



The Hon. Marlene Kairouz

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

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Dear Minister

The Alliance for Gambling Reform is concerned that no Electronic Gaming Machine Cap exists in Melbourne's CBD. As you will be aware the "no cap for the central city" policy is a long-standing one. At the time of its introduction the CBD had hardly any residents. This is no longer the case.

I understand that there are now 44,000 residents living in the CBD; it constitutes a community which needs to be considered. It is a part of Melbourne which is particularly accessible by public transport and so the 595 poker machines in the uncapped area also have consequences for residents well beyond the City of Melbourne.

I understand that the City of Melbourne has commissioned various research and analysis to inform a new gaming policy for its planning scheme, as well as a decision-making framework to guide their approach to new applications for Electronic Gaming Machines as well as consider broader gambling issues.

Findings from that research include that compared with metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, the City of Melbourne has an above average number of EGM licenses and number of venues. Expenditure is greater in total, per adult, and per EGM compared to the metropolitan and Victorian average, and there is a greater density of EGMs per 1000 adults. Nine of Melbourne's operating gaming venues are located in the Hoddle Grid, and average expenditure in these venues is more than double the average expenditure in the other two venues in Carlton and Flemington. These statistics exclude Crown Casino.

Your most recent issuing of orders under the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, made in September 2017, renewed the "no cap" status for the CBD, at Part 5. The Alliance for Gambling Reform respectfully requests that you re-examine this issue in the light of the dramatic population growth which has taken place in the CBD, with a view to giving CBD residents the same protections enjoyed by residents throughout metropolitan Melbourne.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Kelvin Thomson

Campaign Organiser

Alliance for Gambling Reform

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