



Wattle Range  
COUNCIL

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RE: REVIEW 2006 – REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

Wattle Range Council's Social Issues Sub Committee wish to make the following submission on behalf of Council.

**Mandatory warnings in advertising**

Current advertising on electronic media seems to carry the warning "Gamble responsibly" without any further tag line. The Sub committee felt that this was too ambiguous and did not assist people to evaluate their level of gambling. While the tag used in Queensland, "Gamble responsibly: don't let the game play you" was acceptable, other suggestions included "Gamble responsibly: What's your limit?" The tag line might also reinforce current anti problem gambling campaigns like "gamble responsibly, what are you really gambling with?"

**On and in venue signage**

While most licensees' signage is in keeping with the surrounding environment, there are some whose advertising of gaming products is obtrusive in the extreme. One venue that offered keno had large freestanding advertising outside the venue, large posters on entry and signage and game forms on every table in the dining area. The Sub Committee believes that it would be preferable to have a standardised sign that indicates a gambling venue, to those looking for a venue location, without promoting gambling products to others. The signage would be similar in function to standardised blue and white signs that indicate a public toilet for example.

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#### **Relationship with counselling agencies**

In the submission made by Wattle Range Council in March 2003, it was suggested that gaming machine licences should be issued on an Annual basis, with renewal contingent on demonstrating the implementation of improved harm minimisations strategies by individual licence holders. It is the Sub Committees view that training for staff around indications of problem gambling should be mandatory with more intense training for supervisory staff that includes how to approach a gambler, how to offer assistance and a comprehensive knowledge of local resources. It would be ideal if this training were undertaken by local counselling agencies because it would give gaming staff a contact point into the agency and the counselling agency another income stream to support their ongoing rehabilitation work.

#### **Reporting of potential problem gamblers**

See "Relationship with Counselling Agencies"

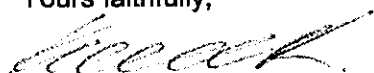
#### **Keno in newsagencies, pharmacies and similar environments**

The Sub Committee felt strongly that even in licensed venues, Keno was heavily promoted and that it was inappropriate for gaming forms and promotion to be on every table, even in general hotel dining rooms. It would be preferable to have gaming forms located in a central place so those who wanted to participate could, without encouraging other patrons to be involved. This would be similar to how TAB venues operate.

#### **Automated coin dispensing, automatic teller machines and cheque cashing facilities**

The Wattle Range Council Sub Committee felt that this was an area that encouraged and facilitated problem gambling. The view of the committee is that coin dispensing machines should not be used. If they are to be used, they should only be in an area clearly visible to gaming staff. Of even more concern is the location of ATM machines in licensed premises that host gaming venues. In almost all local venues, ATM machines while placed outside the gaming room are often only feet from the electronic gaming machines. There is no screening from sight and sounds of the gaming machines while the gambler withdraws money from their account. This can undermine people who intend only to spend a set amount on gambling to compound their losses. Of the small survey undertaken (4 venues) none of the venues with ATM machines, were more than 100 metres from a bank equipped with an ATM. Patrons who are forced to leave the premises to access more money would have a greater opportunity to review whether they wished to continue gambling or not.

Yours faithfully,



Karen Lock  
Community Development Officer