

Addition Information
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
Australia

Poke Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012

February 26, 2013

On Friday February 22, 2013, I made a presentation to the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform regarding Poke Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012. Please accept this Additional Information.

In my presentation I referred to the fact that we have two IGT slot machines in our University of Waterloo Gambling Research Lab, and that the maximum bet on those machines can be changed using menus that are available to us. There is no programming required to change the maximum bet.

After my presentation to the committee, the next presenter was Ross Ferrar who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Gaming Technology Association. He indicated that on pokie machines in Australia that are fairly new (1-3 years old) that to change the bet to \$1 would cost the manufacturers \$5,000 as they would have to reprogram the game and then go through the regulatory approval process.

After hearing Mr. Ferrar's presentation I went to our lab to double check the process for modifying the maximum bet on our slot machines. Our slot machines are Money Storm and Lucky Larry's Lobstermania and are from the slot machine manufacturer IGT. Both are dated 2000 as identified on a metal plate attached to the slot machine cabinet (we bought them used about 5 years ago).

This Additional Information document is to confirm that on these games I can go into the menu and reconfigure the games to have a \$1 max bet or less. Money Storm has 20 lines and a maximum of 5 credits bet per line for a total maximum bet of 100 credits. When we purchased our Money Storm game it had been set with a credit being worth 5 cents so maximum bet was \$5. For one of our experiments we wanted a max bet of \$1. I went into the slot machine menu and changed it so that one credit was worth 1 cent. So now the maximum bet on that machine is \$1.

Our Lobstermania machine has 15 lines and players can wager 1-5 credits per line for a maximum bet of 75 credits. When we purchased Lobstermania it was set up with each credit being worth 5 cents for a maximum bet of \$3.75. Using menu items, I modified that game so that one credit is now worth 1 cent and thus the maximum bet is now 75 cents.

If these games were in casinos in my jurisdiction of Ontario, Canada, there would be no regulatory approval needed for the casino to reconfigure the maximum bet as the games have already been approved by the regulator.

In this Additional Information, I am confirming that on these two 13 year old IGT games there would not be any programming necessary to reconfigure them with a \$1.00 and \$0.75 maximum bets. Thus there would be no cost to the manufacturer or the casino to reconfigure the maximum bet.

Two photos of the menu are attached.

Sincerely,

Professor Kevin Harrigan
Gambling Research Lab
University Of Waterloo

GAME SELECTION

ENABLED GAMES 1

MONEY STORM 1

DONE

X GAME 1 98.81%
0012948

GAME 2 97.43%
0012949

GAME 3 96.22%
0012950

GAME 4 94.99%
0012951

GAME 5 94.03%
0012952

GAME 6 92.53%
0012953

GAME 7 90.82%
0012954

GAME 8 87.52%
0012955

GAME 9 85.50%
0012956

\$ 0.25

CHANGE

Requires Keychip to change.
Yellow button indicates an enabled game.

DOOR OPEN M

TURN
GAME

HELP

EXIT

GAME SELECTION

ENABLED GAMES 1

MONEY STORM 1

DONE

- GAME 1 98.01% 0012948
- GAME 2 97.43% 0012949
- GAME 3 96.22% 0012950
- GAME 4 94.99% 0012951
- GAME 5 94.03% 0012952

- GAME 6 92.53% 0012953
- GAME 7 90.02% 0012954
- GAME 8 87.52% 0012955
- GAME 9 85.50% 0012956

\$ 0.01

CHANGE

Requires Keychip to change.
Yellow button indicates an enabled game.

DOOR OPEN III

IN
GAME

HELP

EXIT