



POLICY

REDUCE GAMBLING HARM

Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State Government to provide the area with a regional limit cap for Electronic Gaming Machines, with the aim to reduce losses and harm from Electronic Gaming Machines.

CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of around 45,000¹ and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria². In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 230,000³. Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, already our communities suffer high losses from electronic gaming machines, and recently our municipal limit of these machines was increased by 25% from 239 to 299⁴.

Our community's vulnerability to electronic gaming machines is evident through high usage and losses, and as our population grows, without intervention, these statistics will continue to worsen.

GAMBLING STATISTICS

- > Over \$17 million was lost by players on gaming machines in Mitchell Shire in the last 12 months⁵.
- > Over 40% of those losses came from machines located in Seymour⁵.
- > Our average loss per adult in Mitchell Shire is \$566 per year, higher than the Victorian average of \$542⁵.

THE ASK

THE ASK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:

1. REGIONAL CAP FOR MITCHELL SHIRE

Mitchell Shire is a rapidly growing area that already has high losses to electronic gaming machines. The implementation of a regional cap is required to curbed any increases in these losses.

2. REDUCTION IN ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE HARM

To introduce legislative changes that focus on reforms for electronic gaming machines permits and placement including; the limiting of venue opening hours, limiting access to cash machines and increasing community input into planning approval for new venues.

3. INCREASED INVESTMENT BACK INTO COMMUNITY

To increase genuine investment into the community from gaming venues that make a demonstrated positive impact.

1. Forecast.id.com.au. (2018). Population forecasts, Mitchell Shire, forecast.id [online] Available at: forecast.id.com.au/mitchell [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].

2. Allan, G. and Allan, G. (2018). Australia's top 20 fastest growing areas, .id blog. [online] .id blog. Available at: blog.id.com.au/2017/population/population-trends/australias-top-20-fastest-growing-areas/ [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].

3. Potential Development Sequencing Northern Growth Corridor. (2016). Final Version, PATCH design and plan, (calculated on new figure of 17 dwellings/ha).

4. Vcglr.vic.gov.au. (2018). Gambling Regulation Act 2003. Available at: vcglr.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Ministerial_Order_-_new%20regional_caps_and_municipal_limits.pdf [Accessed 30 Jan. 2018].

5. Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation. (2018). Data and research. [online] Available at: vcglr.vic.gov.au/resources/data-and-research [Accessed 30 Jan. 2018].

MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services

(03) 5734 6200

MITCHELL
SHIRE COUNCIL

