

Economic and social impact submission

This form is for the local council to make a submission on the economic and social impact of an application to:

- approve a premises for gaming or;
- increase the number of gaming machines at a premises.

How to lodge your submission

Via post

Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission
GPO Box 1988
Melbourne
Victoria
3001

In person

Level 3, 12 Shelley Street
Richmond
Victoria
3121

Via email

contact@vgccc.vic.gov.au

Economic and social impact submission

How an application is assessed

The *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* provides the framework for assessing gaming machine applications. The Commission cannot approve an application unless it is satisfied that the applicant's proposal will not result in a 'net detriment' to the community in which the premises are located. Several elements can be relevant to the 'no net detriment' test. Part B of the application form guides you, as the relevant local Council, through a number of these elements and asks you for information or evidence about them.

If the application is to approve a premises for gaming, the Commission must also be satisfied that the premises are, or on completion of building works will be, suitable for the management and operation of gaming machines.

The application process

- You must notify the VGCCC whether you intend to make a submission within 37 days of being notified by the VGCCC about the submission.
- If you choose to make a submission, you must lodge it within 60 days of receiving the notification. You may request an extension from the VGCCC if exceptional circumstances exist that prevent you from making a submission within this period.
- The Commission will hear the application at a public hearing and make reasonable endeavours to decide it within 60 days of the VGCCC:
 - receiving a submission from you, the local council or
 - being notified by you that you will not make a submission.
- You will be invited to attend a public hearing and give evidence in support of your submission.
- You are free to communicate with the applicant during the application process.
- The Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation (VRGF) may be able to provide information that will help you respond to an application.

Directions for completing your submission

- While we encourage you to fully complete this form, you may leave any of the questions in Part B blank if you wish. Part A is mandatory.
- Your submission should focus on the impact of the specific proposal you are responding to, not the impact of gambling in general.
- Lay and expert witnesses may provide statements and appear at the hearing to give evidence in support of your submission. If this application relies on statements from expert witnesses, their qualifications must be attached.
- You are welcome to supply any additional information you consider relevant to the application. If you include attachments that provide information relevant to one of the questions in this form, please note this in your response to the question.

Part A: Submission information

1. Application this submission relates to

Premises name:

Premises address:

2. Council information

Name of local council:

Name(s) of surrounding municipal districts:

Authorised representative name:

Authorised representative position:

Does the local council support the application?

Yes

No

3. Declaration

I, the authorised representative of the local council making this submission, declare that all statements contained in this submission are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

I understand that the applicant may provide comment on this submission to the VGCCC.

I understand that by typing my name below, I am deemed to have signed this document.

Authorised representative:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

Part B: Economic and social impact

Short responses can be provided in the box directly below the question. If your response exceeds the capacity of the box, you can provide it in an attachment or in the space provided at the end of this form.

If the information requested is included in an attached expert report, you do not need to replicate the information in this application form. Instead, please note the relevant page and paragraph number where this information is located.

1. Municipal district profile

In order to assess the impact of the proposal, the Commission requires information on the people who live within the municipal district. Relevant profile information usually includes: demographics, recreational habits and facilities, economic data, crime and tourism. Information that is included in the VGCCC's Economic and Social Impact report for the application does not need to be repeated in your submission.

What is the profile of your municipal district?

If no, please describe your understanding of the location and surroundings of the venue.

In your opinion, does the applicant's proposal accurately describe the liquor, hospitality, social and/or recreational venues that are available nearby for community members who seek an alternative to gaming?

Yes

No

If no, please describe your understanding of the alternative venues located near the premises.

2. Location

When assessing the impact of a proposal, the Commission will consider the location and surroundings of the premises.

2.1 Accessibility and alternative venues

In your opinion, does the applicant's proposal accurately describe where the premises are located within the municipal district, and in particular, what business and facilities are in the immediate vicinity?

Yes

No

2.2 Proximity to sensitive uses

Sensitive uses refers to places where people who may be more vulnerable to gambling-related harm can be found.

