

# **Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025**

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 15

Made under the

*Gaming Machine Act 1991*

## **General Outline**

### **Short Title**

*Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025*

### **Authorising law**

Section 60, 64, 85 and 366 of the *Gaming Machine Act 1991*

### **Policy objectives and the reasons for them**

The objective of the *Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) is to increase the maximum number of gaming machines that may be approved for category two (club) licensees that are approved to conduct gaming at more than one premises. The amendment supports the sustainability of Queensland's club industry and delivers on a Government election commitment.

The increase is intended to incentivise large and experienced clubs to take over smaller struggling clubs as additional premises to which the larger club's gaming machine licence relates, and to assist large, experienced clubs in developing new club facilities in greenfield areas. These actions will allow the club industry greater opportunities to preserve club facilities for the community and to provide community infrastructure where it might otherwise not be available.

The changes do not alter other features of the gaming machine regulatory (and harm minimisation) framework, including:

- licensing application requirements for clubs, additional premises, and increases to the approved number of gaming machines, including existing requirements for the consideration of social issues in relation to applications of significant community impact; and

- features that:
  - restrict clubs to no more than 300 gaming machines at any single premises;
  - require clubs to hold one gaming machine entitlement for each machine operated; and
  - cap the number of gaming machine entitlements available to the Queensland club industry at 24,705 statewide.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The Amendment Regulation achieves its objectives by increasing the maximum number of gaming machines the Commissioner may approve for clubs with additional premises, as prescribed at section 9(2) of the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2002*. The increase provides new maximums as follows:

- for clubs with one additional premises - 600 gaming machines (up from the current 450) across both premises; and
- for clubs with two or more premises - up to 700 gaming machines (up from the current 500) across all premises.

The increases do not automatically change the approved number of gaming machines for any particular club and increases must be applied for in accordance with existing licensing processes, including community impact considerations. Clubs that are successful in obtaining an increase in their approved number of gaming machines must still have a gaming machine entitlement or obtain one through the market-based reallocation scheme, for each machine they wish to operate. Clubs are also expected to continue to adhere to all existing gambling harm minimisation requirements.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of the *Gaming Machine Act 1991*, which includes ensuring the benefits of gaming machine gambling are shared by the State and the community, and that gaming operations are conducted responsibly and fairly under strict regulatory controls.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives**

Increasing the maximum number of gaming machines for clubs with additional premises can only be achieved through amendments to subordinate legislation.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

The amendments are intended to assist the sustainability of Queensland's club industry by enabling growth and a degree of financial confidence for large, experienced clubs, that may facilitate the preservation and expansion of community infrastructure.

Implementation is not anticipated to impose significant additional costs to Government and will be funded from within existing resources.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

## **Consultation**

Peak club industry bodies, including Clubs Queensland and the RSL Services Club Association, support the proposed changes. It has been previously established that the change is not supported by the Queensland Hotels Association and some community groups, including Gambling Help stakeholders.

A summary Impact Analysis Statement has been prepared for the Amendment Regulation identifying that no regulatory impact assessment is required under the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* as it is minor and machinery in nature.