

Phone 03/57271372

"Silverlea" R.M.B. 1320
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735

To GAMBLING INQUIRY
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION,
PO BOX 80,
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

A submission documenting the threat of the introduction of Electronic Gaming Machines into my local community.

On October 9th 1998 an officer of the Problem Gambling Service, Hume Region, reported to the Wangaratta Chronicle 127 electronic gaming machines have been installed over 5 venues in Wangaratta, population 16,000. She expressed concern about problem gambling especially in rural areas and the lack of action by the Rural City of Wangaratta Council to stop additional gambling. The Council has refused requests for a caveat to be placed on the title deed of Whorouly Memorial Park Reserve to prohibit the introduction of electronic gaming machines there.

This submission documents substantial funding by the Victorian Government, from the Community Support Fund, for the building at Whorouly of a Community Recreation Centre. The Rural City of Wangaratta acknowledges in minutes of Council meeting June 17th 1997 the potential to introduce electronic gaming machines to the building "under the planning provisions of Council and the Gaming Machines Control Act 1991". A local committee contributing a large amount of money and volunteer labour to the building has stated it will not introduce gaming machines but it has no legal control of the building. Trustees who may tender or lease to commercial management either the building or complete sporting complex hold the title deed of Whorouly Memorial Park Reserve. Coordination of Victorian liquor laws, gaming laws and planning regulations allows the introduction of electronic gaming machines without consultation with the community. Privatisation denies public access to financial records under claims of financial confidentiality.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground (Amendment) Bill introduced for 2nd reading in the Assembly of the Parliament of Victoria October 8th 1998 indicates a threat to Trusts of Government direction. Also being presented to the Spring Sitting of the Parliament of Victoria is a Bill liberalising the state's liquor laws.

Removal of community assets from community control allows changes to the social fabric of communities.

Attachment --65 pages.

Appendix --copy of a submission to Hon. Jan Wade MP, Minister Women's Affairs, Victoria.

Submission written by Alison. G. Walpole.

29th October 1998

Alison. G. Walpole.



URBAN MISSION UNIT

3 February 1997

Ms Alison Walpole
Silverlea
RMB 1320
Whorouly South 3735

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter. I certainly agree with all that you're doing.

We now have had meetings with the Minister for Finance and Gaming. He indicated that many country hotels are asking for gaming machines. The Minister Roger Hallam needs to hear from people like you, saying that many citizens do not want them and want him to act now. I'd suggest that you write directly to him. (The Hon Roger M Hallam, MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Gaming, Level 3, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3002) I also enclose a working paper that we knocked up to help community people to object to machines.

Kind regards and stay in touch

(Rev) Tim Costello

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

25th February 1997

The Hon. Roger M Hallam, MLC,
Minister for Gaming,
Level 3, 1 Treasury Place,
Melbourne 3002.

Dear Sir,

Government funding of community recreation centres is assisting in the introduction of gaming without adequate consultation. Many people do not realise changes in recent years to the State Section of the Planning Regulations have facilitated the introduction of gaming. A properly compiled social and economic impact study, as requested by the Victorian Council of Problem Gambling, would provide communities with the necessary information to consider different project options.

I strongly support this request to consider the impact any development will have on the local community before government funding is granted.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G. Walpole.

Alison. G. Walpole.



Victoria

Level 3, 1 Treasury Place,
Melbourne 3002, Victoria
Telephone: (03) 9651 2123
Facsimile: (03) 9651 2129

MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR GAMING

Ms Alison Walpole
Silverlea,
RMB 1320
WHOROUPLY SOUTH VIC 3001

19 MAR 1997

Dear Ms Walpole

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 1997, commenting on the need for research to into the social and economic impact of gaming on local communities, before Government funding is granted to recreation centres.

The conduct of research into the social impact of gambling is a statutory responsibility of the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority. On 6 June 1996, the Authority announced its 1996-97 research program. This program comprised seven new projects with an additional two ongoing survey series. This program was announced following consultation with Mr Rob Wootton of the Victorian Council on Problem Gambling Inc along with a number of other community, church and industry groups.

Two additional projects were announced in November 1996 to examine the effect of electronic gaming machines on specific communities. These projects "Impact of EGMs on Small Rural Communities" and "Impact of Gaming Venues on Inner City Municipalities" were advertised for public tender in "The Age" and "The Australian" on 1 March 1997.

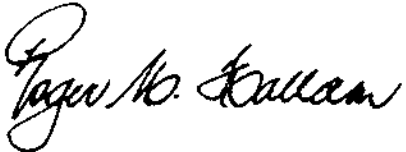
The 1996-97 research program complements and builds on the research already undertaken by the Authority. Details of the research program as it currently stands are contained in the enclosed attachment. These projects will assist the Authority in expanding its understanding of long term gaming trends, and provide the Government with information to develop policies that will have regard to the effects of gambling in Victoria. The results of all research projects are published and are available to the community for information.

I believe that this research program is the most comprehensive in the country, and demonstrates the commitment of the Government and the Authority to ensuring that gambling is carefully monitored and controlled.

The administration of the State Planning Scheme falls under the responsibility of my colleague the Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Honourable Robert Maclellan MP, rather than myself.

Any enquiries you may have regarding the State Planning Scheme should be referred to the Department of Infrastructure at Olderfleet Building, 477 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger M. Hallam', written in a cursive style.

ROGER M HALLAM MLC
Minister for Finance
Minister for Gaming

Encl



VICTORIAN CASINO AND GAMING AUTHORITY

12 MAY 1997

Ms Alison Walpole
Silverlea,
RMB 1320
WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3001

Dear Ms Walpole

Thank you for your letter of 6 April 1997, concerning the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority's 1996-97 research program and in particular, the research project to examine the impact of electronic gaming machines on small rural communities.

As requested, a copy of the project brief for the project "The impact of EGMs on Small Rural Communities" is attached. In developing this project brief the Authority consulted with the following church, industry and community groups prior to advertising this project for public tender on 1 March 1997:

- . Victorian Council on Problem Gambling;
- . Victorian Council of Churches;
- . Southern Grampians Shire Council;
- . Wellington Shire Council;
- . Horsham Rural City Council;
- . Corangamite Shire Council;
- . Australian Hotel's Association;
- . The Licensed Clubs Association of Victoria;
- . Department of Human Services; and
- . Local Government Services, Department of Infrastructure.

On completion of the tender review process, Hames Sharley Holding Pty Ltd was chosen as the successful tenderer. Hames Sharley have commenced work on this project and it is anticipated that a final report will be available later this year. Announcements will be made, through local media outlets, when Hames Sharley are undertaking consultation in a particular area.

The results of all research projects are published and are available to the community for information. For details on the availability of reports, please contact Christine Sheppard, Manager Public Relation on telephone (03) 9651 3434.

With regard to your concern that the proposed Community Recreation Centre would have the potential to install gaming machines once it obtains a liquor license, I wish to advise that section

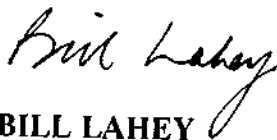
19 of the *Gaming Machine Control Act* 1991 (the "Act") requires that before an application for a venue operator's license may be considered by the Authority, the premises must first have in place the appropriate liquor license and all necessary planning approvals. In this way, amenity issues and planning concerns can be fully considered prior to the Authority making a determination.

Section 20 of the Act sets out the grounds on which a person may object to the grant of a venue operator's license and requires the Authority to consider every objection so made. Section 20 also requires the Authority to consider any submission made by the relevant responsible planning authority in respect to an application.

Please note that once an application has been lodged with the Authority the grounds for an objection which may be considered under the Act relate to the character, honesty and integrity of the applicant and associates to the applicant. The grounds do not include whether gaming machines should be permitted to operate in certain locations. This reflects the Authority's primary task to ensure that gaming in Victoria is secure and free from criminal exploitation. As the matters you have raised in your letter relate to issues of planning and amenity, they do not fall within the grounds for objection detailed in section 20 of the Act.

With regard to the purpose of the Community Support Fund, the Act requires that funds from the Community Support Fund must be applied firstly for research by the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority and secondly for payment for or towards the provision of projects of benefit to the community, such as projects assisting problem gamblers, drug rehabilitation centres and projects of lasting significance which demonstrate substantial community benefit and substantial financial commitment from other sources and applications. These projects include programs for the benefit of youth, sport, recreation, tourism, arts, or any other programs or purposes relating to the support or advancement of the Victorian community as determined by the Premier.

Yours sincerely



BILL LAHEY
Acting Director of Gaming and Betting

Encl

FILE

"Silverlea"
RMB 1320
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

6th April 1997.

Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority,
35 Spring St.,
Melbourne 3000.

Dear Sir,

The Minister for Gaming, Roger Hallam MLC, has forwarded to me a copy of your research program dated 4th March 1997. (Received March 24th)

I note that you announced on November 6th 1996 and called tenders on March 1st 1997 for a survey project "IMPACT of EGMs on SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES". Would you please forward me a copy of the project brief indicating arrangements for community consultation. When is it expected the report will be available to the public?

I am concerned that the planning regulations allow a Community Recreation Centre with seating for 200 people, once it obtains a liquor license, (has potential) to install, without the need for a permit, Electronic Gaming Machines upto 25% of the licensed floor area. In this district a committee is applying for funding from the Community Support Fund for a 200 seat Community Recreation Centre which is to be licensed. This seems away of introducing EGMs without discussing it with district residents.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G. Walpole.
Alison G. Walpole.

Rural City of Wangaratta

64 - 68 Ovens Street

Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526

In Replying Please Quote: 5740031480 WW/nvn

If Calling Please Ask For: Wayne Wallis

29 April 1997



Ms A Walpole
"Silverlea"
RMB 3120
WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3735

Dear Ms Walpole

Re: Whorouly Memorial Park

Thank you for your letter dated 28 April 1997 regarding the Whorouly Memorial Park, situated CA 35C, Parish of Whorouly.

The property was transferred to the former Shire of Oxley in October 1991.

A copy of the property title is enclosed and you will note that various conditions apply to the use of the land as a recreation reserve.

