



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

**Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**  
REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT  
Gaming Machine Control (Responsible  
Gambling) (Lighting and Views)  
Regulations 2001

Notice is given under Section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Gaming Machine Control (Responsible Gambling) (Lighting and Views) Regulations 2001.

The objective of the Regulations is to foster responsible gambling by requiring proper levels of lighting in gaming machine areas of approved venues and the casino; and the retention of existing external views in gaming machine areas of approved venues and the casino.

There are presently no standards with which venue operators and the casino operator must comply with respect to proper levels of lighting, or the provision of an external perspective in venues.

An Inquiry Report by the Productivity Commission in 1999 on Australia's Gambling Industries noted that a recurrent claim by care agencies was that the absence of clocks and natural lighting contributes to excessive gaming, by detaching people from the outside world or creating a timeless environment.

Public responses to a Government consultation paper on responsible gaming, issued in March 2000, included submissions by various interested parties calling for better lighting and the installation of clocks on all gaming machines in Victoria.

On 30 January 2001, the Premier, the Honourable Steve Bracks MP, announced the Government's intention to introduce new regulations requiring the provision of lighting in gaming venues as part of the Government's responsible gaming strategy.

For these reasons, the Regulations are proposed.

The proposed Regulations provide that:

- lighting in the gaming areas of venues and the casino must comply with certain minimum and average requirements specified in the Schedule to the Regulations;

- the Director of Gaming and Betting may order the closure of a gaming machine area in an approved venue or the casino if, in the opinion of the Director, the lighting in that area does not comply with the requirements of the Regulations;
- provide that an existing external perspective in an approved venue or a casino must not be removed or obscured;
- impose penalties of 20 penalty units (\$2000) for breaches of the Regulations.

The RIS estimates the costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations in comparison to identified alternatives. The RIS concludes that the proposed Regulations justify any costs of implementation, compliance and monitoring.

Copies of the RIS are available from the Office of Gambling Regulation at Level 5, 35 Spring Street Melbourne 3000 between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm weekdays, telephone 9651 3333. A copy may also be downloaded from [www.ogr.vic.gov.au](http://www.ogr.vic.gov.au)

Public comments or submissions are invited on the proposed Regulations and RIS. All comments and submissions must be received in writing by Mr Bill Lahey, Director of Gaming and Betting, Director of Casino Surveillance, Office of Gambling Regulation, PO Box 1988R, Melbourne, Vic., 3001, no later than 5.00 pm on 28 November 2001. All comments and submissions will be treated as public documents.

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