



Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 64 Friday 4 May 2001
By Authority, Victorian Government Printer

SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Gaming Machine Control (Clocks) 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 (Clocks) Regulations 2001.

The objective of the Regulations is to foster responsible gambling by requiring the time of day to be displayed on gaming machines, so that players can be aware of the time of day and the passage of time.

Wall clocks have been provided by gaming operators to gaming venues, but clocks on machines have not as yet been addressed in Victorian gaming industry codes of practice or other gaming industry publications.

A report by the Productivity Commission in 1999 on Australia's gambling industries noted claims by agencies caring for problem gamblers that the absence of clocks may contribute to excessive gaming by creating a timeless environment. Responses to the Victorian Minister for Gaming's Responsible Gambling Consultation Paper, released in March 2000, included submissions calling for 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 clocks on Victorian gaming machines as part of the Government's responsible gaming strategy. For these reasons, the Regulations are proposed.

The proposed Regulations:

- require each gaming machine available in gaming venues and the casino to display the time in accordance with the proposed Regulations;
- detail how and where the time is to be displayed;
- require a venue operator to inform immediately the relevant gaming operator if a gaming machine does not display the time in accordance with the proposed Regulations;

- require gaming operators and the casino operator not to permit a gaming machine to be played if it does not display the time in accordance with the proposed Regulations;
- allow the Director of Gaming and Betting to issue a notice to a gaming operator or the casino operator to remove from use a gaming machine that does not display the time in accordance with the proposed Regulations; and
- imposes penalties of 20 penalty units (\$2000) for breaches of the proposed Regulations.

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

Copies of the RIS are available from the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority at Level 9, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, telephone 9651 3333. A copy may also be downloaded from www.gambling.vcga.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
Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority
PO Box 1988R
Melbourne, Vic. 3001

no later than 5pm on Friday, 1 June 2001.

All comments and submissions will be treated as public documents.

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 Periodical — \$113.00 each year.

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 125 Highbury Road, Burwood Vic 3125
 Telephone: (03) 9926 1233
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 ISSN 0819-5471

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 State of Victoria
 Government Information and Communications Branch
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Level 3, 356 Collins Street
 Melbourne 3000
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Subscriptions

The Craftsman Press Pty. Ltd.
 125 Highbury Road, Burwood
 Victoria, Australia 3125
 Telephone enquiries: (03) 9926 1233
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Information Victoria Bookshop
 356 Collins Street Melbourne 3000.
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 Melbourne 3000
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Price Code A