In your opinion, does the applicant's proposal accurately describe the sensitive uses located near the venue?

Yes

No

If no, please describe your understanding of the sensitive uses located near the venue.

What impact do you believe the proposal would have on the nearby sensitive uses?

3. Gaming competition

Adding new gaming machines to a municipal district can create more competition between gaming venues. Given the benefits consumers derive from competition, the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* seeks to promote a competitive gaming industry. This section seeks information that will allow a better understanding of the impact the proposal may have on gaming competition.

In your opinion, does the applicant's proposal accurately describe the existing level of competition in the area surrounding the premises?

Yes

No

If no, please describe your understanding of the gaming competition in the area surrounding the premises.

4. Problem gambling and gambling-related harm

Every application comes with a risk of increased gaming expenditure from people who are experiencing gambling-related harm. When assessing the impact of the proposal, the Commission will consider the level of vulnerability that exists in the community, as well as any information relating to gambling-related harm currently being experienced at the premises and/or in the municipal district.

4.1 The vulnerability of the municipal district

The Commission primarily refers to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Disadvantage. However, the Commission will consider other relevant data, metrics and information.

Please describe the level of vulnerability within the community.

How many members of the community made contact with each of these service providers in the previous 12 months?

How many of these contacts related specifically to EGM-related problems?

4.2 Services within the municipal district

We recognise that it may be difficult to get data about the service providers in your municipal district. Please list the relevant service providers, and if possible, provide the requested data.

Please list the names, addresses and contact numbers of services in your municipal district that specifically or substantially deal with vulnerable members of the community, problem gambling or gambling-related harm.

For existing venues, how many of these contacts related specifically to EGM-related problems at the premises the proposal relates to?

4.3 The proposed approach to minimising harm

Does your municipality have a gambling policy?

Yes

No

If yes, is the proposal consistent with this policy?

Yes

No

If no, please describe how the proposal is not consistent.

Do you have any concerns with the applicant's proposed approach to minimising harm?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe your concerns.

5. Community wellbeing

The Commission must consider the impact of the proposal on the community's wellbeing, including the community's attitude towards the proposal. The community generally includes those who live or work in the municipal district.

5.1 Community attitude surveys

Have you conducted a community survey in relation to the proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, please summarise the survey methodology and the results. Please also attach the survey.

5.2 Feedback from businesses, individuals or organisations

Have you received submissions from businesses, individuals or organisations in relation to the proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, please briefly summarise the issues raised by these submission(s). Please also attach the submission(s).

6. Community contributions

A community contribution is any benefit granted to members of the community in which the premises are located. The Commission does not solicit or unilaterally impose community contributions.

If you wish to provide feedback on the applicant's proposed community contributions, please provide your response in this section.

7. Conclusions

The Commission cannot approve an application unless it is satisfied that the net economic and social impact of the proposal will not be detrimental to the wellbeing of the community of the municipal district.

7.1 The net impact on the municipal district

In the Council's opinion, what is the anticipated net economic and social impact of the proposal on the wellbeing of the municipal district?

Neutral

Positive

Negative

Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.

7.2 Improving the anticipated impact of the proposal

The impact of a proposal could be improved by increasing its positive impact or reducing its negative impact. If you choose to suggest changes or conditions in this section, the Commission will not take this as support for the proposal.

Are there any changes to the applicant's proposal that you believe would improve the anticipated impact of the proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the suggested change(s).

Are there any conditions that you believe would improve the anticipated impact of the proposal on the proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the condition(s).

7.3 The impact on surrounding municipal districts

Have any surrounding Councils advised you of their position in relation to the application?

Yes

No

If yes, in the opinion of the majority of the surrounding Councils, what is the anticipated net economic and social impact of the proposal on the surrounding municipal districts?

Neutral

Positive

Negative

If the surrounding councils have expressed views about the proposal, please briefly summarise those views here. Please also attach any supporting documentation.

8. Other comments on applicant's proposal

If you have any other comments about any part of the applicant's proposal or application, please provide them here.