

# RESPONSE TO PETITION

## Petition No. 3 of 2025 House of Assembly

We, the undersigned residents of Tasmania, draw to the House's attention that:

- 1) The irreparable harm to our communities and individuals caused by poker machines is well documented, including increased mental ill-health, suicide, job loss, bankruptcy and crime;
- 2) Evidence shows introducing the mandatory pre-commitment cards for poker machines with default daily, monthly and annual loss limits as proposed by the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission would reduce gambling harm;
- 3) The card would continue to:
  - a) allow recreational gambling;
  - b) support jobs created by recreational gambling;
- 4) In September 2022, then Finance Minister and Treasurer Michael Ferguson announced the Government would introduce such mandatory precommitment cards and the Government went to the 2024 State Election with this commitment;
- 5) The Government has said venues will have higher profits even with a card-based system due to license changes introduced in 2021.

The petitioners request the House call on the Government to:

- 1) Ensure that in 2025 the mandatory Player Card is introduced as proposed by the Gaming Commission and agreed by the Government in 2022.
- 2) Ensure any debate:
  - a) is fully informed of increased pub and club profits being taken from the community and individuals since 2021;
  - b) includes the costs to the community, individuals and Government of not introducing the card.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION:

- The Government is committed to implementing harm minimisation measures to reduce the harm caused by electronic gaming machines.
- The Government has deferred progress on player card gaming implementation.
- Work is underway to develop a package of measures, which may include:
  - facial recognition technology;
  - emerging technologies such as automatic responsible gambling systems;
  - investigation of how the Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme can be reformed to support more Tasmanians who need help with their gambling behaviour;
  - strategies for raising awareness of the Gambling Exclusion Scheme; and
  - improving wrap-around support services to help those experiencing harm.
- The decision to introduce a package of other measures balances effective harm minimisation measures and regulatory implications, with understanding the complexities associated with implementing a mandatory card-based system.
- The Premier has written to his state and territory counterparts to monitor and better understand the work underway across states and territories and identify opportunities to share information and develop consistency where possible.
- I thank the petitioners for raising their concerns with the Government.



Hon Guy Barnett MP  
**Treasurer**

Date: 27/5/25.