

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL



OPTIONS TO AMEND HUTT CITY COUNCIL'S CLASS 4 GAMBLING VENUE AND BOARD VENUE POLICY 2015

Gambling machines or 'pokies' in pubs and clubs (i.e. outside a casino) are classified as 'Class 4' gambling. Under the Gambling Act 2003 every Territorial Authority (Council) in New Zealand must adopt a policy on Class 4 gambling venues, and that policy must be reviewed every 3 years.

Hutt City Council's [Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy 2015](#) is currently under review. During this review the Council will consider three options to amend the policy. We are seeking feedback from the community on three proposed options to amend the policy.

Making a submission

Submissions on proposed amendments open on **Tuesday 5 October** and close on **Wednesday 3 November at 5pm..**

A submission can be made by [email or by writing](#). Please make sure your contact details are sent along with your submission if you wish to speak to a committee under public comment, or be updated on decisions and meeting times. You can also make a submission [online](#).

For more information about making a submission, go to: <http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/en/Your-Council/Have-your-say/Make-a-submission/> or phone 04 570 6666.

The next stages

- After the consultation period has finished, Hutt City Council will hold a hearing where members of the public can come and speak to their submissions
- During that meeting the Council will meet to deliberate on the findings and make a decision about whether or not to amend the current policy

Hutt City Council's Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy 2015

Hutt City Council's existing policy was adopted in accordance with section 101 of the Gambling Act 2003. The purpose of the policy is to:

- control the growth of Class 4 gaming machine numbers within Hutt City;
- put in place measures to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling;
- encourage responsible gambling practices and attitudes in Class 4 gambling venues; and
- facilitate community access to information about the funds produced and distributed from Class 4 gambling within the city.

Where Class 4 Gambling venues may be established

Hutt City Council's existing policy places restrictions on new Class 4 gaming venues. Currently Class 4 gaming venues may only be established within the central commercial and Petone commercial activity areas; suburban commercial and special commercial zones; and general recreation activity areas and special recreation activity areas subject to:

- meeting application and fee requirements;

- the number of venues being able to be met within the overall city cap (maximum) on venue licenses determined by Council;
- not being a venue at which the primary activity is a family or children's activity;
- not being adjacent or adjoining to any residential zone, school, early childhood centre, kindergarten, place of worship or other community facility;
- two Class 4 venues may not be adjacent or adjoining.

The existing policy specifies the total maximum number of gaming machines that may operate across the city. Currently the maximum number of gaming machines in Hutt City is capped at 545 and the maximum number of class 4 venues is capped at 39.

Options to Amend the Policy

We are asking for feedback on the following three options to amend the policy:

1. Wellbeing approach – sinking lid	2. Status quo	3. Per capita approach (uses a population based cap on number of machines and venues in the city)
Prevent new gaming machine venues from opening and reduce the number of gaming machines over time.	Retain the current policy without amendment.	Continue to prohibit the location of C4 gaming venues in suburban areas and encourage a limited number of venues to relocate to the two commercial areas. ¹ Place some additional obligations on venue owners.
Objectives • to reduce C4 gaming machine numbers and venues in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt; • to adopt public health approaches to prevent and minimise harm from gambling to support community problem gambling service providers, and monitor C4 Gaming venues; • to provide community access to information about the funds produced and distributed from C4 gaming within the city; and • to facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of C4 gaming in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.	Current objectives • to control the growth of C4 gaming machine numbers in Lower Hutt • put in place measures to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling	Objectives • to reduce C4 gaming machine numbers and venues in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt; • to adopt public health approaches to prevent and minimise harm from gambling, support community problem gambling service providers, and monitor C4 gaming venues; • to provide community access to information about the funds produced and distributed from C4 gaming within the city; and • to facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of C\$ gaming in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.
Sinking lid policy introduced	Leave cap as it is i.e. 545	Reduce cap to the national average per capita – 325 machines and 25 venues.

¹ See attached maps

No new gaming machine licences granted	Retain relocation policy	Retain relocation policy
No merger of venues	Retain merger policy	Remove merger policy – treat as new application
Venue licences cannot be transferred to a new location	Social impact assessment not a current requirement	Social impact assessment completed by venue owner
Establish council operational policy on C4 gaming machines in council owned buildings – remove machines when policy approved	No policy or restriction on C4 gaming machines in Council owned buildings	Establish council operational policy on C4 gaming machines in council owned buildings – no new machines in venues but no effect on current venues
Establish council policy on gaming machine funds – do not apply for these funds	No policy on Council use of gaming machine funds	No policy on council use of gaming machine funds – reduce then exclude over 3 year period of Class 4 Policy
Kaitiaki (operational) approach • Location assessed as appropriate • All applications incur a licensing fee • Best practice guidelines • Gaming venues assessed as part of routine enforcement work • Self-excluded patrons supported • Non-club Class 4 to provide additional evidence of primary business sustainability.	Status quo operations	Kaitiaki (operational) approach • Location assessed as appropriate • All applications incur a licensing fee • Best practice guidelines • Gaming venues assessed as part of routine enforcement work • Self-excluded patrons supported • Non-club Class 4 to provide additional evidence of primary business sustainability.

Option 1 – sinking lid

Under this option no new Class 4 licenses will to be granted by Hutt City Council. Venues licences would not be allowed to be transferred to another location, and once a Class 4 venue is closed for more than 6 months it cannot be reopened by another operator.

Option 2 – status quo

Under this option the current policy remains in force.

Option 3 – per capita approach

Under this option, a cap of 325 machines and 25 venues would be introduced. This would align the number of machines and venues with the national average. The relocation aspect of the current policy would remain as will the prohibition of the location of class 4 gaming venues in suburban areas and encourage a limited number of venues to relocate to the two commercial areas. Some additional obligations would be placed on venue owners and Council would play a more active role.

For more information about the proposed options, please read the full statement of proposal. This is available online, at the Hutt City Council administration building and at Hutt City Facilities.

For any enquiries, please contact Wendy Moore, Head of Strategy and Planning on 04 570 6666 or wendy.moore@huttcity.govt.nz.