



18 April 2019

Submission on increasing the EGM's by 60 at Skycity Casino

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on...

Background about Community Waikato

2. Community Waikato is a charitable trust providing capacity building and capability services for community and social service organisations¹ throughout the Waikato region. We work to strengthen organisations so that they can be effective and sustainable to maintain social wellbeing within their own communities. In turn, such wellbeing underpins and enhances the development and achievement of economic, environmental, cultural and social wellbeing of the community and its wider district.
3. Our services build on and add to the knowledge and skills of personnel within community organisations so that local service provision is enhanced and social capital in the region is increased.
4. Community Waikato works one-to-one with community organisations to support their capacity and we provide training, support, and advice to organisations about: governance, management, planning (operational, strategic, financial and funding), financial systems, funding applications, accountability, legal structures, risk management, compliance and legal/organisational structures.
5. Community Waikato facilitates and/or supports community networks to provide opportunities for information sharing, sharing ideas and experience, forming relationships, seeking advice, and support amongst peers. We support collaborative projects, many of which arise from the networks that identify common issues and then they work together towards a viable solution.
6. Community Waikato provides vital information across the region's social services sector, which includes over 2200 registered charities. As well, being a Tindall Foundation and Len Reynolds Trust regional funding manager, we gain invaluable insights into the work and needs of organisations which informs our overall knowledge and sector overview.

¹ "Community and social service organisations" include: charitable trusts, incorporated societies, not-for-profit organisations, marae and community centres.



We submit as follows:

Comment on the proposal to remove 3 blackjack tables and install 60 EGM's

7. Community Waikato does not support Hamilton Skycity Casino's proposal to remove 3 blackjack tables in favour of 60 electronic gaming machines.
8. We contend that this is counterproductive to the health and wellbeing of our community.
9. We acknowledge that the Community and Social Service sector is at times a beneficiary of proceeds of the EGM's from Hamilton Skycity Casino.
10. Many community and social service organisations engage in extensive discussions to determine their level of comfort in applying for a grant that is funded through the proceeds of EGM's. Some choose to pursue this funding and others decide that it is ethically incompatible to receive funding from this source.
11. It is disingenuous to suggest that the sector relies on funding from EGM's to survive. The funding environment is complex and community and social service organisations face many challenges in ensuring their organisations are financially sustainable. Relying on not only one type of funding (grant funding) but one funder (Hamilton Skycity Casino) would suggest an organisation is neither resilient nor sustainable.
12. Community Waikato advises Social Service and Community organisations look to incorporate a diversified portfolio of revenue streams including a mix of grant funding, donations, membership fees, enterprises, contracts for service, sponsorships and fundraising.
13. Community Waikato asserts that the harm caused by additional EGM's (see submissions from The Problem Gambling Foundation, Anglican Action and the Salvation Army) is not mitigated by the funding that is distributed to the Community and Social Service sector.

We thank you for this opportunity to enter a submission.

Kind Regards

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