



Gaming Policy Update Information Sheet

This information sheet is about gaming policy proposed to be introduced by Knox City Council.

The proposed policy documents include:

- Draft Gaming Policy Direction Paper, October 2015
- Electronic Gaming Policy, 2015
- Proposed amendments to the Knox Planning Scheme:
 - Introducing a Gaming Local Policy (Clause 22.12)
 - Updating the list of shopping complexes in Knox where new gaming machines are prohibited (Schedule to Clause 52.28-3).

Council's responsibility concerning gaming includes:

- deciding on planning applications to use or install electronic gaming machines or use and develop land for a gaming premises under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and;
- making submissions to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) for applications under the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* (the Gambling Act).

The introduction of gaming policy is required to outline Council's policy direction for gaming machines to provide guidance on making submissions to the VCGLR and specify how discretion will be used in deciding on applications for new gaming machines.

Gaming Policy Direction Paper

- Provides a research basis to inform policy direction for Council in relation to its responsibilities concerning gaming.
- Provides background information including outlining economic and social impacts of gaming, gaming-related government initiatives and analyses statistical data on gaming machine trends within Knox and statewide.
- Introduces five key principles to provide strategic guidance for Council when making decisions on gaming applications and as a basis for introducing performance criteria in the Knox Planning Scheme.

Electronic Gaming Policy

- Updates Council's policy for electronic gaming machines and informs Council submissions under the Gambling Act.
- Provides a policy goal of mitigating the negative social and economic impacts of electronic gaming on local communities.

- Provides policy objectives and approaches/actions which include, among other matters:
 - policies to guide Council's response to gaming applications;
 - identifying and understanding gaming-related impacts on the community;
 - community education initiatives; and
 - advocating for reform.

Further information

Find out more about the Electronic Gaming Policy by contacting Sharon Barker in Social Policy and Planning on 9298 8180.

Find out more about the proposed planning scheme amendments by contacting Susan Thompson on 9298 8184 or Stevie Meyer on 9298 8482 in Strategic Planning, City Futures.

Knox Planning Scheme Amendment

Proposed changes to the Knox Planning Scheme include:

- Introducing a Local Planning Policy to guide decision-making and state how discretion should be exercised on planning applications to use or install gaming machines or to use and develop land for a gaming premises. This includes introducing objectives, performance criteria, application requirements and decision guidelines.
- Updates the list of shopping complexes listed in the schedule to Clause 52.28-3 where the use or installation of gaming machines is prohibited.

Consultation process

A targeted consultation process will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders over a period of 4 weeks.

The proposed Electronic Gaming Policy, Draft Gaming Policy Direction Paper and changes to the Knox Planning Scheme will be published on the Council's website for public comment.

Further consultation will occur in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* when a planning scheme amendment is undertaken following the initial targeted consultation process and Council adoption of the documents.

