

Parliament of Tasmania House of Assembly E-Petition

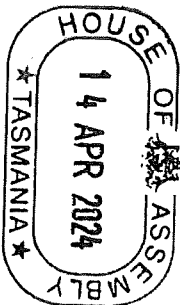
Petition Number: 114-24
Subject: Bring Back Social Poker
Closing Date: 4/3/2024
Sponsoring Member: Mr Dean Winter
Principal Petitioner: John Allmark

114-24
Bring Back Social Poker
4/3/2024
Mr Dean Winter
John Allmark
134a Liydale Rd
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544

Number of Signatories: 544
TO: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House that poker in Tasmanian pubs and clubs was suddenly deemed unlawful by the Liquor and Gaming Commission, leaving businesses, employees and social players unable to participate in the game they love. This format of poker creates important social networks, bringing people together in a safe and fun environment. There is no evidence of any harm being done to participants from the game of social poker in Tasmania.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to take all necessary steps to ensure that social poker can be conducted as a business and that players may pay an entry fee to play social poker.



RESPONSE TO PETITION

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

PETITION NUMBER: 114-24

ASKED BY: Hon Dean Winter MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Nic Street MP

The petition of the undersigned residents of Tasmania draws attention to the House:

- that poker in Tasmanian pubs and clubs was suddenly deemed unlawful by the Liquor and Gaming Commission, leaving businesses, employees and social players unable to participate in the game they love. This format of poker creates important social networks, bringing people together in a safe and fun environment. There is no evidence of any harm being done to participants from the game of social poker in Tasmania.

Your petitioners therefore request that:

- the house to take all necessary steps to ensure that social poker can be conducted as a business and that players may pay an entry fee to play social poker.

Government's position:

- The Tasmanian Liberal Government has delivered on its commitment to enable genuine social poker tournaments without wagering but with low entry fees paid by players, as we committed to do in our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.
- Ministerial Direction (No.2) 2024 was published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette on 17 July 2024.
- This directs the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission to declare that social poker is an exempt game under section 3(8A) of the *Gaming Control Act 1993*.
- The Ministerial Direction defines the parameters for what constitutes a game of genuine social poker and outlines conditions that the operators of a social poker tournament must adhere to in conducting the exempt game.
- Small-scale social poker tournaments can operate in pubs and clubs subject to these specified conditions, including that players may pay an entry fee.
- The direction includes a requirement for the operators of a social poker tournament to undertake Responsible Conduct of Gambling training.

- The Government has worked with the operators of tournament poker in Tasmania to determine limits and controls which will allow genuine social poker tournaments to operate effectively and responsibly.
- Non-tournament poker, that operates like a casino table game, remains lawful only when conducted in a casino.
- Tournament poker is a genuine social activity for many Tasmanians.
- Under our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we have delivered on our commitment to ensure Tasmanians can again enjoy a game of social poker.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Finance