If you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wayne Wallis", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Wayne Wallis
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SUPPORT

Enc



A. F. G. Gorse
Assistant Registrar of Titles.

George V.

by the Grace of God of Great Britain Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING Defender of the Faith EMPEROR of India

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting. WHEREAS in conformity with the requirements of Section 128 of the

Closer Settlement Act 1928 the Governor in Council of our State of Victoria has in consideration of the sum of £1000 (the price fixed by the

Closer Settlement Board State Rivers and Water Supply Commission under the said Act in accordance with the terms of the said Act) sold in fee simple as a site for a

recreation reserve the surface and down to the depth of fifty feet below the surface of the land hereinafter described

the same being portion of certain land heretofore acquired under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act 1928 or some corresponding repealed enactment NOW

KNOW YE that in consideration of the said sum having been duly paid We in consideration of the same and in pursuance of the Closer Settlement Act 1928 DO HEREBY GRANT

unto William Wilson, Esq., George Knabow, Arthur Ernest Spink, John Marks, Newton, Michael Cowner and Michael Cowner

all Farmers Walter George Williams, George Thomas Gumbold, and George Thomas Gumbold as joint tenants all of the

heirs and assigns as a site for a recreation reserve so much and such parts as lie above the depth of fifty feet

below the surface of Hill, that piece of Land in the said State containing more or less being all that thirty five acres three roods and twenty six perches

defined with the measurements and abutments thereof in the map drawn in the margin of these presents and therein colored yellow PROVIDED nevertheless that the grantees

shall be entitled to sink wells for water and to the use and enjoyment of any wells or springs of water upon or within the boundaries of the said land for any and for all

purposes as though they held the land without limitation as to depth. EXCEPTING nevertheless unto Us Our heirs and successors all gold and silver and minerals as

defined in the Mines Act 1928 in upon or under or within the boundaries of the land hereby granted AND ALSO reserving to Us Our heirs and successors free liberty and

authority for Us Our heirs and successors and Our and their licensees agents and servants at any time or times hereafter to enter upon the said land and to search and mine

herein for gold silver and minerals as aforesaid and to extract and remove therefrom any such gold silver and minerals and to search for and work dispose of and carry

away the said gold silver and minerals lying in upon or under the land hereby granted and for the purposes aforesaid to sink shafts make drives erect machinery

and to carry on any works and do any other things which may be necessary or usual in mining and with all other incidents that are necessary to be used for

the getting of the said gold silver and minerals and the working of all mines seams lodes and deposits containing such gold silver and minerals in upon or

under the land hereby granted. To hold unto the said William Wilson, Esq., George Knabow, Arthur Ernest Spink, John Marks, Newton, Michael Cowner, Walter George Williams and George Thomas Gumbold

their heirs and assigns for ever as joint tenants

PROVIDED ALWAYS and We do hereby expressly declare that this Our grant is made and shall be subject to the express conditions following (that is to say) Firstly that

either the land hereby granted nor any buildings for the time being thereon shall at any time hereafter unless with the previous consent of the Governor in Council

first had and obtained be used or maintained except as and for a recreation reserve and offices and

inconveniences connected therewith and for no other purpose whatsoever and Secondly that the land hereby granted shall not be subdivided except in accordance with a

design approved by the Closer Settlement Board State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of Our said State and that in the event of the owner for the time being of such land and the said Board

not agreeing to a design the said Board shall be at liberty to repurchase such land at the price at which it was sold by the Governor in Council.

PROVIDED FURTHER that the said land is and shall be subject to be resumed for mining purposes under Section 168 of the Land Act 1928.

AND PROVIDED also that the said land is and shall be subject to the right of any person being the holder of a miner's right or of a mining lease or mineral lease

under the Mines Act 1928 or any corresponding previous enactment to enter therein and to mine for gold silver or minerals within the meaning of the said Act and to

erect and occupy mining plant or machinery thereon in the same manner and under the same conditions and provisions as those to which such person would for the time

being be entitled to mine for gold and silver in and upon Crown lands. PROVIDED that compensation shall be paid to the said William Wilson, Esq., George Knabow, Arthur Ernest Spink, John Marks, Newton, Michael Cowner, Walter George Williams and George Thomas Gumbold

their heirs executors administrators assigns or transferees by such person for surface damage to be done to such land by reason of mining thereon such compensation to be

determined as provided for the time being by law and the payment thereof to be a condition

precedent to such right of entry.

Dated the twenty sixth day of May in the year

of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty being the day the

person herein named became entitled to this Grant.

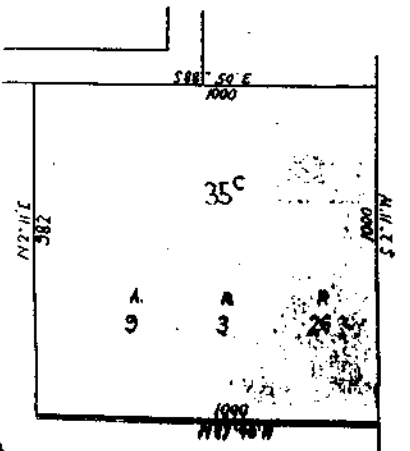
In testimony whereof We have caused this Our Grant to be sealed at Melbourne

with the Seal of the said State. Witness Our trusty and well-beloved, Colonel

the Right Honorable Andrew Munro-Turner, Baron Somers, Knight Commander of the

Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished

Service Order, Military Cross, Governor of the said State of Victoria and its Dependencies in the
Commonwealth of Australia.



Rural City of Wangaratta

64 - 68 Ovens Street

Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526



If Replying Please Quote:

217960.1170

If Calling Please Ask For:

Mr Wayne Wallis

Direct Line: 03 5722 0804

29th April 1997

Ms Alison Walpole

"Silverlea"

RMB 1320

WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3735

Dear Ms Walpole,

Re: Caveat on title for Whorouly Recreation Reserve.

Your correspondence regarding the above matter is acknowledged. It has been referred to the Mayor and Councillors and the officer whose name appears above, who will respond at the earliest possible time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jeanette Hayes'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jeanette Hayes
Records Manager

FILE COPY

"Silverlea",
RMP 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria, 3735.

10th May 1997

The Mayor and Councillors,
Rural City of Wangaratta,
64 Cross St.,
Wangaratta, 3677.

Dear Councillors,

I do not know of any social or economic impact study for the proposed building for Whorouly Memorial Park. Publicly I have commented on the potential of State Government grants to facilitate the introduction of gaming into small communities. The Minister for Gaming, Roger Hallam MLC, has advised me the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority has commenced a survey project "The Impact of EGM's on Small Rural Communities".

You have in your records a request by the Whorouly Senior Citizens Club, which has 80 members, for a survey of district residents to find out their opinions about the proposed building for Whorouly Memorial Park. This request was refused by the Commissioners. As a Whorouly resident ratepayer I ask you as an elected Council to consider this request and consult with Whorouly residents including discussion of the alternative of building a Sports Pavilion and the financial needs of the Pre-School and Tennis Club.

Whorouly is a sectionalised community. Recently despite wide advertising the Whorouly Rural Fire Brigade could not hold its Annual Meeting until officials went out and asked people to come to the hall to make a quorum. If the Pre-School closes will children who go to pre-school elsewhere go to school elsewhere? The Tennis Club which has built and financed its own pavilion now needs to finance the replanting of 3 of its lawn courts.

Residents have the capacity to provide only a certain number of dollars for community development. In the past this financial limit has ensured wide community discussion before projects proceeded. Today this control has been overridden by government grants allowing State Government policy to be imposed without adequate community consultation.

Yours faithfully,

Allison D. Walpole
Allison D. Walpole.

Attached Page 18, May 1997
Victorian Country Women,
Vol 43, No 4. Official
Journal Country Women's
ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC

Mailbag



Dear Editor,

The Government is making large grants of money from the Community Support Fund (gaming profits) to communities for recreation centres. As the planning controls for gaming venues have been changed in recent times this is an insidious way of introducing gaming machines into small communities.

In this district I at first supported a move to build a new venue as the local hall is not suitable for present day functions when people are seated at tables. However when the size of the proposed building was enlarged to a size to seat 200 I started asking questions. It did not seem economic for a district of this size as nearby towns have functions centres in economic difficulties.

My research led me to Father Peter Norden of the Roman Catholic Church Social Welfare Department and the Uniting Church Social Department. I learnt of how government funding is being used through local government to encourage gambling. When I had the planning regulations professionally searched I learned that a Community Centre with seating for 200, amenities of a certain standard and a liquor licence can, as soon as the licence is granted, without a permit, move in gaming machines up to 25% of the licenced floor area.

I have further information. Briefly the situation is that a 200 seat community centre once it obtains a liquor licence cannot be stopped

from installing gaming machines. The time to decide whether your community wants a gaming venue in its midst is before the building of a community centre is commenced. A Sports Pavilion which can be used for social activities cannot legally be used for gaming.

Recently the Prime Minister said "I think we're....at saturation level as far as gambling facilities in Australia are concerned." (Melb. Age 3.3.'97)

Should CWA members be supporting the call from the Victoria Council for Problem Gambling for a properly compiled social and economic impact study before gaming machines spread further?

Alison G Walpole

Dear Editor,

Last year I wrote to you requesting that you publish a letter for me in your CWA Newsletter. I sent a similar request to the CWA in each State and Territory. I have been researching the location of quilts in public areas and will be publishing the results in a book to be called the Australian Quilts Directory. The places listed will be many and varied, but will include galleries, museums, historic homes, council chambers, court houses, libraries and other civic institutions.

The directory is intended to be a State by State guide for the use of other quilters as they travel throughout the country. It will be

designed to help them locate interesting quilts in both major cities as well as towns and regional areas of each State and Territory. The aim is to enable quilters to stop and enjoy the quilting artworks which are in abundance throughout the country but the whereabouts of which are often not known.

I am writing now to thank you for including my letter and to tell you that I have heard from many country women from all over Australia. Some of the quilts they have told me about are treasures from the past and located in historical museums or heritage homes open to the public. Some have been created more recently to celebrate the town's heritage, either for the Bicentennial or for the anniversary of a particular area. Often these quilts have been hung in local council chambers or civic centres, some in libraries and some as theatre curtains. Many are remarkable for both their beauty, the quality of work as well as for the commitment shown by whole communities to create them. As I include entry after entry from country areas I feel the most enormous pride that these beautiful quilts have been made by women who often have many other worries and responsibilities and who also may have limited access to fabric shops and classes. I read the many articles that now appear in the newspapers about the problems confronting rural Australia and yet I know from my correspondence and my phone conver-

Continued on page 20...

Rural City of Wangaratta

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Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526

In Replying Please Quote: 217960.117 / 68.010.002



16 May 1997

Mrs A. Walpole
RMB 1320
WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3735

Dear Mrs Walpole

Re: Whorouly Memorial Park

I refer to your letter of 10 May, 1997 regarding the proposed Whorouly Community Recreation and Function Centre, and asking the Councillors to undertake a survey of residents regarding the proposal.

The Councillors have already confirmed their support for the proposal and confirmed a financial commitment for the project in the 1997/98 budget. Nevertheless, your request will be discussed with the Councillors at the earliest opportunity and you will be advised accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Anderson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Phone call
8.7.97.

FILE.

RMB 1320
WHOROUKY ST
373

25-5-97

Mr Ron Lutton
Office of Planning + Heritage,
1 McHoy St.
Wodonga West 3690.

Dear Ron,
Please I need advice.

We have a situation in Whorouly of the Rural City of Wangaratta through its Committee of Management of the Whorouly Recreation Reserve proposing to build a Community Recreation and Function Centre on the Reserve. This action has proceeded from a public meeting chaired by Commissioner Nanette Green for which the notice circulated was neither signed or authorised.

The Centre is planned to seat 200 people from advised once it is granted a liquor license gaming machines can be installed without the need for a permit. The Minister for Gaming, Roger Hallam MLC, advised me the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority is conducting a research project "The Impact of EGM's on Small Rural Communities".

the Acting Director of Gaming and Betting, Bill Lacey, Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority has given me a copy of the brief for this Consultation and confirmed the relationship between a liquor license and venue operators license - Sections 19-20 Gaming Machine Control Act. His advice is that this is a planning matter.

The Whorouly Senior Citizens Club which has 80 members, wrote to the Rural City of Warragul asking for a survey of residents to be conducted to find out what community support there is for the building. The Commissioners refused. I have written to the elected Council asking them to reconsider the Senior Citizens Club request. This is the reply received from the C.E.O. Joanne Anderson.

" I refer to your letter of 10 May 1997 regarding the proposed Whorouly Community Recreation and Function Centre and asking the Councillors to undertake a survey of residents regarding the proposal.

The Councillors have already confirmed their support for the proposal and confirmed a financial commitment for the project in the 1997/98 budget.

nevertheless, your request will be discussed with the Councillors at the earliest opportunity and you will be advised accordingly."

Through the media I have tried to alert Wharfedale residents to the possibility of the building being used for gaming. I have heard of a mallee community (I think Dalrymple) where a recreation Centre was built at the Sports ground. The hotel closed; the licensed was moved to the new building establishing the hotel at the Sports ground.

