

9 October 2012

Committee Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

To the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform,

**Re: The Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012**

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission regarding the above bill.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the statutory peak body for local government in Victoria.

At its May meeting, the MAV State Council passed a resolution that moved that the MAV advocate for the Minister for Gaming to adopt the following recommendations from the Productivity Commission Inquiry Report on Gambling:

- (i) Lower the bet limit to \$1 per 'button push'
- (ii) Make shutdown periods for electronic gaming machines (EGMs) commence earlier and be of longer duration
- (iii) Require better warnings and prominent information in venues
- (iv) Continue and extend regional caps for EGMs

The MAV therefore strongly supports the Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

Gambling, and the many harms associated with this activity, has been identified as a priority issue of concern to local government. The increasing number and concentration of EGMs in Victoria's most socio-economically disadvantaged communities is of particular concern to councils, with the current regulatory framework for gambling providing little protection to Victoria's most vulnerable. We note that research suggests that EGMs are implicated in around 85% of gambling problems.

The MAV recently provided a submission in response to the Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission (VCEC) issues paper for its inquiry into the social and economic costs of problem gambling in Victoria. A copy of the submission is available on the MAV website and I have also attached a copy to this letter. We would encourage Committee members to read our submission.

Yours sincerely

Rob Spence  
Chief Executive

Encl: MAV submission to the Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission (VCEC) for its inquiry into the social and economic costs of problem gambling in Victoria