



29 August 2017

Hon Marlene Kairouz MP  
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gambling and Liquor Regulation  
State Government of Victoria  
Level 26, 121 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Kairouz

**Re: Proposal to consider the introduction of 'cashless gambling' to Victoria**

Council is concerned at the announcement that the State Government is looking to support the introduction of cashless gaming machines at venues throughout the State.

It is Council's view that such a system would accentuate problem gambling and gaming losses by depriving players of the necessity to keep adding cash as their losses accumulate, and thereby diminishing their awareness of the magnitude of their losses.

In weighing the merits of this proposal, it is the obligation of this Council and the State Government, to prioritise the interests of disadvantaged communities and individuals, who are the principal victims of gambling-related problems in Victoria, over the interests of the gaming industry.

The scale of gambling losses and their destructive consequences are unparalleled in Greater Dandenong, where residents lost over \$118m to gaming machines in 2015–16 alone, the equivalent of \$956 per adult in Greater Dandenong, the highest rate of losses in Victoria.

It is our understanding that the introduction of cashless gambling would exacerbate such burdens upon our residents and upon other vulnerable communities throughout Victoria.

Accordingly, since the introduction of cashless gaming cannot conceivably benefit residents but may only be expected to aggravate gambling related harm, we urge the State Government to promptly and unequivocally repudiate this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Cr Jim Memeti  
Mayor

cc Gabrielle Williams MP, State Member for Dandenong  
Hon Martin Pakula MP, State Member for Keysborough