Because of verbal intimidation tactics from the Committee public discussion about the proposed Centre is limited. Should the Council refuse a second request for a survey of residents what opportunity is there to object? What is the process to allow amenity issues and planning concerns to be considered?

The Council and its Committee are building on Council owned land. Do they need a planning permit? Does the Council issue a permit to itself and at the same time pass judgement on objections or appeals?

In brief what are the planning

-onwards on this proposed building and
what is the process for residents to
make objections?

I repeat I need your advice.

Yours faithfully

Alison J Walpole.
Whorouly Resident, Rotherham

The Government has also foreshadowed limiting the growth of private child care. This is to be achieved through implementation of a child care planning system which will be developed in consultation with Local Government and seeks to ensure that all child care services are located in the area of greatest need.

Eligibility for child care assistance in new private long day services will be limited to 7,000 places in 1998 and 1999. This figure is consistent with the number of places recorded to meet the expected growth and participation rate of parents with young children in the workforce.

A new funding package for the reform of school age care has also been foreshadowed. Details in regard to the implementation of this are yet to be released. Further advice on the impact to the Rural City of Wangaratta will be made available upon receipt of such details.

Generally, the provisions made in the 1997/98 Federal Government Budget are likely to have minimal impact on childrens services currently provided within the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Citizen Services Committee Recommendation

That Council note this report for information purposes.

(Moved Councillor J Vance / Councillor A Griffiths)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

8.5.4 WHOROULY COMMUNITY RECREATION AND FUNCTION CENTRE

Whorouly Road - Whorouly Memorial Park

217960.1170

B&CPM - Community Assistance - Sport & Recreation Victoria Minor Facilities Grants

68.040.003

A Whorouly resident has requested that Council undertake a survey of district residents to ascertain their opinions in regards to the building proposed to be erected at the Whorouly Memorial Park. The proposed building is a Community Recreation and Function Centre that has been in the planning phase by the Whorouly Memorial Park Recreation Reserve Committee since 1989.

Extensive fund-raising by the project Committee has resulted in the development of a \$230,000 project which has successfully received funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria through the Minor Facilities Grant Scheme and is currently in the final assessment stage for funding from the Community Support Fund. In addition, Council has committed \$7,500 towards this project. The remaining funds are being supplied in cash and, in kind, labour by the Whorouly Recreation Reserve Committee.

Representations by the same resident in August 1996 claimed that "dissent and division exists in the Whorouly community regarding the proposed multi-function centre". Council conveyed this claim to the Centre's Steering Committee who in turn advised and documented the extensive community consultation and planning for the proposal that had been undertaken since 1990. The concerned resident was advised of this community consultation and Council at the time offered to hold a public meeting to further ascertain community views. In September 1996, the concerned resident advised Council that she did not believe that a public meeting would be productive. On 13 September 1996, the Project Steering Committee advised Council that it had conducted a very positive meeting with the Whorouly Senior Citizens Club and subsequently the Whorouly Senior Citizens Club advised Council that "the Senior Citizens had expressed their support to the Centre's Steering Committee and appreciation for the work already completed". A further request from the Secretary of the Whorouly Senior Citizens Club was received in October 1996, requesting that a survey be sent out with rate notices regarding support for the proposal. Council responded indicating that very clear and documented community support for the project had been established and that the Steering Committee would be calling for a further public meeting should applications for funding from the State Government be successful.

The main concern of the Whorouly resident appears to revolve around three issues:-

- Title of the land
- Future use of the Recreation and Function Centre
- Alternative use of the funds.

The land according to the title is classified as a Recreation Reserve and the title indicates that it shall be used for no other purpose whatsoever and shall not be subdivided unless approved by the Governor in Council. Concerns regarding the title of the land also relate to the potential use of the facility as a future gaming venue. The Steering Committee have advised that there is no mention in their funding applications that the Function Centre be used for such purposes in the future. Should such a purpose be requested it would be subject to the planning provisions of Council and the Gaming Machines Control Act 1991.

The final issue relates to competing interests within Whorouly for funds for the tennis courts and pre-school. There is no doubt that all communities have competing interests for potential funds, however, Council criteria and criteria established by the State Government gives preference to those organisations that have conducted wide community consultation, have contributed their own funds and have undertaken appropriate research into factors such stakeholders, benefits to the community, market segmentation and feasibility of the project.

The granting of funds by Sport and Recreation Victoria and the potential for further funds from the Community Support Fund would appear to endorse the fact that the Committee has met all of these selection criteria adequately. In addition the application included an endorsement from the Whorouly Netball, Football, Cricket and Lawn Tennis Clubs and the Whorouly State School.

Council has recently reaffirmed its commitment to this project following consultation with Mr Ken Jasper MLA advising that should additional funding become available through the Community Support Fund, Council would be prepared to consider increasing its contribution to \$20,000 in the 1997/98 financial year by providing a loan funds to the Whorouly Memorial Park Recreation Reserve Committee. In an effort to ensure that the public has every opportunity to comment on the development prior to the commencement of any works the Steering Committee has indicated a willingness to call a further public meeting should the Community Support Fund application be successful. The history of this project, the extensive community consultation and the commitment of the Steering Committee has in the past been recognised and supported by Council.

Citizen Services Committee Recommendation

1. That Council confirm its support for the proposal of the Whorouly Community Recreation and Function Centre.
2. That Council participate in the Public Meeting to be held when the result of all funding applications is known.

(Moved Councillor A Griffiths / Councillor D Evans)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK COMMITTEE

A PUBLIC MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 97 TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RECREATION AND FUNCTION CENTRE AT WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE WHOROULY HALL AT 7.30 PM AND WILL BE JOINTLY CHAIRED BY MR KEN JASPER, MLA AND MAYOR GEOFF DINNING, RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA.

WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF A GRANT OF \$116,115.00 FROM COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND AND \$7565.00 FROM THE RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA

The Community Support Fund Grant replaces the \$58,000 grant previously announced from Sport and Recreation Victoria. The estimated cost of the building is \$232,460. A copy of the plan is overleaf. It is a function centre designed to seat 200 people, it incorporates a stage, bar area, kitchen, meeting room, female change rooms, toilets (male, female and disabled). The building has been designed for use as a concert hall, (eg. school concerts), a facility for balls, dances, weddings, 21sts etc. It can also be used for passive sports such as aerobics, table tennis carpet bowls etc. It will compliment our existing hall which is not large enough for major functions.

The financial situation as it stands is:

Grant - Community Support Fund	\$116,115
Grant - Rural City of Wangaratta	\$7565
Money held by Memorial Park Committee	\$30,000
Estimated value of voluntary labour	\$54,780
Total on hand	\$208,460
Low Interest Loan - Rural City of Wangaratta	\$12,435
TOTAL STILL TO BE RAISED	\$11,565

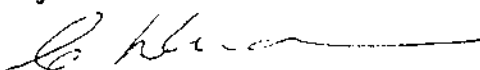
It is estimated that this money will come from a "Buy a Brick" Scheme. Bricks will be sold to families at \$100 each and a board will be displayed giving names of all donors to the scheme. We already have families interested in giving their donation. Other fund raising functions will be held. It is anticipated that we will receive discounts on building materials from local businesses.

This is your chance to have your say on the future of this project. Please attend the Public Meeting. If you are unable to attend please give us your opinion preferably by writing to us C/- RMB 1965 Whorouly, or placing your opinion in the box at the Store, alternatively you may phone any of the people listed below. Your opinions will be counted together with those expressed at the public meeting.

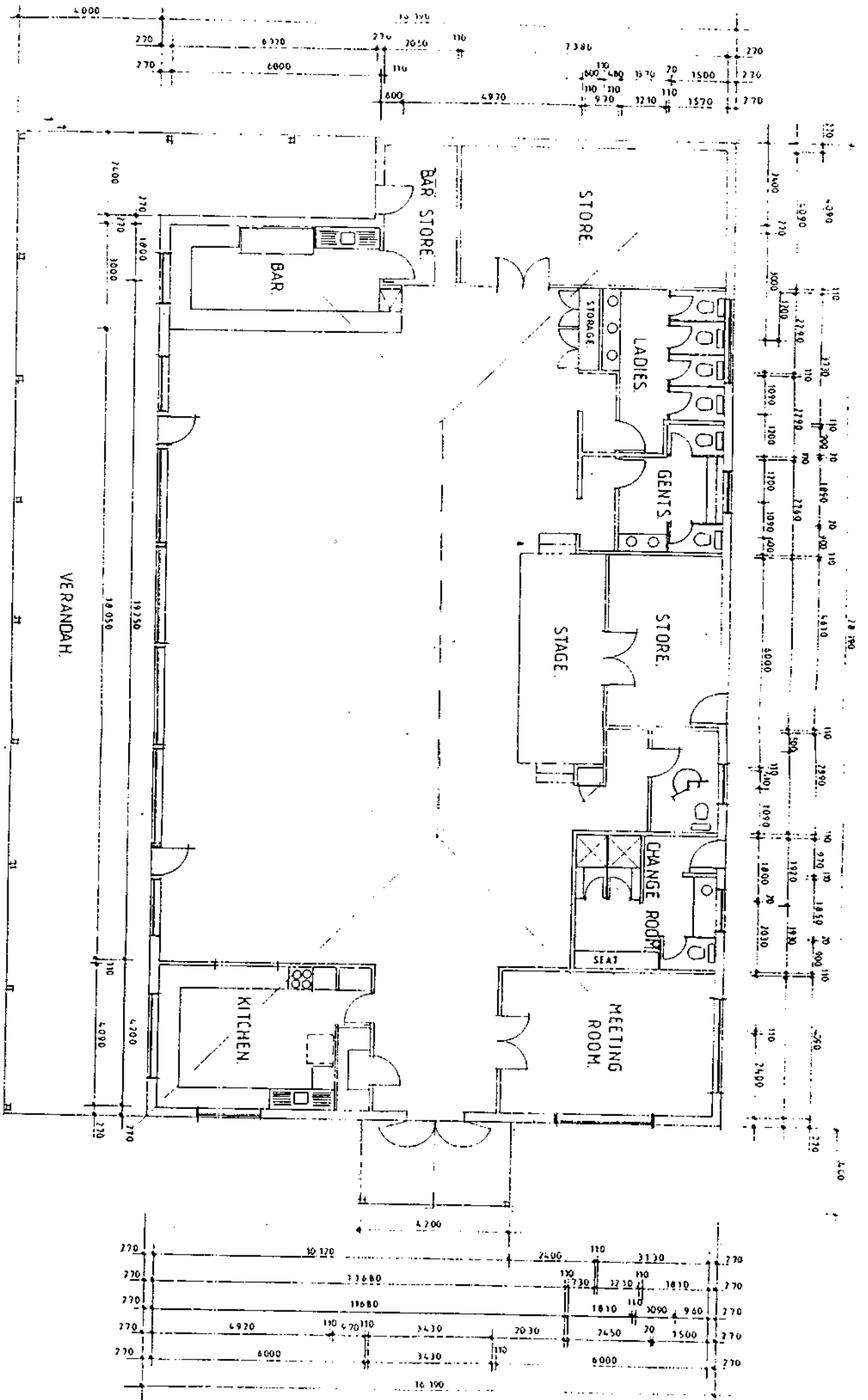
As considerable time and effort has gone into the planning and obtaining of grants for this facility which will greatly benefit all people in Whorouly and surrounding districts. We would value your opinion so please come to the meeting.

