

May 28, 2024

New Zealand Gambling Commission
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By email: info@gamblingcom.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

DCC SUBMISSION ON DUNEDIN CASINOS LIMITED APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF ITS CASINO VENUE LICENCE.

SUBMISSION ON DUNEDIN CASINOS LIMITED APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF ITS CASINO VENUE LICENCE

Introduction

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback to the New Zealand Gambling Commission on Dunedin Casinos Limited's (DCL) application for renewal of its Casino Venue licence for the Grand Casino (the Casino).
2. In making this submission, the DCC notes the Gambling Act (2003) requires local authorities to have a Gambling and TAB Venue Policy; while not directly related to the DCL license renewal, this submission does demonstrate the DCC's ongoing commitment to reducing gambling harm and how gambling venues are managed in Ōtepoti Dunedin as part of this commitment.

Submission

3. Overall, the DCC submits in support of the renewal of the Casino Venue Licence for DCL.
4. The DCC recognises the positive community impact the funding provided by Dunedin Casinos Charitable Trust has on local communities in Ōtepoti Dunedin, such as supporting 54 Otago community organisations, kindergartens and preschools, arts, sporting, and church organisations in 2023.
5. The DCC encourages the Gambling Commission to consider increasing the turnover percentage and the maximum of \$110,000 yearly paid to trust or trusts by the Casino.
6. The DCC notes the Casino provides a significant entertainment option for the city, with 2577 patrons through its doors each week in the Financial Year 2021/2022.
7. The DCC notes that the Casino takes its role as a responsible host seriously and recognises the Casino has an important role to play in preventing and minimising gambling-related harm for its customers and staff, as demonstrated through its Host Responsibility Programme.

8. In making its submission, the DCC notes the responses provided to the Gambling Commission in regard to DCL's application for license renewal. The DCC reviewed these responses, provided by: New Zealand Police; the Department of Internal Affairs; the Serious Fraud Office; the Treasury; the New Zealand Companies Office; and the New Zealand Insolvency and Trustee Service. None of these responses identified any problems with the ongoing operation of the Casino or with the people of significant influence associated with its operation.
9. The DCC strategic directions include a commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi, implemented through Te Taki Haruru, the DCC's Māori Strategic Framework. The DCC is committed to the wellbeing of Māori and recognises Māori are disproportionately impacted by gambling harm. The DCC supports the Casino's Harm Reduction Policy and any additional efforts to evaluate and mitigate harm caused by gambling on Māori, and other vulnerable populations in Dunedin.

Application to appear

10. Pursuant to section 135(1)(d) of the Gambling Act 2003, the DCC wishes to appear and be heard at the public hearing for the renewal of DCL's license to operate the Grand Casino in Dunedin.
11. The DCC is of the view that it has a right to be heard, pursuant to section 135(4) of the Act, as the territorial local authority in which the Casino is located.

Ngā mihi,



Jules Radich
Mayor of Dunedin