else's gambling

The trend of NCGMs being identified as the primary mode of problem gambling continued with a 2009 Ministry of Health consultation document which reported that:

- In 2007, NCGMs continued to be the primary mode of problem gambling cited by new clients (75.6% of new Helpline clients and 66.8% of new face-to-face intervention clients).
- In 2008, these continued to be the primary mode of problem gambling represented in presentation data. Around 80% of gambler callers to the gambling Helpline and 64% of clients presenting to face-to-face services cited NCGMs as the primary gambling mode in 2008.

This trend aligns with advice provided from the PGFNZ who report that the primary mode of gambling cited by PGFNZ Wellington branch clients as causing the most harm continues to be NCGMs. Exact figures on the modes of gambling specific to the Wellington branch were not available at hand for this report.

A financial evaluation of NCGMs also suggests that they play a significant role in problem gambling. When NCGM activity between 2006 and 2008 is considered against New Zealand's total gambling expenditure, they represent only 15.6% of gambling activity, yet between 2003-2008 they have been seen to represent a disproportionate 46-52% of the total gambling expenditure.

There is also a significant body of research linking the proximity of NCGMs to vulnerable communities with problem gambling and indicating that people are more likely to gamble if NCMGs are accessible or near their immediate vicinity. The most recent, a 2009 Ministry of Health geographical analysis of gambling/problems, confirmed the findings of previous needs assessments that people living in more deprived areas are at greater risk of developing problems with gambling. Wesley Care, the Salvation Army, and the PGFNZ have also reported that close proximity of NCGMs to areas where people are more susceptible to the risks of problem gambling is an issue.

#### **5. Assessment of the Policy to date**

Beyond the objectives outlined in the purpose of the Gambling Act, the Gambling Venues Policy has three objectives. They are to:

- Manage the growth of gaming machines in areas of concern
- Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
- Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

Since the adoption of the Gambling Venues Policy in 2007, the following trends have been noted:

#### **NCGM Expenditure:**

- The total gambling expenditure in New Zealand continues to be dominated by NCGMs
- There was an increase (2007) and then a slight decrease (2008) in NCGM gambling expenditure across New Zealand (and in gambling expenditure overall)
- There appears to have been a slight decline in gambling expenditure within the Wellington district. The Wellington district's proportion of the national gambling expenditure, however, appears to remain relatively constant.

#### **NCGM Numbers and venues:**

- The total number of NCGMs in the Wellington district decreased in 2008 but increased slightly in 2009.
- The total number of NCGM venues in the Wellington district has decreased.
- The number of NCGMs in the Central Area Zone has dropped slightly by 12 since 2007 (from 391 to 379)
- The total number of NCGMs in the capped zones has remained relatively consistent.
- The number of NCGM venues in the capped zones has remained relatively consistent since 2007

#### **Social Impact of NCGMs:**

- There has been an increase in the level of problem gambling, both nationally and within the Wellington District
- NCGMs continue to be identified as the primary mode of problem gambling
- Close proximity of NCGMs to areas where people are more likely to become problem gamblers is an issue.
- There are five significant 'areas of concern' with respect to NCGM-associated problem gambling within the Wellington District (based on socio-demographic 'risk factors' found in regression analysis to be significantly associated with problem gambling). These are located in the Northern, Southern and Western zones and, to a lesser extent, the Eastern zone.
- The "areas of concern" contain significant clusters of NCGMs
- NCGM numbers in those zones with 'areas of concern' have seen no (or minimal) reduction in NCGM numbers since 2007.

By setting a 'cap' on the suburban zones, the current policy has managed the **growth** of NCGMs in 'areas of concern'. Since 2007, the number of NCGMs has decreased in the Eastern, Western and Northern zones and has not been allowed to rise above the cap in the Southern zone. In this respect, therefore, the Gambling Venues Policy can be said to have met objective one of the policy.

Allowing unrestricted NCGM numbers and unrestricted NCGM /TAB venues within the Central Area Zone (and unrestricted TAB venues across the district), has ensured that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who



wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling within the Wellington District can do so, thereby meeting objective two of the policy.

Meanwhile, the requirement on NCGM venues to hold a liquor licence (and the controls and monitoring this entails) ensures that NCGMs are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age (objective three of the policy).