Colleen Kinderis - 57271374
Sue Bromilow - 57271241
Wayne Newton - 57271475
Rajanna Costenaro - 57271335

Jo or Stuart Elkington - 57271231
Jim McNamara - 57271206
Robert Kneebone - 57271404
Ed Costenaro - 57271236



Colleen Kinderis
President
Whorouly Memorial Park Committee



CHIFFERFIELD, COCKS
& ASSOCIATES Pty. Ltd.
4/1 IRELAND STREET,
DUBLIN, 3741,
CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS,
BUILDING SURVEYORS & DESIGNERS,
PH: (01) 5735 3404 Fx: (01) 5735 2304

WHOROLY RECREATION HALL
WHOROLY MEMORIAL PARK, WHOROLY
FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: AS SHOWN
DATE: AS SHOWN
DRAWN: O. COCKS, APRIL 1999
CHECKED: WHOROLY MEMORIAL
DATE: 215 - 1

To WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK COMMITTEE.

I do not support building a Recreation and Function Centre at Whorouly Memorial Park.

Should it be built the Council should place a Caveat on the title to prevent the building
1/ being used for gaming,
2/ being operated as a for profit business either privately or for a Club.

I support building a Sports Pavilion at Whorouly Memorial Park which can be used for Badminton, etc and social activities, but not for gaming.

Alison G. Walpole

Alison. G. Walpole,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South 3735.

24-7-97

Comment.

Individual submissions from two Whorouly residents with experience in the building industry questioning the accuracy of the costing of the building were presented to the Whorouly Memorial Park Committee. One of the residents was a member of the steering committee and expressed concern at the inadequate community consultation process.

Neither submission was presented to the public meeting by the Whorouly Memorial Park Committee.

1 August 1997
File No 720478
LJG



INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs Alison Walpole
Silverlea
RMB 1320
Whorouly South 3735

Dear Madam

WHOROULY RECREATION RESERVE

In regards to your letter dated 25 May 1997 concerning the potential use of buildings at the Whorouly Recreation Reserve for gaming, I wish to outline the following.

As your letter raised issues relating to planning local government approval processes for which the Rural City of Wangaratta is the responsible authority, its comments were sought. I have attached Council's response for your information, as it accurately outlines the planning controls and approval process in place under the Milawa Planning Scheme.

In relation to your concerns about planning approvals for gaming machines in licensed premises, I have attached section 3.9 of the State Section of the Planning Scheme. This outlines the circumstances when planning approval for gaming machines is not required. Whilst there may be no need for a planning permit in some instances, it should be noted an approval under the Gaming Control Act 1991 must still be gained before gaming machines can be installed.

At present there is no plan to utilise the proposed facility for gaming. However, the question of access to the decision making process of the Committee of Management is not addressed by Council. To clarify the matter a further questions was asked of Council in regards to the functioning of the Committee of Management overseeing the proposed building at the Whorouly Memorial Park Reservation. The Committee is constituted under Section 86 of the Local Government Act, and as such is a duly elected and appointed body. Meetings of the Committee are open to the public.

I hope this has addressed your concerns and clarifies the public participation processes in approving plans for the building, or in approving any possible future proposals for the installation of gaming machines.

Please contact Lisa Gervasoni at our office if any of the above information needs clarification.

Yours sincerely

Ron Lutton
Manager - North Eastern Region

50-52 CLARKE STREET BENALLA 3672 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA
PO BOX 499 BENALLA

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING • BUILDING REGULATION • DOCKLANDS • HERITAGE • LOCAL GOVERNMENT •
MAJOR PROJECTS • MELBOURNE CITY LINK • PLANNING • PORTS • PUBLIC TRANSPORT •
ROADS • TRANSPORT REGULATIONS • URBAN LAND

TELEPHONE	03 5761 1888
FACSIMILE	03 5762 4980

16. PUBLIC USE ZONE

Planning Scheme Map

Marked as designated in the list in section 1.

Purpose

- * To identify land in public use, including airfields, cemeteries, hospitals, railways, recreation, roads, schools and other government and semi-government uses.

16.1 Use of land

16.1.1 Permit not required - section 1

USE	CONDITION
	The land must be in that part of the zone marked
Airfield	A
Cemetery	C
Freeway	FW
Main Road	MR
Secondary Road	SR
Road Widening	RW
Open Space	POS
Primary School	PS
Secondary School	SS
Commonwealth Government	P1
Department of Conservation and Environment	P2
Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	P3
Ministry of Education	P4
Rural Water Commission	P5
State Electricity Commission	P6
Local Government	P7
Country Fire Authority	P8

16.1.2 Permit required - section 2USE

Any use not in section 1.

Any use in section 1 if the condition is not met.

16.1.3 Prohibited - section 3USE

Nil

16.1.4 Government and public authority uses

In section 1 of the controls over the use of land, a Commonwealth Government, State Government department, public authority or local government use includes the carrying out of any of their lawful functions.

16.2 Approval of plans

If buildings and works are to be constructed by a public authority, government department or municipal council on land used as described in section 1, that body must submit plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. These plans must comprise:

- * A site plan showing the position of all buildings and works relative to roads and property boundaries.
- * Elevations of all buildings and works showing all external materials and colours.
- * A landscape plan showing all pavings, planting materials, external lighting, signs, parking areas, seating and any other landscape features.

The development must be constructed and maintained in accordance with the approved plans.

Plans are not required if a minor utility installation is to be constructed.

16.3 Subdivision

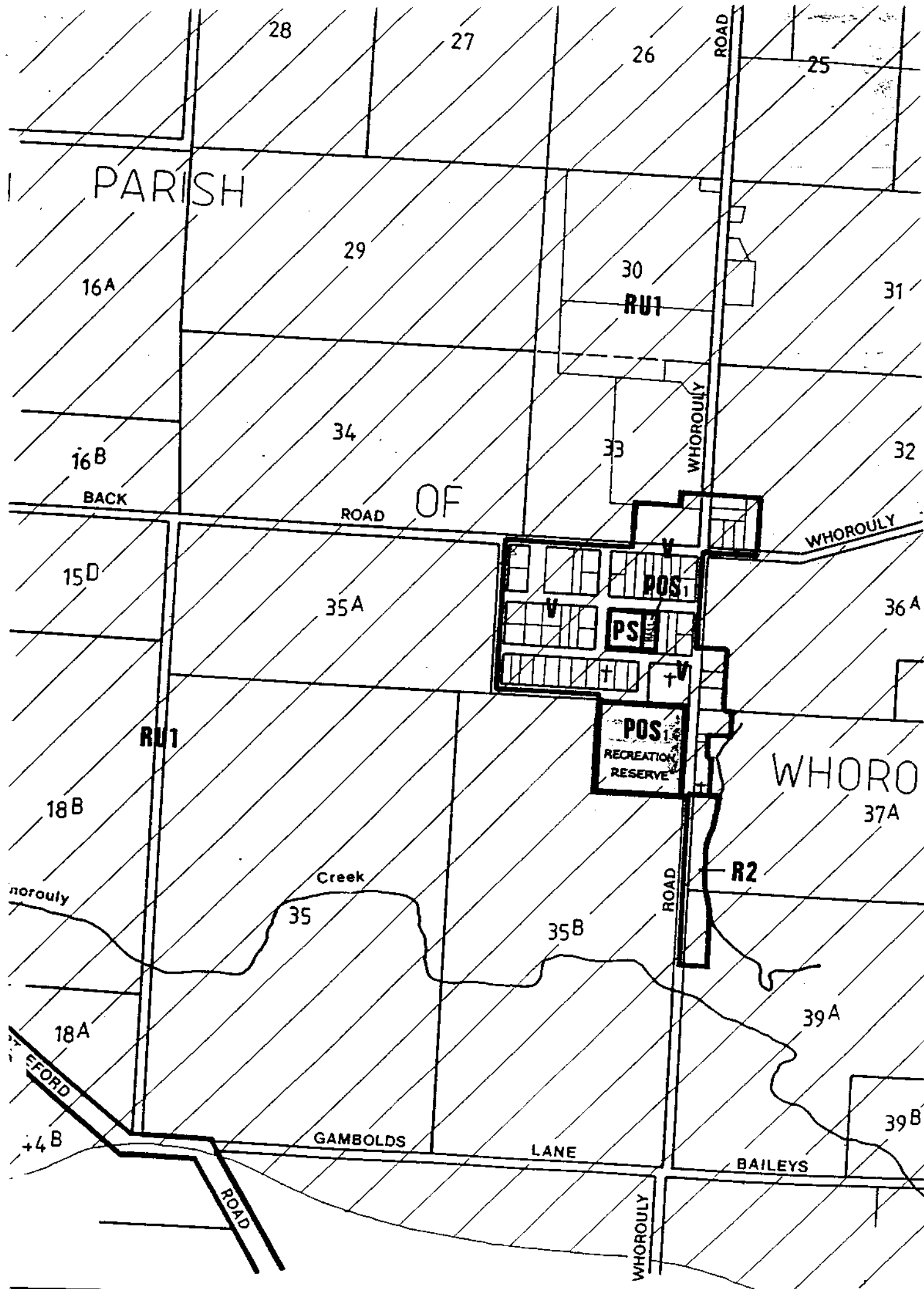
A permit is required to subdivide land.

An application must be referred to a referral authority listed in clause 7.

Before deciding on an application, the Responsible Authority must consider the effect of the subdivision on the use for which the land is zoned.

16.4 Committee of management

Land is considered to be vested in a public authority or municipal council if an authority or council has appointed a committee of management for it under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 or a corresponding previous Act.



3-8.2

Policy influences

The major factors influencing this policy are the need:

- * To restore the land, by arresting and reversing the decline of native vegetation in Victoria.
- * To ensure that all Victorian species of flora and fauna, native ecosystems and communities can survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development.
- * To control the spread of salinity of land and water resources throughout Victoria.
- * To limit the impacts of the greenhouse effect on people and natural ecosystems.
- * To manage catchments in a manner which takes account of all aspects of soil, water, flora and fauna conservation.
- * To protect land and water resources from future degradation due to further removal or destruction of native vegetation.

3-8.3

Implementation of policy

In implementing this policy, special attention must be given:

- * To the importance of retaining, restoring and enhancing native vegetation.
- * To the importance of sustainable use of land.
- * To the benefits of using land management plans or works programs as a basis for making decisions about the management of natural resources, including native vegetation, and about the use and development of those resources.
- * To replacing any loss of native vegetation by regenerating or replanting at least an equivalent area of native vegetation.
- * To siting new buildings and works so that the area of native vegetation removed or divided up is minimised.
- * To ensuring stock are controlled so that grazing of native vegetation causes minimum destruction.
- * To ensuring fire prevention or fuel reduction burning is carried out in a way that minimises the destruction of native vegetation.
- * To identifying and mapping existing native vegetation.

3-9

Gaming

This policy applies to the installation and use of one or more gaming machines.

3-9.1

Policy

It is planning policy that:

- * Planning controls for the installation and use of gaming machines be consistent throughout the State.
- * Gaming machines be allowed without a permit in premises if it does not result in a change in the existing use of the land.

3-9.1 Policy cont.

- * If the installation and use of gaming machines results in a change of land use then the effects on local amenity be considered.
- * Gaming venues provide a full range of hotel facilities or services to club members
- * Gaming machines should not be permitted in shopping complexes.

3-9.2 Policy influences

The major factors influencing this policy are:

- * The need to ensure that the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Liquor Control Act 1987 and the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991, function in a co-ordinated manner.
- * The need to provide certainty to responsible authorities, planning authorities and applicants under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991 about whether a permit is needed to install and use a gaming machine.
- * The desirability of ensuring that gaming venues provide a range of facilities or services to patrons.
- * The need to ensure that gaming venues are established in appropriate locations.

3-9.3 Implementation

In premises for which a licence may be granted for gaming under the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991 a planning permit will not be required to:

- * Install and use one or more gaming machines in a restricted area if that area does not exceed 25 per cent of the floor area of premises where liquor may be consumed.
- * Install and use one or more gaming machines in an unrestricted area.

