



Removing poker machines from pubs and clubs will save lives and livelihoods.

In March 2003, the newly re-elected State Labor government negotiated a secret extension of the Federal Group's exclusive right to own and operate poker machines in Tasmania.

The Exclusive Right was given for free to the Federal Hotels Group until 1 July 2018. The deal includes a five year rolling extension to 2023 to be granted at the discretion of the Tasmanian Treasurer of the day.

The monopoly Deed is due to expire this July. As Tasmanians, we now have a once in a generation opportunity to curb the profound human and economic harm caused by poker machines.

THE GREENS WILL

- ▲ **Remove poker machines from pubs and clubs.**
- ▲ **Apply the Community Service Levy to casino poker machines.**
- ▲ **Introduce stronger harm minimisation measures for poker machines in casinos.**

POKIES HURT TASMANIA

The Tasmanian people have suffered the consequences of the proliferation of pokies in pubs and clubs. So has our democracy.

The Federal Group has made substantial donations to both major parties over decades in order to maintain the profits they make, at the expense of Tasmanians living in the suburbs and towns where these machines have been deliberately placed.

The individual and societal damage caused by problem gambling includes "suicide, depression, relationship breakdown, lowered work productivity, job loss, bankruptcy and crime."¹

EGMs disproportionately harm PTSD affected veterans², people with a childhood history of physical and sexual abuse³, people with mental health issues^{4,5} and people from low income backgrounds.⁶

Tasmania's clubs get less than 1% of the revenue from poker machines, while a Sydney-based family pockets 49%. Even if the distribution of funding was changed, Federal Group would still directly receive 21% of the profits, as well as a large sum of the pubs and clubs' revenue as they own ten of the highest yielding pokies pubs in the State.⁷

The Federal Group and the gambling industry are making false claims about the jobs generated by poker machines and those that would be affected if pokies are wound back to casinos.

A South Australian study found that for every \$1 million of gambling revenue 3.2 jobs are created, compared to 8.3 jobs per million for liquor and other beverages, and 20.2 jobs per million for food meals and sales.⁸

For poker machines in Tasmanian pubs and clubs, with 2016/17 revenue of \$ 110,327,885⁹ and 240 jobs,¹⁰ we have just 2.2 jobs per million spent on poker machines.

EGMs are deliberately located in areas of disadvantage to ensure maximum potential exploitation of people who are already doing it tough.

Successive majority governments have overseen the direct transfer of wealth from the pockets of some of the poorest people in our community, to Federal Hotels’.

EGM gambling in pubs and clubs is a stronger predictor of problem gambling than EGM gambling in casinos.¹¹ An explanation for this is the fact that alcohol use contributes to impaired control of EGM gambling behaviour.

Consumption of alcohol has been found to both reduce the capacity of people to resist the urge to begin a session of gambling, as well as reduced capacity to end a session of gambling.¹²

The number of venues that offer poker machines also undermine the operation of the self-exclusion scheme.

The Greens will introduce a sinking lid model, which means that as machines are required to be serviced or replaced, they would instead be retired. It will take five years to completely phase them out.

POKIES IN CASINOS

In recognition of how dangerous EGMs are, Western Australia does not allow poker machines in venues outside casinos. This model reduces harm.

The Community Support Levy (CSL) doesn’t currently apply to the two Federal Group casinos. The Greens will ensure that casinos have to contribute to the CSL.

We will also act on the recommendations of the 2010 Productivity Commission review by reintroducing pre-commitments and \$1 bet limits.¹³

Further exploration of innovative regulatory measures would be initiated, including measures such as quarantining winnings until the end of the session, using alarm clocks for setting time-reminders, and requiring a “demo mode” which allows for playing without money.¹⁴

INITIATIVE COST

Initiative Cost (\$m)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Forgone Pokies Revenue	5.71	11.42	17.13	22.84
Total	5.71	11.42	17.13	22.84

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DO YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, NEED HELP?

For anybody affected by gambling – either yours or someone else’s – contact [Gambling Helpline Tasmania](#) on **1800 858 858**. Gamblers Help counselling services are available in major regional offices throughout Tasmania via either [Anglicare Tasmania](#) on **1800 243 232** or [Relationships Australia Tasmania](#) on **1300 364 277**.

24 hour counselling services contact [Lifeline](#) on **13 11 14** or the [Suicide Call Back Service](#) on **1300 659 467**.

24 hour phone support, online chat, resources and apps contact [Beyondblue](#) on **1300 224 636**.