



Gambling & TAB Venues Policy

Consultation Document

Submissions close 9am, Wednesday 21 December 2022



Waimate
District Council



Purpose

The Waimate District Council is undertaking consultation on its proposed policy to regulate and minimise relevant types of gambling in the district, titled 'Gambling & TAB Venues Policy'. This policy has been prepared under the Gambling Act 2003, Local Government Act 2002 and the Racing Industry Act 2020.

Once adopted, this policy will replace Council's existing Gambling Venue Policy 2018 and TAB Board Venue Policy 2018.

The Consultation Document, including the existing and draft policies, are available at Council's main office (125 Queen Street, Waimate) and/or Council's website waimatedc.govt.nz

Why do we need to review this policy?

The Gambling Act 2003 and Racing Industry Act 2020 require Council to have a policy on class 4 gambling and Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) venues.

What is class 4 gambling?

Class 4 gambling refers to any activity that involves the use of gaming machines (also known as 'pokies') outside of a casino (e.g. in pubs and clubs) and may only be run by a licensed corporate society. Class 4 gambling rules also state these machines can only be used to raise money for community organisations and for non-commercial purposes.

Council can use a policy to control the total number of machines in the district and per venue, and the location of these venues.

What is a TAB venue?

A TAB venue is a premise that is owned or leased by TAB New Zealand where its main business is providing horse/greyhound racing betting and sports betting services. A council must develop a policy which specifies whether or not new TAB venues may be established in that district and, if so, where they can be located.



Reasons for this proposal

Council's draft Gambling & TAB Venues Policy sets out if and where non-casino gaming machines or TAB machines can be located within the Waimate District and also provides restrictions on the number of machines at the venues.

In addition, the policy is required to specify whether or not new TAB venues may be established and, if so, where they may be located. The Council's existing policy has a cap of 20 gaming machines and does not allow new class 4 (non-casino) or TAB venues within the district.

Further to this, there are limited ways a council can influence the harm caused by gambling. One way is to prevent new venues opening, and therefore decreasing the opportunity for gambling to occur. This can be done by lowering the total number of machines that are allowed to operate in the district.

The approved number of machines for the district currently sits at 20. The current policy also allows for a venue to relocate to another part of the district, so that a venue can take the same number of machines to a new venue as it had at the original venue.

As at November 2022, there are two class 4 gambling venues and 16 gaming machines in the Waimate District.

Draft policy

The draft policy provides for a cap of 16 gaming machines with this number reflective of the number of machines approved to operate in the district under the proposed changes.

Most importantly, the draft proposes the adoption of a 'sinking lid' approach to the management of both class 4 gambling and TAB venues in the district. It means that under the proposed policy Council will not grant consent to permit any increase in the number of class 4 venues, or number of TAB venues, or number of class 4 gaming machines.

This will result in a natural attrition in the number of venues and machines over time, but would not affect existing venues or current community grant funding in the short term as the decline occurs slowly.

The new policy proposes that a relocation policy be permitted if the current licensed venues become unsafe or damaged, or if the license holder propose to relocate to a more appropriate area.

Options



Option 1 (status quo)

The current cap of 20 gaming machines remain, as well as the ability to apply for consent to establish new venues if the overall number of machines remain under the given cap.

A relocation policy is not included.

Option 2 (sinking lid and relocation policy)

The policy has a sinking lid on the number of class 4 gaming machines and prevents any consent being issued for the establishment of any new class 4 gambling or TAB venues.

The policy also allows for the application of relocation of class 4 gambling and TAB venues – subject to criteria being met (refer to draft policy).

Key dates



Submissions open:	Monday 21 November 2022
Submissions close:	Wednesday 21 December 2022, 9am
Submission hearings:	Tuesday 31 January 2023
Decision made by Council:	Tuesday 31 January 2023

Submission Form

Gambling & TAB Venues Policy



Personal details

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Privacy

A full copy of all submissions will be made publicly available.

Would you like your contact details withheld?

Yes

No

Hearing

Would you like to speak to your submission?

Yes

No

Your feedback

Which of the following options do you prefer? (please choose only one)

Option 1 (status quo)

A policy with a cap of 20 class 4 gaming machines and allows new consent applications for new venues.

Option 2 (Council's preferred option)

A sinking lid policy, where the cap automatically decreases where a venue surrenders its license; prevents new consents being issued for any new class 4 or TAB venues; and permits relocation applications if outlined criteria are met.

Do you have any feedback or changes you would like to see in the policy?

Thank you for your submission

How do I make a submission?

All submissions must be received by **9am, Wednesday 21 December 2022**.

- **Online:** waimatedc.govt.nz
- **Email:** Scan and email your submission to submission@waimatedc.govt.nz ('Gambling & TAB Venues Policy' in subject field)
- **Post:** Gambling & TAB Venues Policy, Waimate District Council, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960
- **Deliver:** To Council reception at 125 Queen Street, Waimate

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