This is not to apply, from 21 December 1995, to specified shopping complexes.

3-10 Timber Production.

This policy applies to timber production by establishing plantations, and by harvesting timber from native forest or from a plantation, but not to agroforestry, windbreaks and small woodlots.

3-10.1 Policy

It is planning policy that timber production -

- * be conducted in accordance with the Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production as in force from time to time, and any additional requirements of this scheme.
- * be expanded through the encouragement of softwood and hardwood plantation establishment on predominantly cleared land.

**TO: WHOROULY AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS, WHOROULY SPORTING CLUB MEMBERS
AND EXPATRIOTS OF WHOROULY**

By now most of you will know of our plans to build a new Recreation and Function Centre at Whorouly. Thanks to overwhelming support at our recent public meeting, plans are now fully in progress for a start to the project. The building, which is estimated to cost \$232,460, will feature a 200-seat function and recreation area complete with stage, bar area and kitchen. Also included are a meeting room, male, female and disabled toilets and a female change room. A major grant of \$116,115 from Community Support Fund, and support from the Rural City of Wangaratta of \$7,565 in grants and \$12,435 in loan funds has given our project a major boost. Our financial situation as it stands currently is:

Grant - Community Support Fund	\$116,115
Grant - Rural City of Wangaratta	\$7565
Money held by Memorial Park Committee	\$30,000
Estimated value of voluntary labour	\$54,780
Total on hand	\$208,460
Low Interest Loan - Rural City of Wangaratta	\$12,435
TOTAL STILL TO BE RAISED	\$11,565

To raise the outstanding funds and to hopefully offset the loan from the Rural City of Wangaratta we aim to raise \$24,000. Our first major fundraiser will be a Buy a Brick campaign. Interested community members can purchase a brick to the value of either \$50 (bronze), \$100 (silver) or \$500 (gold) and have, in recognition of their contribution, their names listed on an honour board. The board will be displayed in the completed building, listing donors of gold, silver or bronze bricks.

If you would like to help us by purchasing a gold, silver, or bronze brick please complete the form below and return it to the Treasurer, Mrs Sue Bromilow, Whorouly Memorial Park Committee, RMB 1690, WHOROULY 3735. If you have any further queries please phone Jim McNamara-57271206, Sue Bromilow-57271241 or Colleen Kinderis-57271374. It would also be of assistance to us if you could let us know of any ex-Whorouly community members who may be interested in purchasing a brick so they too can receive a copy of this letter.

We are also compiling a list of volunteers available to assist with the construction of the project. Please contact any of the above people if you have some time to assist us.

Thankyou for your support so far with our project, I'm sure the completed Recreation and Function Centre will benefit the whole community for many years to come, we look forward to your continued support.

Colleen Kinderis
President, Whorouly Memorial Park Committee

I
of

Would like to purchase a ☐ Gold Brick, ☐ Silver Brick, or ☐ Bronze Brick (tick appropriate box). I enclose a cheque/money order for \$, and I would like my name on the honour board in the following wording:

.....
(eg: Joe Bloggs and family, J & T Bloggs, Bloggs family, etc)

Return To: Mrs S. Bromilow,
Treasurer,
Whorouly Memorial Park Committee
RMB 1690, WHOROULY 3735

Please forward a receipt to the above address: Yes/No.

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly St.,
Victoria 3735.

26th October 1997

The Editor,
The Independent Weekly,
Box 249, Myrtleford 3737.

Dear Madam,

Your paper October 23rd reports the distribution in Bright of the Inter-Church Gambling Task Force information booklet on gambling. This discusses in a factual and unbiased way the escalation, spread and impact of the industry in Victoria. The Melbourne Age 22nd August 1997 quotes the Premier, Mr Kennett, when discussing removal of the cap of 27,500 on gaming machine numbers in Victoria outside the Casino "We may not go to 30,000, it may stay at 27,500. But there are a lot of little places that would like to have 5 or 10 machines..... Maybe if we go to 30,000, the next 2,500 will be tied to small venues."

The Government is at present considering a report prepared by A T Cocks and Partners reviewing Gaming Legislation. The Age 14th August quotes the Executive Officer Licensed Clubs Association of Victoria, Mr Neil Marshall, who said he "raised the idea of a third gaming operator in Victoria with the Gaming Minister, Mr Roger Hallam, earlier this year"..... This "would allow small clubs and hotels to buy their own (poker) machines".....

As it is possible to change government controls by regulation, without debate in Parliament, the Inter-Church Gambling Task Force plays an important role monitoring the gaming industry. It is represented on the Steering Committee for the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority research project "The Impact of EGM's on Small Rural Communities".

The Inter-Church Gambling Task Force can be contacted at 472 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy 3068, Phone 03 0489 9666

Cost of the booklet \$1 plus postage.

Yours faithfully,

Alison J. Wajol

Neil Marshall, who said he "raised the idea of a third gambling operator in Victoria with the Gaming Minister, Mr Roger Hallam, earlier this year..." This "would allow small clubs and hotels to buy their own (poker) machines..." As it is possible to change government controls by regulation, without debate in Parliament, the Inter-Church Gambling Task Force plays an important role monitoring the gaming industry.

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Counselling provided for local gamblers

I REFER to the articles and editorial on problem gambling in The Chronicle newspaper on October 10, 1997.

The articles, among other things, outlined the difficulties a person had in accessing problem gambling counselling.

For your information, the Department of Human Services provides funding to problem gambling counselling and liaison services across the Hume region.

The Hume region covers 11 shires and rural cities including the Shires of Indigo, Alpine, Towong and the Rural Cities of Wangaratta and Wodonga.

I can advise that funding of \$174,896 is allocated to Upper Hume Community

Health Services based in Wodonga for problem gambling services in the north-east of the region.

This agency provides outreach problem gambling counselling services to Wangaratta, Beechworth, Benalla and Wodonga, and liaison and co-ordination services across the Hume region.

This includes \$25,000 to produce information on problem gambling services in the region.

The problem gambling counsellor provides a one day outreach service in Wangaratta.

The number of days may be increased by Upper Hume Community Health Service if the number of clients require additional time for the counsellor to attend.

One of your articles highlighted the plight of a person with a gambling addiction.

The person stated she had telephoned G-Line but was not told of an option for self-exclusion from venues.

G-Line is a 1800 number, accessible to all people in the state.

Any caller to G-Line would have received confidential counselling and referral to the Upper Hume Community Health Services problem gambling service and any other appropriate services.

I trust this information clarifies the position with regard to access to problem gambling counselling in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Denis Napthine
Minister for Youth and Community Services

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

2nd November 1997

Denis Napthine,
Minister for Youth and Community Services,
GPO Box 4057, Melbourne 3001.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter in the Wangaratta Chronicle October 24, 1997 which comments on problem gambling services across the Hume Region. The booklet "Gambling Won't affect you? A guide for Victorians" was financed by the Inter Church Gambling Taskforce to educate people about the gambling culture.

I live in a district where the Community Support Fund has provided a grant of \$116,000 towards building a Community Recreation Centre which is recorded in the minutes of the Wangaratta Rural City Council, 17th June 1997, as a potential gaming venue under the Gaming Machines Control Act 1991. As the license of the local hotel is for sale there would seem little difficulty to the proposed building becoming licensed and installing gaming machines, moving local hotel services to the sportsground where junior sports teams meet. A Committee of Management is overseeing the proposed building. I quote from a letter from the Manager-North Eastern Region Planning, Mr Ron Lutton, "The Committee is constituted under Section 86 of the Local Government Act, and as such is a duly elected and appointed body. Meetings of the Committee are open to the public." It is difficult to know who will control and manage the building in the future.

The Melbourne Age, August 22, 1997, quotes the Premier, Mr Kennett, when discussing removal of the cap on gaming machine numbers in Victoria outside the Casino "We may not go to 30,000 it may stay at 27,500. But there are a lot of little places that would like to have 5 or 10 machines..... Maybe if we go to 30,000 the next 2500 will be tied to small venues". The Age, August 14, 1997, quotes the Executive Officer Licensed Clubs Association of Victoria, Mr Neil Marshall, who said he "raised the idea of a third gaming operator in Victoria with the Gaming Minister, Mr Roger Hallam, earlier this year".... this "would allow smaller clubs and hotels to buy their own (poker) machines...." I understand the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority has not yet released its research report on "the Impact of EGMS on Small Rural Communities".

It seems to me there is need for education about the gaming culture and problem gambling before it can be introduced to a community.

Yours faithfully,
Alison. G. Walpole.

Alison G. Walpole

Copy INTERCHURCH GAMBLING TASK FORCE

CR. HELEN GUILFOYLE

RCGW

— To Rosemary Gachess,
Cultural Arts Officer
RCOW.

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

12-11-97

Dear Rosemary,

I picked up a booklet about the Forum on Sunday when in Wangaratta Monday and have phoned in my registration.

On reading and thinking about it I think you have side stepped in your definition of Culture (What do we mean by Culture ?) the impact of gaming. Rather than "bomb" your Forum I'm giving you time to think.

The RCOW is promoting the building at Whorouly of a potential gaming venue (it is recorded in the Council Minutes). Once the Community Recreation Centre obtains a liquor license it is so planned it can introduce gaming machines without the need for a permit. The license for the Whorouly Hotel is for sale. It is not difficult to see it transferred to the Recreation Centre which would introduce Hotel facilities where the junior sports teams meet. This is not an original idea it has already been done at a Mallee town.

By this standard it is reasonable to see the RCOW redeveloping the Wangaratta Town Hall Complex as a Casino as with Broadmeadows Town Hall. This incorporates theatres and other community facilities as well as gaming rooms. My point is what is the policy of the RCOW concerning gaming ? The Council controls the Whorouly building under Section 86 of the local government act.

Personally I oppose gaming machines on Council premises, I know others see them as fund raising. It certainly needs
All the best.

discussion

Alison G. Walpole.

Alison. G. Walpole.

Chronicle 17-11-97

Hope for new arts home

A NEW multi-million dollar home for culture and arts topped the wish list of those attending an all-day community forum in Wangaratta yesterday.

Development of a strong identity for the city, evolving from the junction of the Ovens and King rivers, was also high on the agenda.

Ideas flowed freely from 40 local artists, performers, school educators and other interested members willing to give their two bobs worth to help develop a five year masterplan for the Rural City of Wangaratta's culture and arts.

While only a first step, the forum provided valuable input as to how the community perceived improvements could be made to the city's current arts centre, which comprises the town hall, Playhouse Theatre, Exhibitions Gallery and workshop.

A new, environmentally sound and self-sufficient arts complex, which could cater

By Jeff Zeuschner

for multiple needs, including a 500 seat performing arts theatre, was singled out as a major need.

Sites on the bank of the Ovens River, near the existing Tourist Information Centre, and where the current Wangaratta Arts Centre is located were put forward.

The forum identified a Jazz Hall of Fame as one of the ingredients which could help enhance the facility, which they believed needed to attract more outside performances.

Forum attendees also said Wangaratta needed to capitalise on the confluence of the rivers, and integration of local Aboriginal and European heritage as strong identity points for the city.

More street theatre and busking were also encouraged.

Guest speakers at the forum are currently

compiling two reports, based on their and community input, to present to the rural city council as part of the master-plan process.

Speaking at a wash-up meeting for the forum this morning, rural city development manager, Paul Comensoli, said it was great to get the grass roots feedback.

He said the community needed to set realistic and achievable goals, with limited funding available for a new multi-million dollar centre.

"We have to be careful of our expectations," Mr Comensoli said.

He said a process of gradual improvement to existing facilities, bringing them up to the levels which could attract different types of performances, may be another alternative with merit.