Five specific ‘areas’ of concern’ with significant clusters of NCGMs were identified within the Wellington district. These are located in the Northern, Southern and Western zones and, to a lesser extent, the Eastern zone. Given the continuing interest and applications from NCGM venue owners (and potential venue owners) it is clear that a significant gambling market exists in these areas. Although the current ‘cap’ has machine numbers at a fixed level, these machines are likely to be having an impact on vulnerable members of the community within these areas.

## 6. The ‘Areas of Concern’ for Problem Gambling in the Wellington District

For the purposes of this review, the Wellington District was assessed for ‘areas of concern’ using the Ministry of Health socio-demographic ‘risk factors’ found in regression analysis to be significantly associated with problem gambling. These included:

- identifying as being of Māori or Pacific ethnicity (approximately 4 times more likely than the total population to experience gambling related harm<sup>10</sup>)
- having fewer educational qualifications
- living in areas of higher neighbourhood deprivation.
- being aged 35–44 years

Using these criteria, five areas within the Wellington district were identified as having populations with the socio-demographic profiles of a higher likelihood of engaging in problem gambling activities. These five “areas of concern” included areas in each of Tawa, Johnsonville, Miramar, Karori, Newtown; suburbs located in the ‘capped’ Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern zones.

It was also noted that these “areas of concern” had significant clusters of NCGMs, an issue given the studies linking accessibility to NCGMs by susceptible populations with problem gambling. The numbers involved were as follows.

Suburb of concern	No. of NCGMs	Zone
Tawa	41	Northern Zone
Johnsonville	87	Northern Zone
Miramar	18	Eastern Zone
Karori	35	Western Zone
Newtown	72	Southern Zone

Indicative figures from the Department of Internal Affairs on total gaming machine profits (i.e. total turnover minus player wins plus adjustments) for

<sup>10</sup> Informing the 2009 problem Gambling Needs Assessment: Report for the Ministry of Health

2008 and 2009<sup>11</sup> also suggest that up to 40- 50% of the total gaming machine profit in the Wellington district could have been obtained from the identified 'areas of concern'. Details will be included in the consultation document once complete figures are obtained from the Department of Internal Affairs.

Despite the fact that these zones are capped, officers have continued to receive applications for new NCGMs and venues in these zones (although these are now tailing off as the policy is better understood). The fact that applications continue to be received and that numbers of NCGMs and NCGM venues have not significantly reduced in the identified "areas of concern" also suggests that a strong gambling 'market' exists in these areas.

Although the current 'cap' has kept machine numbers at a fixed level, these machines are likely to be having an impact on vulnerable members of the community within these areas.

## **7. Items to Consider when Analysing the Issue**

It is important to note the restrictions Council operates under with respect to NCGMs. Under the Gambling Act:

- Venues licensed before October 17th 2001 are entitled to have up to 18 NCGMs, but may not have more machines than they were licensed for at that date.
- Venues licensed after October 17th 2001 are entitled to have up to 9 NCGMs.
- Council can set a lower maximum number of machines – that is the number that must apply to all bars/clubs licensed after October 2001, and to any bars/clubs that have had a gap in operations of 6 months or more.
- Council can, however, only set a lower maximum number at NCGM venues where an application for a NCGM venue licence is received. Existing NCGM venue licences, therefore, are 'grandfathered' under the Act.

## **8. Wellington City Council's Proposed Approach**

- *Permit NCGM venues to be established anywhere in the Wellington district.*
- *Set a population-based cap on the number of NCGMs that may be permitted in each zone (except the Central Area zone).*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

Wellington City Council is proposing that NCGM venues could be established anywhere across the Wellington district although there would be a cap on the total number of NCGMs permitted within the current suburban zones (based on a ratio of 1 machine to 300 people<sup>12</sup> within the current capped zones).

