

OFFICER REPORT**CORRESPONDENCE TO AUSTRALIAN LEISURE HOSPITALITY GROUP**

Submitting Councillors: Josh Fergeus and Geoff Lake

MOTION

That City of Monash write to the Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group (ALH Group) and Woolworths to seek to understand whether certain reported alleged acts continue to, or have previously occurred, within any of the 8 ALH Group owned venues located within City of Monash with Poker Machine entitlements. These include:

- Whether allegations that ALH Group and Woolworths monitors regular customers while compiling, storing and distributing personal information.*
- Allegations that it uses this private and personal information to try and keep patrons gambling in their venues for longer.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A commitment to reducing gambling-related harm is ongoing within the Community Strengthening team. This is delivered within Council's existing budget through officer staff time.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This could be managed by existing staff resources within the Community Strengthening department with support from local stakeholder organisations where applicable.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

Measures that prevent harm from gambling align with Council's 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021'. Actions stated within this plan include: Improving the health and resilience of individuals and communities through proactive services and programs; advocating to limit gambling-related harm.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The City of Monash has a history of state wide leadership in the prevention of gambling-harm because of our continued work in delivering successful projects, policy and advocacy. Monash City Council has previously taken a firm stance around minimising gambling-related harm in the local community, which includes harm from Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM's).

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council has been strong on advocating for system reform, electronic gaming machine design changes, having a minimum \$1 bet and highlighting the predatory nature of the industry. All of these platforms have been evidence based and supported by research and established facts. It is important to the effectiveness of Council's advocacy on this issue that this continues to be the case. The action required in the NOM sits outside the usual parameters of Council's activities in relation to EGM gambling.