● It is understood a community recommendation to install a ticketing box to the town hall is being taken up by council and could be implemented within months.

Rural City of Wangaratta

64 - 68 Ovens Street

Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526

If Replying Please Quote: 67.010.005

If Calling Please Ask For: Ms Rosemary Gaetjens

Direct Line: 0357 220 865



13th November 1997

Ms Alison Walpole
Silverlea
RMB 1320
WHOROULY VIC 3735

Dear Ms Walpole,

Re: Seeking details of Council's gaming policy.

Your correspondence regarding the above matter is acknowledged. It has been referred to the officer whose name appears above, who will respond at the earliest possible time.

Yours faithfully,


per **Jeanette Hayes**
Records Manager



Minister for Youth and Community Services

555 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000
(GPO Box 4057 Melbourne 3001)
Telephone: (03) 9616 7500 Facsimile: (03) 9616 8002

YF5995/1194
MCS72199

Ms Alison Walpole
Silverlea
RMB 1320
WHOROULY SOUTH 3735

Dear Ms Walpole

Thank you for your letter of 2 November 1997 expressing concern about problem gambling.

Although problem gamblers constitute only a small minority of people who gamble, I can assure you that the harm their behaviour does to themselves and their families is of concern to the Government.

Prior to 1992 no public funds were allocated to problem gambling services. Since 1992 the Victorian Government has committed over \$35 million to provide, state-wide, a range of counselling, research, promotional and educational activities in response to problem gambling. These include the now well known G-Line and Break Even services.

Since 1995 my Department has funded Break Even Education and Liaison officers to work with services, the gaming industry and the broader community to promote problem gambling services. Their role is to raise awareness of problem gambling and its impact on individuals and their families.

Over \$1 million from the Community Support Fund was spent on the advertising and community education campaign on problem gambling undertaken in late 1995 and early 1996. At the time of the campaign the Government funded the production of over 100,000 brochures promoting G-Line and Break Even Problem Gambling Counselling Services and approximately 15,000 booklets to help people avoid problem gambling. These were distributed by a number of agencies, including the Break Even Services.

These booklets are still being distributed and utilised by both the services and those people seeking assistance. G-Line, the central 24 hour telephone and counselling service regularly places advertisements in newspapers circulating throughout Victoria.

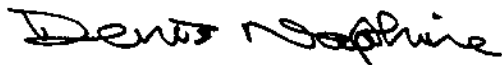
In order to ensure the most effective use of the funds which have been allocated, a systematic assessment of the effectiveness of the media and community education campaign needed to take place before launching a further campaign. I am pleased to say that this has now occurred and that television advertising promoting G-Line and problem gambling counselling services have recommenced on metropolitan and major regional television stations. Radio advertisements, including those in four major community languages, have also commenced.

The Break Even Liaison Officers have been allocated additional funds to enable the purchasing of local newspaper and radio advertisements which can be specifically tailored to meet local community needs and support the activities of the state-wide campaign.

This Government is committed to providing high quality services to problem gamblers and their families and to raising awareness in the broader community of problem gambling and its effect on individuals and families.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denis Napthine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denis" and the last name "Napthine" clearly distinguishable.

HON DENIS NAPTHINE MP
MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

21/11/97

FILE

City of Oxley,
Shire of Oxley,
Whorouly, Victoria 3207

City of Oxley - 1999

Corporate Support Committee Recommendation

That the General Manager, Corporate Support be authorised to undertake the appropriate administrative procedures to refinance Loan No.2.

(Moved Councillor M Booth / Councillor D Joyce)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

8.4.6 WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee

42.120.021

Background

The Whorouly Recreation Reserve Committee was established by the former Shire of Oxley under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989 for the purpose of managing and controlling the activities of the Whorouly Memorial Park Recreation Reserve.

Issues

In order to accord with the Committee's efforts in establishing a new multi purpose centre on the reserve and in view of the effluxion of time since appointment by the former Shire of Oxley, a review of the delegation to reflect actual responsibilities has been undertaken and a draft Charter which defines these endeavors has been prepared.

A review of the draft Charter for the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee has been undertaken by the Committee and by Council officers. Some minor amendments have been made and the revised charter has been confirmed by the Committee.

The Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee allows two (2) representatives from the following groups:

- Whorouly Football Club Inc;
- Whorouly Netball Club;
- Whorouly Junior Football Club;

Rural City of Wangaratta

64 - 68 Ovens Street

Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526

In Replying Please Quote: WW:ts /217960.1170
If Calling Please Ask For: Wayne Wallis



17 December 1997

Mrs Alison Walpole
RMB 1320
WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3735

Dear Ms Walpole

Re: Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December 1997 regarding facilities at Whorouly Memorial Park.

The Council does not have a formal policy regarding the development of gaming facilities on Council property and would give consideration to any application received on its merits.

A copy of the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee Instrument of Delegation and Charter is enclosed for your interaction.

If you require further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wayne Wallis', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Wayne Wallis
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SUPPORT

Encl

1997 Quality Award Winning Council

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 86(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, the Council of the Wangaratta Rural City Council ("Council") -

- (1) delegates each duty and/or functions and/or power described in column 1 of the Schedule (and summarised in column 2 of the Schedule) to the **Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee**.
- (2) records that -
 - (i) the date on which each such delegation came into force will be recorded in column 4 of the Schedule, and
 - (ii) each such delegation shall be subject to any conditions and/or limitations described in column 5 (or elsewhere in) the Schedule
- (3) declares that -
 - (a) this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a resolution of Council, passed on 18 November 1997
 - (b) the delegation -
 - (i) comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation,
 - (ii) remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it,
 - (iii) is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule, and
 - (iv) must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines, charters or policies which Council from time to time adopts

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WANGARATTA)
RURAL CITY COUNCIL was hereunto affixed on the)
Eighteenth day of November 1997 in the presence of)



David G. [Signature] COUNCILLOR

[Signature] CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SCHEDULE 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
PROVISION	DELEGATION	DELEGATE	DATE	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
Section 7(1)	To promote and undertake research into the future of the Whorouly Recreation Reserve	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		Subject to approval of Council
Schedule (1) Clause 5(2)	Function of managing and controlling Whorouly Recreation Reserve	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		Subject to controls specified in Charter
Section 125 (2)(a)	Duty to ensure that moneys due are properly collected	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		
Section 125(2) (b)	Duty to make security arrangements for money collected	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		
Section 125 (2) (c)	Duty to expend money correctly and to authorise expenditure correctly	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		No authority to expend Council funds
Section 125(2) (d)	Duty to protect and control assets in the Whorouly Recreation Reserve	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		
Section 125(2)(e)	Duty to ensure that all liabilities incurred by the Committee are properly authorised	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
PROVISION	DELEGATION	DELEGATE	DATE	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
Section 125(f)	Duty to operate efficiently and economically and to avoid waste and extravagance	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		
Section 126(l)	Prepare an annual report of operations and an annual financial statement	Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee		Report to be presented to Council in August each year Council to meet Audit costs

CHARTER OF THE WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1 CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The Wangaratta Rural City Council ("Council") has resolved in accordance with Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989, to appoint a Special Committee ("Committee") to control and manage the "Whorouly Recreation Reserve" ("Reserve") being an area of land situated at CA 35C, Parish of Whorouly and contained in Certificate of Title, Volume 5758, Folio 445
- 1.2 The Council has resolved in accordance with the provision of Section 86(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 that the Special Committee shall consist of:
 - a) Representatives of tenants and users of the Reserve; and
 - b) Representatives of the Whorouly and regional community.
- 1.3 The Council has set no time limit on the duration of the establishment of the Committee. It shall remain in existence until such time as the Council resolves to revoke its establishment.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the following objectives:

- 2.1 To control and manage the Reserve in an efficient and effective manner in the best interests of the Council, residents and users of the Reserve.
- 2.2 To ensure that its financial affairs are conducted in accordance with accepted accounting standards and regulations.
- 2.3 To recommend the charging of fees that enable the Committee to meet all of its liabilities and to return an annual surplus on its operations.
- 2.4 To prepare strategic plans and reports for the future development of the Reserve and its facilities.
- 2.5 To promote public interest in and support for the management and development of the Reserve
- 2.6 To promote locally and regionally the use of the Reserve as a venue for sporting, recreational and cultural events
- 2.7 To act as a co-ordinating body between the Council and the community clubs, schools, users and potential users of the Reserve

3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the following functions

Management

- 3.1 To manage, operate and control the Reserve in association with the Council and to perform the powers, duties and functions delegated to it by the Council and specified in the Instrument of Delegation.
- 3.2 To promote the use of the Reserve by local, regional, state, national and international sporting and recreation bodies, by residents of Whorouly and region, by schools, community organisations, business organisations and other interested bodies.
- 3.3 To carry out research, investigations, surveys or inquiries into the use and operation of the Reserve and into the need to carry out capital works on the Reserve and to advise the Council of those needs.
- 3.4 To convene or arrange to be convened meetings, seminars, workshops, forums, lectures and other events designed to assist the Committee to attain its objectives.
- 3.5 To represent to the Council the needs and aspirations of local and regional organisations involved in recreation and sport.
- 3.6 To maintain the highest level of co-operation between the Council, the Committee and sporting and recreation organisations.
- 3.7 To establish working groups of members to advise the Committee on the most efficient and effective means of performing its powers, duties and functions and of attaining its objectives.
- 3.8 To advise the Council on the need and desirability of making capital improvements to the Reserve and its facilities.
- 3.9 To advise and assist the Council to maintain all of the assets of the Reserve

Finance

- 3.10 To recommend annually to the Council the rentals, fees and charges to be levied for the use of the Reserve
- 3.11 To institute an efficient and effective system of collection and recording of rentals, fees and charges
- 3.12 To recommend items for inclusion in the annual budget for the Reserve and to advise the Council on the budget prior to its being adopted by the Council

- 3.13 To ensure that the Committee's financial decisions do not affect the integrity of the Council's budget
- 3.14 To collect, retain and expend all fees paid for the use of the Reserve
- 3.15 To prepare an annual budget of the Committee's operations and to manage expenditure within the limits of that budget
- 3.16 To accept and retain donations, grants and endorsements made to the Committee and to ensure that the funds are expended for the purposes for which they were provided.

Operation

- 3.17 To ensure that users of the Reserve comply with conditions set for the care, protection and management of the Reserve set out in policies of the Committee and the Council's Local Laws.
- 3.18 To make and implement policies for the use of the Reserve.
- 3.19 To carry out regular inspections of the buildings, facilities, ovals and grounds in the Reserve and to ensure that regular maintenance programs are implemented.
- 3.20 To ensure that users of the Reserve make good any willful or accidental damage caused during use.
- 3.21 To consult with organisations who wish to establish facilities at the Reserve to consider and recommend on proposals for new facilities at the Reserve and ensure that any new facilities are planned and co-ordinated with existing facilities.
- 3.22 To resolve any conflicts that arise over the use or potential use of the Reserve.