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<sup>11</sup> Year ending Sep 2008 = \$41,650,758 and Year ending Sep 2008 = \$39, 590, 100

<sup>12</sup> This ratio was believed to be the most appropriate to allow a meaningful reduction in NCGM numbers in areas' of concern and a reduction in the disparity between NCGM numbers and caps in other zones while allowing some potential for growth

Gambling Zone	Current cap (based on 1 machine: 250 people) – 2004 data	Ratio of 1 machine: 250 people (2006 data)	Ratio of 1 machine:300 people (2006 data)	Population per zone (2006 census data)
Northern	146	163	136	40,761
Onslow	62	64	53	16,047
Lambton	(107)	113	95	28,473
Central	NA	NA	NA	9,507
Western	73	80	67	20,112
Southern	116	119	100	29,874
Eastern	125	137	114	34,305

At present, most NCGM venues in the Wellington district have the maximum number of gaming machines permitted under the Gambling Act. They are almost all ‘grandfathered’ under the Act and any restriction could not be applied to them. Council, therefore, can only set a lower maximum number of machines for any new NCGM venue licence applications.

This option, therefore, would not affect current NCGM venues except where they voluntarily decrease their numbers or do not hold a licence for more than six months (i.e. by going out of business, on-selling business etc.). Under the Gambling Act, loss of a licence and subsequent renewal would automatically result in the reduction of the maximum number of gaming machines at such venues from 18 to 9.

The overall impact of this option, therefore, would likely be a gradual decline in NCGM numbers (as a result of natural attrition of venues) within the capped zones with ‘areas of concern’. Growth would be allowed in the Central Area zone or alternatively in the Onslow zone, Lambton zone and, to an extent, the Western zone, where potential for growth in NCGM numbers still exists. The anticipated slow decline in numbers would mean no sudden impact on the funding for sporting, recreation and community organisations generated through Wellington’s NCGMs. Any decline might also be offset by growth in numbers outside areas of concern.

## 9. Other Considerations for the Proposed Approach

### 9.1 Other Reasonably Practicable Options Considered

A number of other options were also considered during the review of the Gambling Venues Policy, 2007. These were:

#### 9.1.1 Option 1: No restrictions on NCGM venues or NCGM numbers

- *Permit unlimited numbers of NCGM venues to be established in the Wellington district.*
- *Permit unlimited numbers of NCGMs at these venues (to the maximum permitted under the Gambling Act)*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

At present, the vast majority of venues (predominantly pubs/bars) in the Wellington district are already licensed to have the maximum number (18) of NCGMs permissible under the Gambling Act. Given the trend of increasing NCGM numbers observed in non-regulated conditions (i.e. prior to the introduction of the Gambling Act 2003), it is likely that any new venues will also request the maximum number of NCGMs.

Although numbers of NCGMs have decreased in the Central Area zone, this is unlikely to be the case in the identified 'areas of concern' where significant clusters of NCGMs already exist and requests for increased numbers of venues and machines continue to be received. If there are no restrictions on the location of NCGM venues, the likely outcome of this option, therefore, would be an exodus of NCGMs and venues from the inner city to the (cheaper) suburbs and 'areas of concern'. This option, therefore, would not permit Council to manage the growth of gaming machines in 'areas of concern'.

### **9.1.2 Option 2: Restriction on Location of NCGM venues**

- *Permit NCGM venues to be established in the Wellington district but specify where they may be located.*
- *No restriction on the maximum number of NCGMs that may be operated at a NCGM venue.*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

If a restriction was to be placed on the location of NCGMs venues, this would most likely apply to the four zones with identified 'areas of concern'. The majority of venues in two of the zones with 'areas of concern' already have the maximum number of NCGMs permitted under the Gambling Act (Northern and Southern) so it is unlikely that a venue restriction would cause any major change to the number of NCGMs there (although the number could increase slightly in some of the minor venues). The two other zones with 'areas of concern' (the Eastern and Western zones) have more potential for an increase in NCGM numbers however, again, the majority of venues in these zones already have the maximum number of NCGMs permitted under the Act (although there could be a slight increase in some of the minor venues). A restriction on new venues, therefore, would mean that NCGM numbers in these four zones would be unlikely to decrease and could potentially undergo a minor increase.

There is currently no restriction on the Central Area Zone. Most venues have the maximum available under the Gambling Act, yet numbers have decreased overall. Placing a restriction on venues therefore is unlikely to significantly change the number of NCGMs although there may be natural attrition over time.

The Lambton zone - a zone which is unlikely to have a restriction as it is not an identified 'area of concern' - has not seen an increase in NCGM numbers despite being well below its cap. Like the Central Area Zone, therefore, numbers of NCGMs are likely to remain static. This would also mean that there would be no effect on NCGM-generated revenue for community activities funded through Community trusts.

