

# Tasmanian Gaming Commission

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Committee Secretariat  
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

## INQUIRY INTO PRE-COMMITMENT SCHEMES

I refer to correspondence received by this office on 16 February 2011 from Ms Lyn Beverley, Secretary of the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform, relating to an inquiry into pre-commitment schemes by the Committee.

The correspondence sought information which could provide an understanding of the regulatory environment affecting gaming machines in each jurisdiction. In relation to the specific questions raised in the correspondence I can advise the following with respect to Tasmania:

1. Electronic Gaming Machine operations in Tasmania are regulated under the provisions of the *Gaming Control Act 1993*. The Tasmanian Gaming Commission is the statutory body responsible for the administration of the Act, with support from the Liquor and Gaming Branch of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

The Liquor and Gaming Branch is responsible for undertaking the day-to-day activities related to the provision of gaming in Tasmania. Activities include:

- assessing and processing applications for new licences and permits and applications to amend licences and permits;
- monitoring and investigating the operation of premises where gaming is provided;
- investigating complaints relating to licensed premises; and
- monitoring and auditing external providers such as gaming testing facilities and organisations accredited to deliver Responsible Conduct of Gaming training.

The regulatory environment and monitoring regime in Tasmania is determined by the provisions of the Act. Specifically, section 13 of the Act provides for the

determination and granting of a Casino Operator and Gaming Operator licence which enables the conduct of electronic gaming machine operations in Tasmania. In turn, section 96 of the Act determines that the Gaming Operator is responsible for the electronic monitoring of gaming machine operations in Hotels and Clubs, while the Casino Operator is responsible for the electronic monitoring of gaming machines operations in Tasmanian Casinos.

2. The Liquor and Gaming Branch collects, on a regular monthly basis, gaming machine turnover and expenditure information for gaming conducted at Hotels, Clubs and Casinos. This information, which can be collected at machine level, is used by the Branch to verify the amount of tax payable by the Gaming and Casino Operators. The Branch publishes gaming expenditure information on its website as a combined figure for all venues (including casinos) on a monthly basis. No individual venue expenditure information is published. Further data published includes:
  - gaming and wagering activities in Tasmanian premises;
  - table gaming activities in Tasmanian casinos;
  - gaming and wagering industry data; and
  - the Tasmanian Gaming Commission Annual Report.
3. The Branch has remote access to the Gaming Operator's monitoring systems and is able to login and access a raft of data relating to gaming machine operations in Hotels and Clubs in Tasmania if it chooses to do so. This includes individual machine information relating to turnover, expenditure, machine type and game software information. The Gaming Operator utilises the Sentinel system which operates under the QCOM communications protocol to monitor and control gaming machines operating in Tasmanian Hotels and Clubs. The Casino operators utilise the Dacom system which operates under the Aristocrat Serial Protocol (ASP) for machines operating in Tasmanian casinos.
4. While aware of the Commonwealth's objectives in relation to gaming machine pre-commitment technology, the Branch, at this time, is not currently undertaking any work in relation to pre-commitment systems.

Yours sincerely

Leon Atkinson-MacEwen  
**DIRECTOR, LIQUOR AND GAMING BRANCH**

24 February 2011