

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

New gambling reform laws introduced

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On 1 November 2018, the Attorney-General is introducing the Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

The Bill contains amendments that:

- create a new Community Contributions Scheme which focuses on improving the effectiveness, transparency and community benefit of the scheme,
- give effect to *the Pathway to 4,000 Gaming Machine Authorisations* which the Government announced on 23 August 2018. The details about the Pathway, incentives for voluntary surrender of authorisations, and club industry diversification support can be found in the [Pathway document](#), and
- provide additional enforcement and transparency measures, and a higher maximum financial penalty for disciplinary action under the *Gaming Machine Act 2004*.

The Government is also releasing an exposure draft regulation which proposes the following changes to the scope of what can be claimed as community contributions, including amendments that:

- provide further details about allowable community purpose contributions and expenditure that is not a community purpose contribution
- prohibit claims related to the licensee's business activities including individual entitlements for staff
- prohibit claims for contributions to professional sports, including wages, coaches, ancillary staff and other costs, with the exception of contributions that specifically support and increase participation in women's sport, and
- restrict claims related to maintenance of facilities to align with the proportion of time the facility is available to the community, or where there is a demonstrated connection to supporting women's participation in sport.

The exposure draft of the regulation will be available at www.legislation.act.gov.au after the Bill is presented.

Written and email submissions on the exposure draft regulation are invited until **COB Friday 30 November 2018** to:

Liquor, Racing and Gaming Policy
Justice and Community Safety Directorate
GPO BOX 158 CANBERRA ACT 2601

E-mail: LRGPolicy@act.gov.au

For a summary of government initiatives about gambling, please click on the factsheets below:

- [Better Regulatory Tools to Prevent Gambling Harm](#)
- [Strengthening Our Community Contributions Scheme](#)
- [What Happens Next in Gaming Reform](#)

Pathway to 4,000 Gaming Machine Authorisations

On 23 August 2018 the Attorney-General tabled the *Pathway to 4,000 Gaming Machine Authorisations* document that sets out how the number of gaming machine authorisations in the ACT will be reduced to 4,000 by 2020.

This Pathway implements the Government's commitment in the *Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly* and takes into account the recommendations of the [Club Industry Diversification Support Analysis](#) undertaken earlier this year by Mr Neville Stevens AO.

The pathway includes financial and non-financial incentives for clubs to voluntarily surrender gaming machine authorisations by end January 2019.

If a reduction to 4,000 authorisations cannot be achieved by voluntary surrenders, compulsory surrender of authorisations will occur in April 2019 and April 2020.

The gaming machine trading scheme will continue, with one-in-four authorisations being forfeited, which will further contribute to reducing gaming machine numbers.

Details about the Pathway, incentives and club industry diversification support can be found in the [Pathway document](#).

For further information, please contact:

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