



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE GAMING MARKETS FINAL REPORT

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The Parliamentary Joint Select Committee inquiring into future gaming markets in Tasmania has today released its Final Report with twenty three evidence based recommendations.

Key amongst the findings was that the Government revisit the 150 EGMs reduction cap outlined in the Hodgman Liberal Government post-2023 Gaming Structural Framework with a view to significantly reducing the number of EGMs in Tasmania by 2023 and that the Government work actively with communities that are concerned with EGM density to enable voluntary mechanisms to reduce the number of EGMs in those communities.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mike Gaffney MLC, said *"It is important that Government carefully considers all of the findings and recommendations and importantly take into account all of the views on the future of gaming in Tasmania, which includes a substantial reduction in the number of EGMs in Tasmania. I believe the Committee's work is a foundation for a further discussion with the community on the future of gaming in the State and the Government has much work to do in this regard"* Mr Gaffney stated.

Mr Gaffney said *"The 2017 FGM Inquiry captured the attention of many individuals, organisations, businesses and community groups, and I would like to thank those who assisted the Committee by sharing their opinions and creditable evidence."*

During the hearings, Committee Members heard many accounts from witnesses, which noted the impacts of gambling, especially EGMs, for some individuals, family members and the wider community can be exceptionally damaging.

Mr Gaffney stated that *"Considerable evidence presented to the Committee reinforced the notion that because of the harm created by EGMs, the machines should be confined to Casinos and the TT Line. However, a recommendation*

*supporting a ban on EGMs from hotels and clubs failed to gain support from the majority of the Committee’.*

The Committee supports a future role for the Federal Group in Tasmania and believes that there is scope for the Government to receive a greater return on gaming activities through changes to taxation and gaming related fees.

The Final Report of the Committee is available on the Parliament of Tasmania website at:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Joint/FutureGamingMarkets.htm>.

**For further information: Hon Mike Gaffney MLC – 0409 015 253**

### **Committee Members**

#### *Legislative Council:*

Hon Mike Gaffney MLC (Chair)

Hon Tania Rattray (Deputy Chair) MLC

Hon Robert Armstrong MLC

#### *House of Assembly:*

Scott Bacon MP

Sarah Courtney MP

Andrea Dawkins MP