



HOSPITALITY | CLUBS | *Amendments to the Gaming Machine Act – a status report for Community Clubs*

June 2014

Earlier this year, as part of the Newman Government's far-reaching and, in our view very welcome, red tape reduction measures, amendments were proposed to the *Gaming Machine Act 1991 (Qld)* and *Gaming Machine Regulation 2002 (Qld)*. These initiatives included:

- 1 Enabling community clubs in Queensland to hold a maximum of 300 gaming entitlements under the revised gaming machine licence provisions. This is an increase from the previous limit of 280 gaming entitlements;
- 2 Changing the threshold for approval of a licensed premises as an "additional premises" on community clubs' gaming machine licences. Under the changes, approval by the Commissioner can be given where:
“(a) it is in the best interests of the applicant's members that the approval be given; and
(b) the giving of the approval is not contrary to the public interest.”
- 3 Allowing those community clubs in Queensland that have additional premises endorsed on their gaming machine licences to have up to 450 gaming machines across two sites or 500 gaming machines across three sites, with no more than 300 machines at one venue.

Which of these amendments are in force and which are still pending?

The increase of the maximum number of gaming entitlements is outlined in the [Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation \(No. 2\) 2014](#). This provision is in force from 14 March 2014.

The [Construction and Tourism \(Red Tape Reduction\) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 \(Qld\)](#) (the Act) was passed by Parliament on 20 May 2014. Whilst the Act outlines the commencement details of a number of provisions contained in the new legislation, it is silent as to when changes regarding the "additional premises" come into effect. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the *Gaming Machine Act 1991 (Qld)* has been updated to include the provision. This is a peculiar anomaly.

Despite past Government announcements, there is currently no evidence of the promised changes to increase the number of gaming machines permitted across multiple sites, as outlined above. We advise that these changes will not become law until further amendments are made to the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2002 (Qld)*. There is no set date for this, but we are informed that the changes should be made around 30 June 2014.



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