4 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The Council has resolved that the Special Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

User Group Representatives

- (a) Two (2) representatives of each of the following user groups:-
- (i) Whorouly Football Club Inc
- (ii) Whorouly Netball Club
- (iii) Whorouly Junior Football Club

- (iv) Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club Inc
- (v) Whorouly Cricket Club

Community Representatives

- b) Up to five (5) representatives of the Whorouly and regional community

5. TERM OF APPOINTMENT

- 5.1 Any person appointed to the Committee shall hold office for a period of one (1) year.
- 5.2 Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term or terms of one (1) year each
- 5.3 A member of the Committee may resign his/her position at any time
- 5.4 If the member who resigns represents an organisation specified in 4.1(a), the Council shall invite the organisation to nominate another person to fill the vacancy.
- 5.5 If the member who resigns is a representative of the community specified in 4.1(b), the Council shall invite the Committee to nominate another person to fill the vacancy.
- 5.6 If any member fails to attend meetings of the Committee in breach of Clause 30.2 of Wangaratta Rural City Council Local Law No. 5, that member shall be deemed to have resigned their position on the Committee. The Council shall follow the procedure set out in Clause 5.4 or Clause 5.5 to fill the vacancy.
- 5.7 Any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee under the provisions of Clause 5.4 or Clause 5.5 shall hold office for the unexpired position of the previous member's term of office

6. NOMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

User Group Representatives

- 6.1 The Council shall invite each organisation specified in Clause 4.1(a) to nominate two (2) representatives for appointment to the Committee not less than one (1) month before the date of the termination of the term of office of the representative.
- 6.2 In the event that the Council has revoked the establishment of the Committee, it shall invite each organisation specified in Clause 4.1(a) to nominate two (2) representatives for appointment to the Committee not less than one (1) month before the date fixed by the Council for the re-establishment of the Committee.

- 6.3 Each organisation must lodge with the Secretary of the Committee a written nomination form signed by the person nominated and countersigned by the Chairperson of the organisation

Community Representatives

- 6.4 The Council shall call for nominations for the appointment of up to five (5) community representative to the Committee by giving public notice in a local newspaper not less than one (1) month prior to the date of the termination of the term of office of the representative.
- 6.5 Candidates for appointment as the community representative must lodge written and signed nominations forms with the Secretary of the Committee not less than two (2) weeks before the date of the last meeting held before the date of the termination of the term of office.

Recommendations for Appointment

- 6.6 The Committee shall forward to the Council a list of the names of the persons nominated by the organisations specified in Clause 4.1(a) for appointment to the Committee, accompanied by the completed nomination forms.
- 6.7 The Committee shall recommend to the Council for appointment those persons who have nominated for membership of the Committee as a community representative specified in Clause 4.1(b).
- 6.8 The Council may in its absolute discretion decline to appoint to the Committee any person who has been nominated or recommended for appointment. In such an event, the Council shall inform the Committee of the reasons for its decisions.

7. OFFICE BEARERS AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 The Committee at each Annual General Meeting shall elect the following office bearers:

President (Chairperson)
Vice President (Deputy Chairperson)
Secretary
Treasurer

- 7.2 The Committee at each Annual General Meeting may elect any sub-committees which it considers necessary to carry out its functions

- 7.3 The role of the President (Chairperson) shall be

- (a) To chair all meetings of the Committee
(b) To act as the liaison person between the Committee and the Council

- (c) To arrange for an annual report of the Committee to be prepared for presentation at the Annual General Meeting and to Council.

8 REPORTING

- 8.1 The Chief Executive Officer of the Council shall appoint an officer or officers of the Council to attend meetings of the Committee from time to time. The Chief Executive Officer shall advise the Committee of such appointments.
- 8.2 The Secretary shall prepare the agenda and minutes for each meeting of the Committee and shall distribute or arrange to be distributed copies of the agenda and minutes to members of the Committee and to the Council.
- 8.3 The Committee shall submit reports after each meeting to the Council and, in addition, shall submit an Annual Report and annual statement of accounts not later than 15 August in each year, for inclusion in the Council's Annual Report.
- 8.4 The Treasurer shall ensure that a financial report is included in the agenda of each meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

9. FINANCES

- 9.1 The Chief Executive Officer of the Council shall appoint an officer of the Council's Finance Unit to liaise with the Committee on financial and accounting matters.
- 9.2 The Committee shall keep its accounts in a form that generally complies with the Municipal Accounting Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards.
- 9.3 The Committee's financial year shall commence on 1 July in each year and end on 30 June in the following year.
- 9.4 The Council shall arrange for its auditor to complete the audit of the Committee's accounts. The Council shall bear the costs of the audit.
- 9.5 The Committee shall prepare a draft budget of income and expenditure for each financial year and shall submit it in April each year to the Council for approval.
- 9.6 The Treasurer shall submit a financial report to each meeting of the Committee and shall submit an annual statement of accounts to the Committee's Annual General Meeting.
- 9.7 The Treasurer shall submit with each report, a list of accounts for payment for the Committee's approval.
- 9.8 The Committee shall not authorise the expenditure of any liability in excess of the amount specified in the Instrument of Delegation.

9.9 The Committee shall draw all cheques and other debits on the Committee's bank accounts following authorisation of payments.

9.10 The Committee shall open and operate a bank account entitled 'Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee' at the National Australia Bank, 45 Reid Street, Wangaratta.

9.11 The Committee may establish reserve funds for capital works into which shall be paid the net surplus of the Committee obtained in the previous financial year.

10. INSURANCES

10.1 The Council shall arrange and maintain a portfolio of insurances to cover all possible risks, including a Personal Accident Policy for members, a Voluntary Worker's Policy and an Indemnity Policy for members of the Committee.

10.2 The Committee shall require each organisation which rents or uses buildings in the Reserve to arrange and maintain insurance policies for the contents of those buildings.

10.3 The Committee shall require each organisation which conducts sporting events on the arena, and/or who have exclusive use of facilities in the Reserve, to arrange and maintain public liability insurance policies, in which indemnity must be given to the Council, Committee, Councillors, Committee Members, and officers of the Council.

10.4 The Committee shall require each organisation which uses the Reserve to submit a certificate for each insurance policy and shall forward copies of all certificates to the Council.

11. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

11.1 If any member representing an organisation specified in Clause 4.1(a) is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee, the organisation may appoint another person to attend the meeting as an observer. The Chairperson may permit the observer to speak on matters relating to the organisation they represent, but the observer must not move, second or vote upon any motion.

11.2 The Committee must ensure that its meetings are open to the members of the public as required by Section 89(1) of the Local Government Act 1989.

11.3 The Committee may close the meeting to members of the public for the reasons specified in Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989. The Committee must resolve to close the meeting and must specify the reasons for the decision in the minutes of the meeting.

11.4 The Chairperson must give reasonable notice to the public of meetings of the Committee.

12. REVIEW

- 12.1 The Council shall carry out regular reviews of the Instrument of Delegation and/or the Committee's Charter.
- 12.2 The Council may carry out a special review of the Instrument of Delegation and/or the charter at the request of the Committee
- 12.3 The Council shall consult with the Committee prior to the making of amendments or alterations to the Instrument of Delegation and/or the Committee's Charter.

13. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- 13.1 The Council has resolved to exempt members of the Committee who are not Councillors from the obligation to submit returns of pecuniary interest
- 13.2 Members of the Committee who have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in matters before the Committee must declare the nature of their interest at each meeting.
- 13.3 Members who have pecuniary interests in any matter before the Committee must not move, second or vote upon motions on the matter. Members may speak on the matter but must leave the meeting room and remain outside the meeting room while the vote is taken.

14. ATTACHMENTS

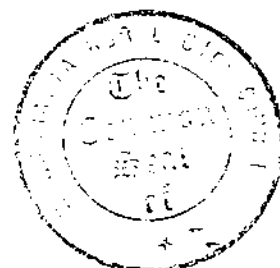
- 15.1 The Council has attached the following documents or copies of the document to this Charter:-
 - a) Instrument of Delegation and Schedule;
 - b) Local Law No. 5 - Council Meeting Procedures

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WANGARATTA)
 RURAL CITY COUNCIL was hereunto affixed on the)
 Eighteenth day of November 1997 in the presence of)

[Handwritten signature]

COUNCILLOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



9.2.3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

9.2.3.1 WHOROULY MEMORIAL PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee

42.120.021

Background

The Whorouly Recreation Reserve Committee of management was established by the former Shire of Oxley under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989 for the purpose of managing and controlling activities at the Whorouly Memorial Park Recreation Reserve.

In accordance with the Committee's efforts in establishing a new multi purpose centre on the reserve and in view of the effluxion of time, a revised Instrument of Delegation and Charter for the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee was authorised by Council at its meeting held on 18 November, 1997.

Issues

The Charter of the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee allows two (2) representatives from the following user groups:

- Whorouly Football Club Inc;
- Whorouly Netball Club;
- Whorouly Junior Football Club;
- Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club Inc;
- Whorouly Cricket Club;

and up to five (5) representatives of the Whorouly and regional community.

In accordance with the Charter of the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee any person appointed to the Committee shall hold office for a period of one year.

Implications

At its Annual General Meeting held on the 19 March, 1997 the following committee nominations were received and formally endorsed by the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee and are recommended for appointment to the Committee by Council:

*Committee
appointed
16 Dec 1997*

*No public advertisement
asking for community
representatives was made
in Wangaratta Chronicle to
... ..*

Mrs Colleen Kinderis
Mr Glen Cousins
Mr Tim McDonnell
Mrs Sue Bromilo

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Wayne Newton
Rodney Newton
Rajanna Costenaro
Ricky Boyd
Monica Amery
Jo Elkington
Pam Matheson
Robert Kneebone
Alwyn Farrar
Peter Kinderis
Jim McNamara
Lawrie Chalmers – Ex officio

Whorouly Cricket Club
Whorouly Cricket Club
Whorouly Football Club
Whorouly Football Club
Whorouly Netball Club
Whorouly Netball Club
Whorouly Junior Football Club
Whorouly Junior Football Club
Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club
Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club
Community Representative
Community Representative

The Council must now make the formal appointments to the Committee as required by the Local Government Act 1989.

Recommendation

That Council appoint the following persons as members of the Whorouly Memorial Park Special Committee for the period 1 October, 1997 to 30 September, 1998.

Mrs Colleen Kinderis
Mr Glen Cousins
Mr Tim McDonnell
Mrs Sue Bromilow

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Wayne Newton
Rodney Newton
Rajanna Costenaro
Ricky Boyd
Monica Amery
Jo Elkington
Pam Matheson
Robert Kneebone
Alwyn Farrar
Peter Kinderis
Jim McNamara
Lawrie Chalmers Ex -officio

Whorouly Cricket Club
Whorouly Cricket Club
Whorouly Football Club
Whorouly Football Club
Whorouly Netball Club
Whorouly Netball Club
Whorouly Junior Football Club
Whorouly Junior Football Club
Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club
Whorouly Lawn Tennis Club
Community Representative
Community Representative

(Moved Councillor A Griffiths / Councillor D Evans)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

Sent to Victorian Country Women
Weekly Times
Anglican Adelaide

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

16th June 1998

Dear Sir,

Valuing Rural Communities is the title of a discussion paper published in April by the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission. It deals with the government Rural Development Policy, its impact on rural communities and how communities respond.

As people work to provide welfare for people in need of help through church and other organisations are they forgetting the need to ask is it government policies creating the need for this welfare? The discussion paper records figures for youth suicide. In rural areas among 15-24 year old males there were 37.7 deaths per 100,000 in 1992. What could have been done to help these young people?

The dependence of sports clubs on sales of alcohol and gaming machine revenue for finance is being encouraged by the Victorian Government without community education of how to handle the problems created. Children and young people encouraged to play sport should not be exposed to the alcohol/gaming culture at sportsgrounds. What controls are placed on people managing these venues?

The Valuing Rural Communities discussion paper is available from ACSWC, PO Box 326, Curtin, ACT 2605.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G Walpole

Alison. G. Walpole.

Responding to the need

DEAR MIRANDA —

"Valuing Rural Communities" is the title of a discussion paper published in April by the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission.

It deals with the government's rural development policy, its impact on rural communities and how those communities respond.

As people work to provide welfare for people in need of help through church and other organisations, are they forgetting the need to ask where the need comes from in the first place?