In summary, under this option, there is unlikely to be any major change in the current numbers of NCGMs or NCGM venues in the Wellington district compared with the current policy although there might be a minor increase in NCGMs. This option, therefore, would be less likely than the current policy to manage the growth of gaming machines in ‘areas of concern’.

### **9.1.3 Option 3: Restriction on NCGM numbers and location of NCGM venues (current policy position)**

- *Permit NCGM venues to be established in the Wellington district and specify where they may be located.*
- *Specify restrictions on the maximum number of NCGMs that may be operated at the NCGM venues.*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

Machine numbers have not been allowed to go above the fixed cap set in 2007 and this has resulted in the management of growth of NCGMs in “areas of concern” while allowing people who wish to participate in gaming machine gambling to do so within the Central Area Zone (and those who wish to participate in TAB gambling to do so in all zones).

This option has resulted in minor fluctuations of NCGMs in “areas of concern”, although these have all been within the specified cap. Although this option has allowed the identified objectives of the current policy to be achieved and restricts growth of the NCGM numbers within the ‘areas of concern’, it does not address the risk of problem gambling to susceptible communities in these ‘areas of concern’ due to accessibility to NCGMs.

### **9.1.4 Option 4: Restriction on total NCGM numbers in Wellington district**

- *Permit NCGM venues to be established anywhere in the Wellington district.*
- *Restrict the total number of NCGMs that may be operated in the Wellington District.*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

Under this option, NCGM venues could be established anywhere across the Wellington district although there would be a cap on the total number of NCGMs within the district. This could be set lower than the current number of NCGMs in the district. Zones would no longer be relevant under this scenario.

At present, the vast majority of NCGM venues in the Wellington district have the maximum number of gaming machines permitted under the Gambling Act. They are almost all ‘grandfathered’ under the Act and any restriction in numbers could not be applied to them. Council, therefore, can only set a lower maximum number of machines for any new venue applications. Over time, this would lead to a drop in NCGM numbers across the district.

Applications/queries for new NCGM venue licences tend to be focussed primarily on those zones with ‘areas of concern’ whereas the trend is for a

drop in NCGM numbers in the Central Area Zone. This option, therefore, could result in NCGM numbers dropping in the Central Area Zone as opposed to the 'areas of concern'. This option would also mean an ongoing decline in NCGM-generated revenue for community activities funded through Community trusts.

#### **9.1.5 Option 5: Total Restriction on NCGM venues and numbers**

- *Restrict the establishment of new NCGM venues in Wellington district.*
- *Restrict introduction of any new NCGM machines in Wellington District*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

This option would see a total restriction on all applications for new NCGM venues or for an increase in NCGM numbers. Given the fact that the vast majority of commercial NCGMs in the Wellington district already have the maximum number of permitted gaming machines and are grandfathered under the Gambling Act, any change in NCGM numbers will be driven by the dissolution of existing venues (i.e. where the venue goes out of business, makes a business decision to remove NCGMs etc.). This would result in a gradual decline by attrition of both NCGM numbers and NCGM venues in all Wellington district zones. Over time, this could result in the prevention of recreational NCGM gambling, particularly in those zones with low numbers of NCGM venues (e.g. Western, Onslow and Lambton zones). As with option 4, Zones would no longer be relevant under this scenario.

#### **9.1.6 Option 6: Restriction on NCGM venues**

- *Restrict any new NCGM venues being established in the Wellington district.*
- *No restrictions on the maximum number of NCGMs that may be operated at NCGM venues.*
- *No restriction on TABs.*

Under this option, no new NCGM venues would be licensed in the Wellington district. Given the continuing applications received for NCGM venues in the zones with 'areas of concern', it is unlikely that current businesses in that area would discontinue their licences (unless due to business closure etc.). In addition, with the current trend of a decrease of NCGMs in the Central Area Zone, this option would most likely result in a decline of NCGM venues in the Central Area Zone as opposed to the 'areas of concern'.

Given that the majority of venues hold the maximum numbers of NCGMs permitted under the Gambling Act, the loss of a venue would most likely result in an instant reduction of 18 NCGMs. If two or three venues were to close in some areas of the city, this could lead to sudden, significant and irreversible drops in NCGM numbers with subsequent income risks for community trusts. Zones would no longer be relevant under this scenario.

