

FACT SHEET

Gaming Control Amendment (Community Interest) Bill 2016

On 17 March 2016, the Treasurer's Ministerial Statement on Gaming announced the introduction of a public interest test (now referred to as a community interest test) to be applied by the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission when a new Licensed Premises Gaming Licence is applied for and the applicant wishes to operate electronic gaming machines on the premises for the first time, including when a current licence holder operating keno only applies to operate EGMs.

The Gaming Control Amendment (Community Interest) Bill 2016 amends the *Gaming Control Act 1993* to:

- introduce the community interest test to take effect upon proclamation of the Amendment Act (expected in early 2017). Proclamation will occur following a public consultation process to determine the relevant community interest matters to be considered by the Commission. These matters will be prescribed in regulations;
- include transitional provisions:

- making it an offence to operate EGMs where an authority to possess EGMs was applied for, and granted or approved from the date of the Government's announcement on 17 March 2016 to the date the Bill receives Royal Assent.

This provision will apply to licences for a new premises or where there has been a six month (or greater) interruption of an authority to possess EGMs on the premises and will have effect until the Amendment Act is proclaimed and the Commission has made a determination with respect to community interest; and

- to provide that licences (referred to in the above dot point) will be subject to the community interest provisions once the Amendment Act is proclaimed.

At that time the Commission must remove the authorisation to possess gaming machines if after taking into account community interest matters, it determines that the authorisation is not in the community interest; and

- introduce a suspension of licence applications and requests to amend a licence to authorise the possession of EGMs on a new premises, or where there has been a six month (or greater) interruption of an authority to possess EGMs on the premises, to apply between the date of Royal Assent and the proclamation of the Amendment Act.