

Appendix to Submission 18

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Copy

"Silverlea"
RMB 1320,
Whorouly Sth,
Victoria 3735.
30 September 1999

TO
The Mayor and Councillors
Rural City of Wangaratta,
Box 238,
Wangaratta 3676.

For Your Information.

"In the period in which the commissioners ran local governments local planning powers were reduced to the point where a hotel owner could fill twenty five percent of the premises' floor space with EGMs without requiring a planning permit. A raft of legislation opened the way for the proliferation of EGMs.

On those rare occasions that a permit was required councils were not able to determine that the application was inappropriate on social or economic grounds. Section 60B of the Victorian Planning and Environment Act must be amended to direct Councils to consider social and economic impacts."

This is an extract from an address "Local Government as Community Advocate" delivered at RMIT University on 17th July 1999 by Mike Hill, Secretary of Victorian Local Governance Association and former Mayor of Moreland City Council.

In May 1997 I wrote to you of my concerns this legislation would allow a Community Recreation Centre at Whorouly to be developed as a gaming venue.

The Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries, Draft Report, July 1999 includes in its key findings this statement.

"Policy decisions on key gambling issues have in many cases lacked access to objective information and independent advice --including about the likely social and economic impacts---and community consultation has been deficient."

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In a submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries I documented the threat of the introduction of Electronic Gaming Machines into my local community. The Victorian Local Governance Association has used information from this submission in preparing a submission in response to the Draft Report of the Productivity Commission inquiry. It called for greater transparency of the disbursement of money through the Victorian Community Support Fund. The Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries is able to examine the Victorian State Government coordination with Local Government in making possible the introduction of EGMs at the Recreation Reserve Whorouly.

On 12th September 1999 I wrote to Ken Jasper MLA requesting clarification of the legal control of the \$250,000 Whorouly Community Recreation Centre. The Recreation Reserve Whorouly, where it is built, is not the property of the Rural City of Wangaratta. It would be inappropriate to have a commercial business in the middle of the local sportsground.

Alison G. Walpole.

Alison. G. Walpole.
Ratepayer/Trustee Recreation Reserve Whorouly.

Copy
Ken Jasper MLA
Rob Hull MLA
Victorian Local Governance Association.
Bishop of Wangaratta Diocese, Anglican Church of Australia.
Productivity Commission Inquiry into Australia's Gambling
Industries.