## **9.2 Managing the Growth of TAB venues**

The Gambling Venues Policy incorporates the TAB Venues Policy. The current policy enables stand alone TAB venues to be established anywhere in the district. There are 8 stand alone TAB venues distributed across Wellington city. Although the policy allows for growth, no new venues have been established in Wellington since 1998. It is recommended that the current policy for TABs be retained.

## **10. Have your say**

10.1 The consultation period runs from 2 March 2010 to 9 April 2010. Additional copies of this Statement of Proposal may be viewed online at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz), obtained from a Wellington City Council service centre or requested by phone (499 4444).

10.1.1 Submissions on the statement may be made to Council from 2 March 2010 until 5:00pm on 9 April 2010. Submissions can be made:

- Electronically at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)
- Or, in writing to Wellington City Council:

Gambling Venues Policy Review:  
c/o Brian O'Sullivan  
Policy Group  
Wellington City Council  
101 Wakefield Street  
PO Box 2199  
WELLINGTON 6140

10.1.2 Any person who makes a submission will have the opportunity to be heard by Council, but must make that request. Oral submissions will be heard by Council on 22 April 2010.

10.1.3 The Local Act 2002 requires the Council to make all written submissions on this consultation available to the public. This requirement is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987.

### **How to get more information:**

10.2 Further information, including the reports referred to in this document, is available on the Council's website [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)

## 10. Conclusion

Under the Gambling Act 2003, Council is required to review its Gambling Venues Policy every three years. There are a limited number of policy options available to Council. However, Council must balance the protection of vulnerable members of the community from problem gambling with the right of people to participate in recreational gambling and to recognise the positive aspects of revenue generated from NCGMs for 'not-for-profit' community organisations.

Because of the 'shame barrier' associated with problem gambling, it is difficult to get precise data on the scope of problem gambling within the Wellington district. Nevertheless, five specific 'areas of concern' have been identified in the Northern, Southern and Western zones and, to a lesser extent, the Eastern zone. Although the current 'cap' has kept machine numbers at a fixed level, these machines are likely to be having an impact on vulnerable members of the community within these areas.

It is recommended that these 'areas of concern' are targeted by setting a population-based cap on NCGM numbers in the capped suburban zones and adopt this as the new policy approach. These caps would be based on a NCGM: population ratio of 1 machine to 300 people within the currently capped zones.

Contact Officer: *Brian O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Advisor*  
*Telephone (04)801-8600*  
*Email: Brian.osullivan@wcc.govt.nz*



## APPENDIX A: Trends in the Number of NCGMs and NCGM Venues in the Capped Wellington District Zones

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for EASTERN ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Eastern Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
Bay Bar	18	18	18
Kilbirnie Tavern	18	18	18
Miramar Bowling Club	6		
Miramar Golf Club	3		
Park Bowling Club	3	3	3
Seatoun RSA	4	4	4
The Corner	18	18	18
The Cutting Sports Cafe	18	18	18
The Local Bar	18	18	18
The Realm Tavern	16	16	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for SOUTHERN ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Southern Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
Bus Stop	18	18	18
Island Bay Rowing Club	4	4	4
Island Bay Services Club	3	3	3
Isonar	18	-	-
Newtown Sports Bar	18	18	18
The Island Bay Bar	-	-	18
The Office Café and Bar*	18	18	18
Windmill Bar and Café	18	18	18
Zoobar	18	18	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>115</b>

\*This bar on premises previously held by Isonar

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for ONSLOW ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Onslow Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
The Village Patisserie	9	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for WESTERN ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Western Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
Café 162	17	17	17
Quiet Lady	18	18	18
Wilton Bowling Club	3	3	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for LAMBTON ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Western Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
Caledonian Hotel	9	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>No. of NCGMs Per Venue for NORTHERN ZONE from Dec 2007</b>			
<b>Northern Zone Venues</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2007</b>	<b>No. Machines at 31 Dec 2008</b>	<b>No. Machines at 30 Sep 2009</b>
Bull & Gate	18	-	-
Clockworks	18	18	18
Jay's Bar	18	18	18
Johnsonville RSA	13	13	13
Johnsonville Bowling Club	6	4	2
Johnsonville Club	18	18	18
Tawa RSA	5	5	5
The Innkeeper Newland	18	18	18
The Innkeeper Johnsonville	18	18	18
Skipping Bull	18	18	18
Casa Bar*	-	-	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>146</b>

