



Department of Racing, Gaming & Liquor
Government of Western Australia

Your Ref :

Our Ref : G02/09/04-07

Enquiries: Mark Beecroft
9425 1881

Mr Elton Humphrey
Committee Secretary
Australian Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphrey

ATMS AND CASH FACILITIES IN LICENSED VENUES BILL 2008

Thank you for letter of 5 September 2008 inviting submissions on the *ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008* (the Bill).

Unlike other jurisdictions, Western Australia does not have electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in the wider community in licensed premises such as hotels and clubs and restricts access to EGMs to a single venue, the Burswood Entertainment Complex.

Western Australia supports national initiatives that reduces harm to people impacted by the effects of problem gambling, and was supportive of the national approach to developing a code of practice/industry standard relating to withdrawals from ATMs and EFTPOS facilities in and around gambling venues.

However, in attempting to establish such a code/standard in 2006 the Ministerial Council on Gambling noted that the financial transaction sector would not voluntarily introduce changes to systems to provide for the restriction of cash withdrawals from ATMs at gambling venues. Consequently, it was accepted that, in the absence of Commonwealth legislation, it was not possible to implement daily cash restrictions from ATMs.

In terms of the Bill, Western Australia does not issue gaming machine licences, however, has issued a casino gaming licence authorising the licensee to operate EGMs on the licensed gaming area. In this regard, the Gaming and Wagering Commission approves the number of EGMs permitted.

In respect to ATMs and cash facilities at the Burswood Complex, its "isolated" location means that it is not convenient for patrons to access ATMs away from the complex. In addition, the multiple entertainment options provided at the venue also means that patrons other than those participating in gaming also utilise ATMs located throughout the complex.

In regard to gaming operations, Burswood does offers its patrons a service that allows them to access EFTPOS facilities on the main gaming floor that only permits withdrawals from savings accounts and does not permit funds being withdrawn from credit accounts.

In balancing the needs of patrons attending the Burswood Entertainment Complex for a variety of attractions with harm minimisation strategies the Gaming and Wagering Commission recently implemented a policy prohibiting ATM's:

- in the area to which the casino gaming licence relates; and
- within 40 metres of any entrance to the gaming floor of the casino unless the ATM restricts a person to a cash withdrawal of \$400 per day from any debit or credit card.

Should you require any further information please contact Mark Beecroft, Principal Policy Officer, on (08)9425 1881 or at mark.beecroft@rgl.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely


Barry A Sargeant
DIRECTOR GENERAL

12 September 2008