

## Information Notice

<b>Application Type:</b>	Additional gaming premises – category two (club)
<b>Trading Name:</b>	Bundaberg Services Club
<b>Address of the Premises:</b>	31 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg Central
<b>Date of the Decision:</b>	18 September 2024
<b>Applicable Legislations:</b>	Section 61 to 65 of the <i>Gaming Machine Act 1991</i>

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### Brief Summary of the Reasons for the Decision

As delegate for the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming, I conducted a review of the application for an additional gaming premises lodged for the Bundaberg Services Club on 21 February 2024. In deciding the application, I took into account the following findings of fact:

- 1) The applicant is eligible to apply for an additional gaming premises under the *Gaming Machine Act 1991* (the Act).
- 2) The additional premises application was lodged due to the requirement for the licensee to vacate the existing main club premise (at Quay Street) by the end of the year. The club intends to construct a new premises at the Bourbong Street location, some 500 metres from the current site, and relocate its current operations when the new premises is completed.
- 3) The application was advertised for public comment with one submission being received from the RSL Bundaberg Sub Branch, being the freehold owner of the existing main club premises.
- 4) The Bundaberg Regional Council has no objection to the application.
- 5) The Member of Bundaberg was informed of the application, however no response has been received to date.
- 6) An investigation of the applicant pursuant to section 57(3) of the Act was conducted by the OLGR Probity Unit and no matters considered to impact on their suitability to hold a gaming machine licence were identified.
- 7) Human rights are not limited by my decision to approve the application.

I have considered the relevant matters outlined in section 61 of the Act.

- 8) I took into account the submission received from the RSL Bundaberg Sub-Branch claiming the approval of this application will adversely affect the financial viability of a future club with a gaming machine licence at the current site and the concerns regarding associated contributions.
- 9) After considering all of the relevant factors and information, both positive and negative, and the aforementioned findings on material questions of fact, I have decided to approve this application.
- 10) In arriving at this recommendation, weight was given to the following:
  - The applicant has undergone probity investigation and was found suitable.
  - The applicant is an existing licensee with another club site in the same LCA. It is expected that Bundaberg Services Club will be operated with the same values, procedures and governance applied to the Bundaberg & District RSL and Citizens Memorial Club premises. The club has a good compliance record, including in relation to its commitment to responsible gambling practices.
  - Given the club intends to transfer its existing approval for 160 EGMs from its current club premises to the new site, no change is expected to the number of EGMs and the gaming machine density within the LCA.
  - The implementation of suitable harm minimisation conditions will help alleviate any concerns regarding gambling related harm issues.
  - The applicant has stated the club will maintain its presence in the community and also continue to deliver all manner of contributions to the local community and visitors that one would expect from a Community Club of this type. While the club may no longer be affiliated with an RSL Sub-Branch, the applicant indicated they will continue to provide services to Australian defence force veterans and their families.
- 11) Lesser weight is given to the submission received from the RSL Bundaberg Sub-Branch in accordance with Guideline G04. The submission by the Sub-Branch primarily addressed the loss of gaming revenues from the current site. It does not specifically address the effect of gaming operations at the new club premises.