\* This bar on premises previously held by Bull& Gate

## **APPENDIX B: Gaming Expenditure within the Wellington District**

This data has been collected, quarterly since 2007, as follows:

<b>Quarter period</b>	<b>Total GMP Quarter</b>	<b>% of total gaming expenditure</b>
Apr- Jun 2007	\$10,666,103	4.49
Jul- Sep 2007	\$11,230,608	4.61
Oct-Sep 2007	\$11,118,101	4.53
Jan –Mar 2008	\$9,672,972	4.43
Apr-Jun 2008	\$10,363,529	4.49
Jul – Sep 2008	\$10,496,153	4.52
Oct – Dec 2008	\$10,332,560	4.48
Jan – Mar 2008	\$9,444,239	4.53
Apr – Jun 2008	\$9,678,581	4.45
Jul – Sep 2009	\$10,134,719	4.59

Source: Gaming Machine Proceeds by District and Society Type – Gambling Statistics: DIA

# **APPENDIX C: GAMBLING VENUES POLICY 2007**

## **1. Introduction**

The Gambling Act 2003 (the Act) came into effect on 18 September 2003 and requires territorial local authorities to have in place a policy which;

- specifies whether or not class 4 venues (hereafter referred to as gaming machine venues may be established in its district and, if so, where they may be located
- may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at any class 4 venue. (The Gambling Act establishes a limit of 9 machines on gaming machines venues)
- specifies whether or not TAB stand-alone venues may be established in the district<sup>13</sup>.

In adopting the policy, the Council must have regard to the social impacts of gambling in its district.

The Wellington City Council adopted a policy in March 2004 – it has now been reviewed as required by the Gambling Act 2003.

## **2. Objectives of the policy**

The objectives of the Gambling Act are, amongst other things, to control the growth of gambling and prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling. Beyond the objectives stated in the Act, the objectives of Wellington City Council's Gambling Venues Policy are to:

- Manage the growth of gaming machines in areas of concern
- Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
- Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

## **3. General Conditions**

A society requires Council's consent in respect of a class 4 venue:

- to increase the number of gaming machines that may be operated at such a venue
- to operate gaming machines at such a venue that was not on any society's licence within the previous 6 months
- to operate gaming machines at such a venue for which a licence was not held on 17 October 2001.

The New Zealand Racing Board requires the consent of the Council if it proposes to establish a Board/TAB venue. In respect of TAB venues, the Gambling Venues Policy will only apply to applications for the establishment of stand-alone Board venues.

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<sup>13</sup> The Racing Act 2003 specifies that a Board venue means the premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services. Historically, these venues were referred to as Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) venues.

Board venues are premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board, where the main business is providing racing and/or sports betting services. It does not cover the installation of TAB terminals in premises not owned or leased by the TAB (e.g. hotels, bars and clubs).

An applicant for Council consent under this policy must:

- meet the application conditions specified in this policy
- meet the fee requirements specified in this policy.

#### **4. Where class 4 (Gaming Machine) venues may be established**

Class 4 gaming venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington district, subject to the following restrictions. Failure to comply with any of the relevant restrictions will result in consent being refused.

- 10.3 For the purposes of this policy the Wellington District is divided into 7 zones. The total number of gaming machines in any zone may not exceed the machine levels detailed in the table below. The maximum number is based on a machine to population ratio of 1 machine:250 people.

