



City of
DAREBIN

the place
to live

Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 - Action Plan

1. Legislation Regulation

Council will exercise the full extent of its regulatory and legislative mandate to minimise harm from EGMs.

Policy Statements

- In assessing any future proposals for the operation of EGMs in the municipality, Council will treat applications from clubs in the same way as applications from pubs and other venue operators.
- Council will oppose any planning and licensing application for additional EGMs, EGMs on Council owned or Council managed land, and the transfer of EGMs in the municipality where there is solid evidence that the application has negative social and economic impacts and minimal community benefit.

Actions	Origin of Action	Responsible Department	Timeframe
1.1 Council will ensure that all EGM operators adhere to the conditions in their planning permits, and will advocate to the VCGLR if conditions are not being met.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing and Statutory Planning	Ongoing
1.2 Council will make formal written submissions to the VCGLR and VCAT for all EGM planning and licensing applications in neighbouring municipalities.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Strategic Planning	Ongoing
1.3 Council will explore the development of a local planning policy on gaming for incorporation into the Municipal Strategic Statement of the Darebin Planning Scheme.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Strategic Planning	2018/2019
1.4 Council will maintain and strengthen current regulatory regimes to ensure that community views are directly considered in any decisions.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Statutory Planning and Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing

1.5	Council will seek to ensure that the community is notified through the Council website of all planning applications related to EGMs (including those in neighbouring municipalities that may affect Darebin) and provide opportunities for comment.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
1.6	Council will include copies of all gaming-related submissions it makes on the Council webpage.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
1.7	Council will actively monitor and manage all EGM venue signage to ensure compliance with the Planning and Environment Act and the Gambling Regulations Act.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Planning Enforcement	Ongoing
2. Advocacy Council will continue to be recognised as a state wide leader in driving changes to reform those systems and structures that cause gambling-related harm to the Darebin community				
Policy Statements				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will seek the necessary Legislative and Regulatory Reforms Sought by Darebin Council to reduce harm, provide greater player protection, and provide for a more even legislative playing field. • Council policy, action and advocacy will be informed by evidence-based public health and wellbeing research and policy. 				
Actions		Origin of Action	Responsible Department	Timeframe
2.1	Council will continue to seek reform to the Gambling Regulation Act to place greater regulation and restrictions on the gambling industry.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing

2.2	Council will make submissions to State and Commonwealth inquiries on gambling and meet with government and gambling industry representatives, where possible and appropriate, to represent the interests of the local government sector and Darebin community.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
2.3	Council will continue to be a member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform and to actively contribute to the national and state wide strategic advocacy at a local level.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
2.4	Council will actively inform and contribute to the advocacy of the local government peak bodies (VLGA and MAV's) local gambling networks to generate local, sub-regional and regional advocacy strategies.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
2.5	Council will highlight the harm from EGMs for the purposes of informing state and federal election campaigns.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing

3. Organisational alignment

Council will take a whole of organisation approach to minimising harm, acknowledging that all our activities can contribute to minimising harm.

Policy Statements

- Council will maintain independence from the gambling industry. Council will not accept financial contributions from gambling venues and will not promote community grants or initiatives offered by local poker machine venues.
- Council will not provide sporting grounds, Council venues or use of Council property to any sporting clubs, community groups, organisations or associations who directly operate or own EGMs in Darebin or elsewhere.
- Through its Leasing and Licensing Policy, Council will not permit gambling promotion or advertising in Council-owned facilities. This pertains to sports betting, online gambling and poker machines.

- Any sporting club, community group, organisation or association that operate or own EGMs will be ineligible for Council's community grants, financial assistance or in kind support from Council.
- Any sporting club, community group, organisation or association that receives sponsorship or grants (in-kind or cash) from EGM revenue will have Council grants, in-kind support and funding reduced by the amount and level of funding and/or in-kind support received from EGM sources.
- Council will not fund community groups who meet in venues that have EGMs through any of its community funding programs.
- Council will not provide community grants, funding, sponsorship, Council facilities, publicity or promotion for community groups/organisations that promote gambling.
- Council will not permit community groups or sporting clubs to advertise or promote gambling-related activity at local venues or via online gambling agencies.
- Council will support any Darebin club that wishes to divest themselves of EGMs to develop a transition plan in order that they may continue to access Council facilities and resources and provide a community benefit to their members.
- Council will acknowledge and honour any existing arrangements between sporting clubs, community groups, organisations, associations or Council programs and EGM operators, owners and venues until a mutually suitable and tailored transition plan has been finalised.
- Council staff will not run Council and community events, activities, programs and social outings in venues that have EGMs.
- Council will adopt a graduated policy to guide the development of suitable transition plans.
- Council will continue to invest in community infrastructure, community programs and community networks to provide alternatives to gambling.

