



Report           03.142  
Date             13 March 2003  
File              E/7/7/6

Committee       Policy, Finance and Strategy  
Author          Wayne Hastie Council Secretary

## The Responsible Gambling Bill

### 1. Purpose

To seek the Council's view on *Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ)* concerns about The Responsible Gambling Bill.

### 2. Background

The Responsible Gambling Bill, currently awaiting its second reading in Parliament, contains provisions that are of concern to the National Council of *LGNZ*. The concerns centre on:

- The extent to which communities can influence the level of gaming machines in their towns and cities
- The processes by which gaming machine profits are allocated.

Further details about the Bill and *LGNZ's* concerns are contained in **Attachment 1** to this report.

Although primarily of interest to territorial authorities who will have specific responsibilities under the Bill, *LGNZ's* proposals include the establishment of regional committees to participate in the distribution of profits from gaming machines. Such committees would be appointed by an electoral college set up in each region, members of which would be drawn from a number of agencies and sectors including the regional council.

While at this stage there is no opportunity to make formal submissions on the Bill, *LGNZ* believe that if they can get the voice of local government heard on these issues, they still have time to influence the outcome of the Bill.

### 3. Discussion

Council officers have not made a study of the Bill and its implications. However, it is clear that *LGNZ* have studied this matter in detail and are seeking support from the sector. The Bill will have implications for our

communities and the *LGNZ* proposal will, if adopted, have some direct impact on the Council.

If necessary, Cr Shields will be able to elaborate on the National Council's concerns at the meeting.

Given the importance of collective action on matters such as this, it is proposed that the Council support *LGNZ*'s proposals and communicate this support to *LGNZ*, regional Members of Parliament and the responsible Minister.

#### **4. Communication**

As outlined above.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- 1. Receive the report and note its contents.*
- 2. Supports the position of LGNZ on The Responsible Gambling Bill.*
- 3. Advises LGNZ, regional Members of Parliament and the responsible Minister that the Council supports the position taken by LGNZ and their proposed alternative distribution system.*

Report prepared by:

**Wayne Hastie**  
Council Secretary

**Attachment 1: Local Government New Zealand's letter dated 7 March 2003**