<b>Gaming Venue Zones</b>	<b>Maximum number of Machines</b>
Southern	116
Northern	146
Eastern	125
Onslow	62
Western	73
Lambton (excluding the Central Area Zone)	55
Central Area Zone	No limits

- Central Area Zone – is the central area as defined by the District Plan excluding land zoned residential
- Lambton Zone – is that area comprising the Lambton electoral ward as at September 2003 except for the central area.
- Southern Zone – is that area made up of the Southern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Northern Zone - is that area made up of the Northern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Eastern Zone - is that area made up of the Eastern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Western Zone - is that area made up of the Western electoral ward as at September 2003
- Onslow Zone - is that area made up of the Onslow electoral ward as at September 2003

- 4.2 All gaming machine venues must have a current on-licence with a designation, a club liquor licence, or a permanent club charter, under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989<sup>14</sup>.
- 4.3 Applicants whose licences were held on 17 October 2001 may have a maximum of either 9 machines, or the number of machines lawfully operated on 23 September 2003, whichever is the higher number
- 4.4 Applications seeking Ministerial discretion to increase the number of gaming machines at a club venue above 9 will not receive local authority consent
- 4.5 Applications seeking Ministerial discretion to increase the number of gaming machines at a club venue, as the result of clubs merging, will receive consent, subject to the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act
- 4.6 Meeting application and fee requirements
- 4.7 Obtaining any necessary resource consents under the Wellington City District Plan or Resource Management Act.

## **5. Where TAB venues may be established**

TAB venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington District, subject to the provisions of the Wellington City District Plan and meeting application and fee requirements.

## **6. Applications and fees for consents**

All applications for consents must be made on the approved form. All applications will incur a fee, to be known as the Gaming/Gambling Venue Consent Fee, which is prescribed by the Council pursuant to section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002. Fees will be charged for consideration of applications, at the rate of \$90 per hour (GST inclusive). A deposit can be required, with the actual fees incurred coming firstly off the amount of the deposit.

## **7. Decision making**

The Council has 30 working days in which to determine a consent application.

That decision will be made at officer level pursuant to delegated authority and be based on the criteria detailed in this Policy.

In the case of an application relating to a class 4 venue the assessment of the number of gaming machines in the Wellington district will be based on Department of Internal Affairs' official records.

## **8. Appeals**

Applicants have the right to request a review of the decision by Council officers, if it is believed that an error of fact or process has been made.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

The Council will complete a review of the policy within 3 years of its adoption, in accordance with the special consultative procedure outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. Subsequent reviews will take place on a three-yearly cycle, as required by the Gambling Act 2003.

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<sup>14</sup> Applications where the operator is trading on a temporary authority under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 will not be determined until an on licence has been granted for the operator.

## **10. Commencement of Policy**

The policy will take effect from the time the Council resolves to adopt it. The March 2004 policy is revoked on the adoption of this policy. All applications for territorial local authority (Council) consent will be considered under the policy in place at the time the application is received.

## **11. Explanation of terms**

*Class 4 Venue* - The Act categorises gambling activities according to their intensity and potential for harm. Class 4 gambling (non-casino gaming machines) is the highest-risk form outside of a casino. Racing and sports betting, which are covered by the Racing Act 2003, do not fall within this classification system

*Gaming Machine* – Refers to Class 4 non casino gaming machines

*TAB/Board Venue* - The Racing Act 2003 specifies that a Board venue means the premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services.

# **Draft Gambling Venues Policy**

**February 2010**



# Draft Gambling Venues Policy (2010)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Gambling Act 2003 (the Act) came into effect on 18 September 2003 and requires territorial local authorities to have in place a policy which;

- specifies whether or not class 4 venues (hereafter referred to as gaming machine venues) may be established in its district and, if so, where they may be located
- may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at any class 4 venue. (The Gambling Act establishes a limit of 9 machines on gaming machines venues)
- specifies whether or not TAB stand-alone venues may be established in the district<sup>15</sup>.

In adopting the policy, the Council must have regard to the social impacts of gambling in its district.

The Wellington City Council adopted a policy in March 2007– it has now been reviewed as required by the Gambling Act 2003.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the Gambling Act are, amongst other things, to control the growth of gambling and prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling. Beyond the objectives stated in the Act, the objectives of Wellington City Council's Gambling Venues Policy are to:

- Manage the growth of gaming machines in areas of concern
- Ensure that, within the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act, people who wish to participate in gaming machine and TAB venue gambling can do so within the Wellington District
- Ensure that gaming machines are located within venues where there is a degree of supervision and control of those using the machines, to assist in reducing the risk of problem gambling, and gambling by those under 18 years of age.

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<sup>15</sup> The Racing Act 2003 specifies that a Board venue means the premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services. Historically, these venues were referred to as Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) venues.

