

# Review of the Hamilton City Gambling Policies

## What are we doing?

We are reviewing Hamilton's two gambling policies. The gambling policies control where gaming machines (pokies) and stand alone TABs can be located in the city.

## Why are we doing it?

We are required to review the policies every three years. This review is taking place a little earlier than three years to ensure the policies align with changes to the Gambling Act.



## What do the gambling policies do?

The Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and the TAB Board Venues Policy broadly control the location and numbers of gaming machines and where stand alone TABs can be located in the city.

## What is the purpose of the gambling policies?

### **Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to control places where gambling machines, known as pokies, are located in the city. The policy aims to minimise harm caused by Class 4 Gambling.

### **TAB Board Venues Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to control the location of stand alone TAB board venues (places run by the racing board where racing betting or sports betting are carried out) in Hamilton. The policy aims to reduce gambling-related harm.

## What changes are we proposing to the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy?

We have put forward two relocation options for these venues for the public to provide feedback on:

- stop all relocation of venues (sinking lid approach)
- allow relocation but only if it is from outside gambling permitted areas to inside a gambling permitted area (limited relocation).

## What changes are we proposing to the TAB Board Venues Policy?

We are proposing to stop all relocation of TAB Board Venues. Currently the policy allows up to four Board Venues in Hamilton but there are currently only two in the city. This indicates that there is limited demand for these premises. Additionally there are no restrictions on the number or location of TABs located in pubs (known as TAB agencies).

## Why are we proposing these changes to the policies?

The aim of these policies is to reduce harm caused by gambling in the community. The proposed changes will reduce the number of gambling venues in the city over time.

