



3 September 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into the Interactive Gambling Amendment (Prohibition on Credit Card Use) Bill 2020

Thank you for your invitation to appear before a public hearing of the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry into the *Interactive Gambling Amendment (Prohibition on Credit Card Use) Bill 2020* ('the Bill').

Since the announcement of the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry, Responsible Wagering Australia (RWA) has also engaged with the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services (PJCCFS) that is holding a concurrent inquiry into the '*regulation of the use of financial services such as credit cards and digital wallets for online gambling in Australia*'. These two Parliamentary Inquiries address substantially the same matters.

Following the preparation of our submission to your Committee on 29 April 2021, RWA has provided an updated position to the PJCCFS Inquiry and supported this with testimony to a public hearing on 13 August 2021. I have provided my opening statement to the PJCCFS as an attachment, and the full record of my testimony has been published in Hansard and made available on the Committee's website.

During my testimony to the PJCCFS I foreshadowed that the Australian Banking Association (ABA) and technical representatives from within its membership had agreed to meet with RWA to scope the technical elements involved in a credit card prohibition.

I have subsequently written to the Committee Chair, Mr Andrew Wallace MP, informing him that this initial meeting was held on Wednesday 25 August, and we have identified a number of technical questions that we will work through over the coming weeks. This initial discussion will be supported

by dedicated working groups formed from within the RWA and ABA membership. I noted to Mr Wallace that RWA will continue to work towards achieving our good faith commitment to progress this issue in a timely manner and that RWA will keep the Committee informed of major developments as they come to hand.

As RWA members have committed to support development of measures to prohibit credit card wagering – effectively addressing the substantive matters outlined in the Bill – and supported this position with testimony to the PJCCFS, I invite the Committee to review our updated position and the detailed commentary provided in support of this decision.

Following review of this new information, should the Committee have additional questions on our position, RWA would be happy to take questions on notice to advance its examination of the Bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly by telephone on
if RWA can be of any further assistance.

Yours faithfully

Brent Jackson
Chief Executive Officer

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ATTACHMENT

RESPONSIBLE WAGERING AUSTRALIA OPENING STATEMENT TO JCCFS PUBLIC HEARING 13 AUGUST 2021

As a policy-based body we want to achieve the best outcome for consumer protection. We think that the best way of achieving this is by committing to transparent discussion and actively working with stakeholders to make sure we provide the best outcomes.

Australia's major online wagering operators will support development of measures to prohibit credit card wagering.

Responsible Wagering Australia members have agreed to develop a technical solution to deliver this reform in a timely fashion and will seek the assistance of banks and payment processing providers to ensure the change can be delivered without adverse unintended consequences.

Responsible Wagering Australia members acknowledge concerns expressed by policymakers and the community sector and will seek to develop measures which harmonise the online environment with gambling at clubs, pubs and casinos where credit card use is prohibited.

This measure will build on Australia's strong consumer protection framework for online gambling.

Responsible Wagering Australia members recognise and respect community views on this issue and will work constructively on delivering this reform.

To ensure legal compliance, any agreement to implement the measures being developed is subject to relevant parties obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals, including ACCC authorisation.

-ENDS-

Delivered by witness for Responsible Wagering Australia, Chief Executive Officer, Dr Brent Jackson.