### 3. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A society requires Council's consent in respect of a class 4 venue:

- to increase the number of gaming machines that may be operated at such a venue
- to operate gaming machines at such a venue that was not on any society's licence within the previous 6 months
- to operate gaming machines at such a venue for which a licence was not held on 17 October 2001.

The New Zealand Racing Board requires the consent of the Council if it proposes to establish a Board/TAB venue. In respect of TAB venues, the Gambling Venues Policy will only apply to applications for the establishment of stand-alone Board venues.

Board venues are premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board, where the main business is providing racing and/or sports betting services. It does not cover the installation of TAB terminals in premises not owned or leased by the TAB (e.g. hotels, bars and clubs).

An applicant for Council consent under this policy must:

- meet the application conditions specified in this policy
- meet the fee requirements specified in this policy.

### 4. Where class 4 (Gaming Machine) venues may be established

Class 4 gaming venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington district, subject to the following restrictions. Failure to comply with any of the relevant restrictions will result in consent being refused.

- 10.4 For the purposes of this policy the Wellington District is divided into 7 zones. The total number of gaming machines in any zone may not exceed the machine levels detailed in the table below. The maximum number is based on a machine to population ratio of 1 machine:300 people.

Gaming Venue Zones	Maximum number of Machines
Southern	100
Northern	136
Eastern	114
Onslow	53
Western	67
Lambton (excluding Central Area Zone)	95
Central Area Zone	No limits

- Central Area Zone – is the central area as defined by the District Plan excluding land zoned residential
- Lambton Zone – is that area comprising the Lambton electoral ward as at September 2003 except for the central area.
- Southern Zone – is that area made up of the Southern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Northern Zone - is that area made up of the Northern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Eastern Zone - is that area made up of the Eastern electoral ward as at September 2003
- Western Zone - is that area made up of the Western electoral ward as at September 2003
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4.2 All gaming machine venues must have a current on-licence with a designation, a club liquor licence, or a permanent club charter, under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989<sup>16</sup>.

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4.5 Applications seeking Ministerial discretion to increase the number of gaming machines at a club venue, as the result of clubs merging, will receive consent, subject to the limits prescribed by the Gambling Act

4.6 Meeting application and fee requirements

4.7 Obtaining any necessary resource consents under the Wellington City District Plan or Resource Management Act.

## **5. WHERE TAB VENUES MAY BE ESTABLISHED**

TAB venues may be established anywhere in the Wellington District, subject to the provisions of the Wellington City District Plan and meeting application and fee requirements.

## **6. APPLICATIONS AND FEES FOR CONSENTS**

All applications for consents must be made on the approved form. All applications will incur a fee, to be known as the Gaming/Gambling Venue

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<sup>16</sup> Applications where the operator is trading on a temporary authority under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 will not be determined until an on licence has been granted for the operator.

Consent Fee, which is prescribed by the Council pursuant to section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002. Fees will be charged for consideration of applications, at the rate of \$90 per hour (GST inclusive). A deposit can be required, with the actual fees incurred coming firstly off the amount of the deposit.

## **7. DECISION MAKING**

The Council has 30 working days in which to determine a consent application.

That decision will be made at officer level pursuant to delegated authority and be based on the criteria detailed in this Policy.

In the case of an application relating to a class 4 venue the assessment of the number of gaming machines in the Wellington district will be based on Department of Internal Affairs' official records.

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Applicants have the right to request a review of the decision by Council officers, if it is believed that an error of fact or process has been made.

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The Council will complete a review of the policy within 3 years of its adoption, in accordance with the special consultative procedure outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. Subsequent reviews will take place on a three-yearly cycle, as required by the Gambling Act 2003.

## **10. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy will take effect from the time the Council resolves to adopt it. The March 2004 policy is revoked on the adoption of this policy. All applications for territorial local authority (Council) consent will be considered under the policy in place at the time the application is received.

## **11. EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

*Class 4 Venue* - The Act categorises gambling activities according to their intensity and potential for harm. Class 4 gambling (non-casino gaming machines) is the highest-risk form outside of a casino. Racing and sports betting, which are covered by the Racing Act 2003, do not fall within this classification system

*Gaming Machine* – Refers to Class 4 non casino gaming machines

*TAB/Board Venue* - The Racing Act 2003 specifies that a Board venue means the premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services.