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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

GAMING MACHINE CONTROL (RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2002

Notice of decision

I, John Pandazopoulos MP, Minister for Gaming, give notice under section 12 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, of my decision to recommend to the Governor in Council that the proposed Gaming Machine Control (Responsible Gambling Information) Regulations 2002 be made.

Objective and effect of the proposed Regulations

The objective of the Regulations is to foster responsible gambling by regulating the provision to players of gaming machines of information relevant to gaming on gaming machines.

The proposed Regulations—

- Provide that the Minister may specify standards for the form and content of player information brochures, posters and talkers;
- Require the gaming operators to print and distribute to all venues copies of the standard posters, brochures and talkers;
- Require all gaming venues, (including the casino), to display and have available the distributed posters, brochures and talkers;
- Require each gaming machine to display the following information in relation to each game that may be played on that machine—
 - the return to players of that game; and
 - the average number of individual games played per any win; and
 - the chances or odds of achieving the top and bottom five individual winning combinations; and
 - the maximum and minimum bet options available.
- Require each gaming machine to display the following player information on screen—
 - how much money (expressed in dollars and cents) the player has received, either as accrued credits or cash, from the gaming machine during a session; and
 - how much money (expressed in dollars and cents) the player has spent, either in credits or cash, on the gaming machine during a session;
 - the player's net win or loss;
 - the current time of day; and
 - the time the player began.

These requirements will apply to all new gaming machine games from 1 January 2003, and will apply to all existing gaming machine games by 1 January 2008.

The proposed Regulations require gaming machines to display the following information if those gaming machines are part of a linked jackpot arrangement—

- a statement that the game is part of a linked jackpot arrangement; and
- the total return to players of the game, being the sum of the return to players contributed by the game and the return to players contributed by the linked jackpot arrangement; and
- the return to players of the game contributed by the linked jackpot arrangement.

These requirements will apply in relation to a new game, on and after 1 January 2003 or, for any other game, on and after 1 January 2008.

The proposed Regulations also—

- require a gaming operator and a casino operator not to permit a gaming machine to be played if it does not or is unable to display electronic game information or electronic player information;
- 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 or is unable to display electronic game information or electronic player information;
- impose penalties of 20 penalty units (\$2000) for breaches of the proposed Regulations.

They will affect gaming operators, venue operators and the casino operator, and players of gaming machines.

Receipt of submissions

A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was prepared for the proposed Regulations and the public was invited to make written submissions on the proposed Regulations and RIS. Fourteen submissions were received and most were supportive of the objectives of the proposed Regulations. Some suggested minor changes to the proposed Regulations.

Changes to the proposed Regulations

A note has been added to the definition of “cashier area” to clarify that it is an area in an approved venue or casino where a person may collect or redeem gaming tokens as defined in the **Gaming Machine Control Act 1991** from a cashier.

The definition of “session” has been amended to provide for an automatic time-out after 60 seconds of no game play, in case a player does not elect to receive the information.

Regulation 5(3)(b) has been amended to clarify that player information posters must be displayed in such a manner that the information contained in them is clearly visible to a person sitting or standing in front of a gaming machine.

Regulation 7 has been amended to specify that the total number of player information brochures available in an approved venue or casino must be the same as the number of gaming machines in the gaming machine area of the approved venue or casino.

Regulation 11(b) has been amended to clarify that electronic game information about the average number of individual games played per any win is based on one line being played per game.

Regulation 21 has been amended to add a new sub-regulation (4) as follows:

“(4) On request by a venue operator with whom a gaming operator has a contract for the supply of gaming machines, the gaming operator must, within 14 days of the request, provide the venue operator with any further linked jackpot arrangement talkers that the venue operator needs to enable the venue operator to comply with sub regulation (3).”

The commencement date of the Regulations is 1 July 2002.

Obtaining copies of the Regulations

After 1 July 2002 copies of the Regulations will be available from Information Victoria, Ground floor, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, telephone 1 300 366 356; internet www.information.vic.gov.au; and may be viewed on the internet at: www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/

JOHN PANDAZOPOULOS MP
Minister for Gaming

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