

December 20, 2022

**ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL MEETING**

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 1**

JAY NANKIVELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

## MAYORAL MINUTE

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 17/22 - DATED DECEMBER 20, 2022 - GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR MANDATORY CASHLESS GAMING CARDS (D22/67684) ..... 3

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

December 20, 2022

## ITEM 1

MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 17/22

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR MANDATORY CASHLESS  
GAMING CARDS D22/67684

## Summary

Broken Hill Registered clubs have over 9000 members between them, employ approximately 200 locals and deliver over \$500,000 in annual community contributions each year.

The Broken Hill City Council has serious concerns about the proposal for a mandatory cashless gaming card, it will allow the Government to track patrons' gambling activity and impose limits on how they spend their own money. The Broken Hill community have made it clear to me and other councillors that they don't want the Government to track their gambling.

There is little doubt amongst councillors that the introduction of a mandatory cashless gaming card will cause immense damage to the Broken Hill economy and have wide ranging social impacts.

Casual gamblers won't go to the effort of registering for a Government card as was the experience when Norway and Canada introduced a mandatory cashless card. Meanwhile, problem gamblers continued to gamble, either by illegal gambling websites or other forms.

The Registered Clubs Association of New South Wales has estimated that a significant drop in recreational gamblers will lead to a 30% reduction in revenue. This will jeopardise local jobs and threaten contributions to nearly every community organisation in Broken Hill.

The upfront cost of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per machine and the likely significant ongoing costs will bankrupt smaller clubs in Broken Hill. At the very least it will result in significantly less financial benefits to club members and other organisations that rely on club grants and contributions to survive. Many small sporting associations, teams etc rely on club sponsorship to operate.

All local Clubs are continuing to deal with the financial impact of COVID-19 and skyrocketing electricity prices, our clubs cannot afford the costs of installing expensive technology and equipment and the negative public response to what many will perceive as an attack on their privacy.

The Crime Commission did not undertake consultation or a cost-benefit analysis on a mandatory card and the mandatory card is disproportionate to the Crime Commission's finding that washing money using gaming machines is "inefficient", "high risk" and "not widespread".

People will start using unregulated online casinos and the Broken Hill community will lose out on the support that our local Registered Clubs offer through community support, employment opportunities and local investment.

The NSW government collects significant revenue from gaming taxes and this should be used to ensure there are strategies in place that help problem gamblers and enough resources are put in place to address money laundering.

A cashless card should not be used to punish law abiding club members, regional communities or registered clubs that are an integral part of all regional communities.

### **Recommendation**

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 17/22 dated December 20, 2022, be received.
2. That it be noted the support that the local Registered Clubs provide to the community of Broken Hill by way of grants, employment and services and congratulate them for that support.
3. That BHCC sends correspondence to the New South Wales State Premier, the New South Wales Leader of the National Party, the New South Wales Opposition Leader, our local MP Roy Butler and Minister Dugald Saunders stating that the BHCC does not support a mandatory cashless gaming card using the summary as reasons.

### **Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

T. KENNEDY  
MAYOR



[www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au)