Actions	Origin of Action	Responsible Department	Timeframe
3.1 Council will promote a range of non-gambling social, cultural and recreational opportunities in Darebin to promote active and healthy lifestyle choices.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.2 Council will revise all leases and agreements will be include the provisions set out in the policy statements.	NOM June 2017	Leisure Services and Property Management	Ongoing

3.3 Council's will revise all grants programs, contracts, MOU's, procurement guidelines, sponsorship policy and other relevant agreements to include the provisions set out in in the policy statements.	NOM June 2017	Equity and Wellbeing	Completed by 2020
3.4 Council will continue to monitor and assess sporting clubs, community groups, organisations, associations or Council programs that will be affected in practical and reputational terms in order to inform any future transition plan.	NOM June 2017	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.5 Council will work with the community to raise awareness about gambling harm and will promote gambling support services and non-gambling activities on its website, services, facilities, networks and via publications.	NOM June 2017	Equity and Wellbeing Communications	Ongoing
3.6 Council will introduce, into the organisation's training calendar, staff awareness and understanding through training and cross-departmental collaboration about the harms of gambling, the support services available and alternative social and recreational pursuits to gambling.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing People and Development	2019/2020
3.7 Council will support local organisations and groups to undertake initiatives aimed at gambling prevention, raising awareness about gambling and potential harm, de-stigmatisation, help-seeking avenues and opportunities for community engagement free from gambling.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.8 Council will annually publish key indicators describing the gambling environment in Darebin including gambling losses, EGM numbers, gambling prevalence, gambling venues and health, current public health research and health and wellbeing impacts.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.9 Council will engage local, state and national media in its public health activity and communication campaigns around the issue of gambling.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing Communications	Ongoing

3.10	Council will block and filter internet accounts across its services to ensure computers are not being accessed for gambling activity by staff and community.	NOM June 2017	Information Services	2018/2019
3.11	Council will continue to foster robust partnerships and alliances with the Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Local Government Association, the Alliance for Gambling Reform, local government sector, the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation. Gambler's Help Northern, Local Government Working Group on Gambling (LGWGOG), Link Health & Community and local neighbourhood houses and community groups in the progression of its public health approach to gambling.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.12	Council will support and promote local and state government services and community groups addressing the harms of gambling through prevention, innovative programs, service provision and treatment.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.13	Council will continue to seek external funding opportunities to progress its public health leadership, activity and advocacy in gambling prevention.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
3.14	Council will ensure that in publications 'Problem gambler' is to be replaced with 'people harmed by gambling'. 'Pokie players' is to be replaced with 'EGM users.' 'Pokie venues' is to be replaced with 'EGM operators' or 'gambling industry', and 'gambling expenditure' is to be replaced with 'gambling losses' or 'money taken'.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing

4 Evidence, research and data

Council will develop a strong, robust and defensible evidence base that will enhance Council's capacity to effectively influence the location, management and operation of EGMs in the municipality and contribute to the broader evidence base.

Policy Statements

- Council will continue to be a state wide leader and innovator in reducing gambling harm.
- Council supports measures to prevent and/or respond to gambling harm that are evidence-based and likely to have a positive impact.

Actions	Origin of Action	Responsible Department	Timeframe
4.1 Council will continue to source and maintain accurate data, information and research on poker machines and other forms of gambling for use in the development of policy, submissions, communications and as advocacy tools.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
4.2 Council will continue to monitor regulation and legislation and their impacts at a federal, state and local level.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
4.3 Council will include gambling-related questions in relevant community surveys and consultations to inform future policy and program development.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Community Engagement	Ongoing
4.4 Council will monitor decision-making principles patterns and precedents emerging through the VCGLR and VCAT in order to inform any future applications and submissions.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
4.5 Council will participate in and/or support research undertaken by organisations on the determinants and impacts of gambling environments and gambling, and effective harm prevention and harm minimisation measures.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
4.7 Council will monitor and review Council's policy position on gambling on a regular basis to ensure its currency, appropriateness and effectiveness.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing
4.8 Council will commission and contribute to research that will directly inform Council's policy objectives.	EGM Policy 2018 - 2022	Equity and Wellbeing	Ongoing

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