

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION  
Public Hearings  
Australia's Gambling Industries

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Hadley's Hotel

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Can the gambling undertaken by individuals be seen as separate from the gambling in the economy at the national, international and global levels?

I do not gamble at all, because I view the practice as a direct threat to the Earth's ecological systems, which is the foundation of our productivity. I read that a trillion dollars is gambled every day around and around the global casino economy. "Futures", "Day Trading" and "International Money Exchange" are all forms of gambling.

Apart from the harm caused to compulsive gamblers, their families, the community, people caught up in the hypnotic trap of "gaming" machines will hardly see that there is any problem with global economic gambling. In much the same way a person having a flutter at the TAB, or in the newsagency, is not only sending money out of their community, and straight up the global money tree, but they may not see the connection with environmental harm.

This gambled wealth must come from somewhere. It can hardly be plucked out of thin air, though it may seem to go there. No, the wealth must come from the Earth's resources, from the body of our planet.

The best use of wealth must be to ensure the well-being of the community, as well as the health of the Earth. With all our amazing technology we could easily ensure a reasonable prosperity for all, as well as living gently and ecologically sustainably with our Earth.

Why don't we? Instead, we gamble with our future, and seem to place wealth at a higher level than survival.

Gambling is not just game. If it were, it would not need money to make it go. Gambling is a sign that we have not yet become a mature civilization, and that is a bit of a worry.

There may be no way available to achieve a balanced form of gambling. The only workable solution may be to desist, if we would like to achieve a universally prosperous and mature society.

As long as we rely on greed and gambling as our driving energy, we may be going down the road to no-where.

If there is any value in these words, then they should be on the table with any genuine discussion about the problems of gambling. If people are made aware of the harm caused by gambling to the environment, as well as to the society, then they may see that there is a very important reason to desist, if not minimise the habit.

People need a sense of hope, as well as to feel good about where life is going. Unemployment, poverty, drug abuse, suicide, increasing depression; all are signs that we are going down the wrong road. Wealth should serve the needs of our society and environment, not roll us over into becoming the slaves of money.

Perhaps if people are aware of the real meaning and value of wealth, as the strips of flesh we carve from the Earth, they and we may see the right way to go. Real wealth is beautiful, because it comes from the beauty of the Earth, and is in turn used to create beauty. Perhaps it is the sacrifice of beauty, and the chasing after greed, that is the cause of our problem with gambling, and the making of ugliness in our society and environment.

examples: Easter Island (environmental gambling)  
 Scientific discovery (beauty)  
 Art (the creative process)