The discussion paper records figures for youth suicide.

In rural areas among 15 to 24-year-old males, there were 37.7 deaths per 100,000 in 1992.

What could have been done to help these young people?

The dependence of sports clubs on sales of alcohol and gaming machine revenue for finance is being encouraged by the Victorian Government without community education on how to handle the problems created.

Children and young people

encouraged to play sport should not be exposed to the alcohol-gaming culture at sports grounds.

What controls are placed on people managing these venues?

The "Valuing Rural Communities" discussion paper is available from ACSWC, PO Box 326, Curtin, ACT 2605.

— ALISON WALPOLE
Whorouly S

• This paper was discussed in Miranda's column on May 27.

— Mir

— WT 1-7-98

7.

9.2.5.2 STATE SECTION AMENDMENT S69 – GAMING MACHINES

State Amendments

73.030.001

Background

The Minister for Planning and Local Government has introduced a State Section amendment, Amendment S69 (approved 15 December 1997).

This amendment effectively has two parts, the first part has the effect of prohibiting the establishment of any new gaming machines/venues in "strip shopping centres".

An exemption regarding this prohibition applies to:

- existing gaming venues;
- proposed venues for which a gaming permit has been granted;
- proposed venues for which approval under the Gaming Control Act 1991 has been granted.

In order to undertake the second part of the amendment the Minister requested Council to provide details of each strip shopping centre in the municipality for which the Council seeks a continuation of the prohibition on the establishment of new gaming venues.

Council is now required to provide a formal response on Amendment S69.

Under Amendment S69, a strip shopping centre is defined as an area:

- zoned for business use, and
- consisting of a least two separate buildings on at least two separate and adjoining lots, and
- in which a significant proportion of buildings are shops, and
- in which a significant proportion of lots abut a road accessible to the public generally.

There are a number of retail areas within the municipality including the rural townships, which by this definition could be considered as "strip shopping centres". Council needs to identify strip shopping centres (if any) within the municipality where the establishment of gaming machines should continue to be prohibited.

A letter has been received from the "Retail Traders' Association of Victoria" indicating its opposition to any new gaming machines. The main concerns expressed relate to the notion that "gaming machines are a major competitor to retailers and are causing extreme concern to many retail shop owners, particularly in suburban and country areas. Many retailers have been forced to close or have had profits reduced so dramatically that it has become questionable whether the store remains viable".

Assessment

As a matter of local planning policy Council needs to consider whether the establishment of new gaming venues within strip shopping centres or parts of some centres is considered appropriate.

In discussions with the Gaming Commission it was revealed that an application for any new gaming machines lodged with the Gaming Commission would require

- evidence that a contract had been executed with a Gaming Operator (ie Tatts or Tabcorp)
- consent had been obtained from the local authority (Council).

It is understood that any gaming operator will undertake significant market research to ensure any decision to enter into a contract is economically viable.

Although not confirmed the Department of Infrastructure indicated that on approval of the second part of this Amendment the provisions of Clause 8-4.1, 8-4.2 and 8-4.3 would again apply. The contents of each of these clauses are as follows:

Clause 8-4.1 Permit not required – restricted area

No permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in a restricted area if that area does not exceed 25 per cent of the Gross floor area of the premises where liquor may be consumed.

Clause 8-4.2 Permit not required – unrestricted area

No permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in an unrestricted area.

Clause 8-4.3 Permit required – restricted area

A permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in a restricted area if the requirement of Clause 8-4.1 is not met and the installation and use of one or more gaming machines is not otherwise permitted under the scheme

These provisions indicate when a planning permit is required for gaming machines. Basically no permit is required within an approved venue (unrestricted area) or within an area which does not exceed 25 per cent of the Gross floor area of a premises where liquor may be consumed (restricted area).

Without any detailed research available on the effects of gaming machines within the municipality it would be difficult for Council to substantiate outright prohibition within all strip shopping centres. The number of gaming machines permitted within any area is essentially based on the commercial decision of the gaming operators.

Obviously the decision to, or not to, prohibit the establishment of future gaming machines has potential adverse effects especially on the retail sector of the municipality. In light of these concerns it is considered necessary to initiate open discussions on this issue involving the community. A representative from the Department of Infrastructure should also be in attendance to provide relevant information and answer specific queries in relation to this matter.

Recommendation

1. That a public information session be conducted by Council on Amendment S69.
2. That representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Department of Infrastructure and other interested persons be invited to attend the public information session regarding the implications of Amendment S69 after which a further report shall be presented to Council.

(Moved Councillor M Booth / Councillor J Vance)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

CONCERNING WHIROONY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE
THE MINUTES R.C.O.W. (WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL)
17TH JUNE 1997 PAGE 79, SECTION 8.5.4. STATE, REGARDING
"THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE FACILITY AS A FUTURE
GAMING VENUE."
"SHOULD SUCH A PURPOSE BE REQUESTED IT WOULD
BE SUBJECT TO THE PLANNING PROVISIONS OF
COUNCIL AND THE GAMING MACHINE CONTROL ACT 1991"

"Silverlea" R.M.B. 1320
Whorouly South
3735
Home Phone 03/57271372

Chief Executive Officer,
Wangaratta Rural City Council,
PO Box 238,
Wangaratta 3676.

5th July 1998

Dear Sir,

I have read 9.2.5.2. page 66 minutes of Wangaratta Rural City Council meeting 16th June 1998, also amendment S69 and notes as supplied by the Department of Infrastructure.

The minutes of Wangaratta Rural City Council meeting 17th June 1997 page 79 8.5.4. reads regarding the Whorouly Community Recreation Centre " the potential use of the facility as a gaming venue "

"Should such a purpose be requested it would be subject to the planning provisions of the Council and the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991."

At present being built, the Whorouly Community Recreation Centre is partly funded by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund, it is managed by a Special Committee of Council and Council has made financial commitment to the building [minutes 17-6-97] . In addition to the cash donation, Council has provided ~~low~~ interest loans for the building and allowed commencement of the building while a public appeal is undersubscribed.

It appears the Wangaratta Rural City Council has a pecuniary interest in legislating planning regulations in relation to Whorouly Community Recreation Centre.

Yours faithfully,

Alison. G. Walpole,
Rural ratepayer.

Copies to V.L.G.A.

Rob Hull, Shadow Minister for Gaming.
Productivity Commission inquiry into the Gambling Industry.

Rural City of Wangaratta

64 - 68 Ovens Street

Wangaratta 3677

P.O. Box 238

Wangaratta 3676

Telephone 03 5722 0888

Facsimile 03 5721 9526

In Replying Please Quote: 217960.1170 GE:lk

9 July 1998



Mrs Alison G Walpole

"Silverlea"

RMB 1320

WHOROULY SOUTH VIC 3735

Dear Mrs Walpole

I acknowledge your letter of 5 July 1998 regarding the Whorouly Community Recreation Centre.

Your comments have been noted.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Emonson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Quality Award Winning Council

Chronicle Letters

Community assets fall into govt. hands

THE Spring Sitting of the Victorian Parliament has before it legislation which will change the social fabric of Victorian communities.

The Health Services (Further Amendment) Bill 1998 in part allows government control over legal trusts.

Debate recorded in Hansard tells the story of the government "asset stripping" the Essendon and District community of hundreds of thousands of dollars donated and raised for a district hospital by closure of the hospital.

A bill regarding the Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust seeks to change its composition

to remove trustee representation from the sports clubs using the ground.

The government is committed to requiring corporate business management of the MCG. It is policy committed to the introduction of business management for other sporting facilities.

A bill to liberalise the liquor laws will assist the coordination of the liquor laws, gambling laws and planning regulations to allow the introduction of electronic gaming machines into communities. Approximately 10 per cent of Victorian taxation revenue is derived from gambling. Business management of

sports facilities will introduce user pays philosophy limiting opportunities to play sport.

The Local Government (Amendment) Act 1996, Local Government (Further Amendment) Act 1997, Local Government (Amendment) Bill 1998 (currently before the house) all have increased the central controls over local government and lessened each council's powers to govern. In effect, councils are agencies for the state government. Recently my cousin told me that when local government amalgamations took place the trustees of the Donald Sporting Complex held \$64,000 in a

maintenance fund.

The money was entirely raised by the local people.

The new council asked the trustees to hand the money to council. They refused saying it was community money. The Council demanded the money.

The trustees again refused. Then the council served the trustees with a legal writ and took the money. It appears community assets are no longer controlled by community residents.

*Yours faithfully,
Alison G. Walpole,
Whorouly South.*

Ms Sheppard also said there is a new procedure whereby the council the right to disallow machines being installed to stop access to "illegal gambling," Ms Sheppard said. "The council has made the decision to stop additional machines being installed in the council of the area should continue."

By Alissa Watson

they last

To
The Hon. J. L. Wade, MP.
Minister for Women's Affairs,
Level 4,
55 St Andrew's Place,
Melbourne 3002.

Response to the Draft Two Year Action Plan for Women 1998—2000

A submission concerning the threat to a safe environment for women and children, the threat to their economic security and their health and well being by government policy facilitating the introduction of electronic gaming machines (EGMs) into local communities.

Written by Alison. G. Walpole,
Silverlea RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

20th August 1998

2/

The Weekly Times, Country Living Section, June 24 1998, carried an article by "Miranda" (June Alexander) discussing the impact on rural women of the spread of small gaming venues (Tabaret, etc) into country communities in Victoria. It concluded with reference to G-Line and other counselling services. In the Hume Region, from Corryong to Mansfield, Break Even Problem Gambling Counselling Service has only enough funding for 3 members of staff. Insufficient to cover crisis, counselling and educational services. Appendix 1.

Funded by the Victorian Women's Trust, the Lance Reichstein Foundation, The Myer Foundation and the Melbourne City Council a "Women and Gambling" research project was undertaken by the Financial and Consumer Rights Council (FCR). FCR, the peak body for agencies and individuals concerned with the rights of low income and vulnerable consumers, co-auspicied the project with the Consumer Law Centre of Victoria. "Queen of Hearts" represents the final report of the "Women and Gambling" project.

This project discovered that women who gamble come from a broad cross-section of society-----many live in rural areas, mostly in their own homes. Women prefer to use electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in local venues where they feel safe and a sense of belonging. Their experience of gambling, however, changes over time. Initially they are drawn to the social atmosphere but also recognise that they gamble to relieve boredom, isolation and loneliness. Over time they observe that gambling causes them stress, depression and shame. The most significant consequence of gambling, as reported by the women, was financial problems.

A concerted effort, on the part of community education workers, government and industry, is required to coordinate community education campaigns and implement and monitor appropriate regulation.

Ultimately reducing access to gaming facilities must be the cornerstone of any strategy to meet the needs of women with gambling problems in Victoria, as this was the most important concern expressed by the women; opportunities to gamble are too easily accessed. Women also wanted alternative forms of recreation and appropriate advertising about the dangers of gambling. Appendix 2 and 3.

The minutes of the Victorian Local Governance Association, 2nd July 1998, record in the Yarra Ranges Shire an outlet for "Chicken -A-Go-Go has been granted a Gambling establishment (licence to 3-00am)". In Greater Geelong "An appeal to the Liquor Licencing Commission concerning 24 hour gambling has social and economic repercussions. If Council loses this appeal then there is the likelihood of further 24 hour venues being established. This is a statewide issue," Appendix 4.

Principally funded by the Australian Tax Research Foundation the Australia Institute has researched a discussion paper GAMBLING TAXATION IN AUSTRALIA, published March 1998.

It shows GAMBLING NOW PROVIDES AT LEAST ONE IN EVERY 10 DOLLARS COLLECTED BY STATE GOVERNMENTS. At least half these revenues result from STATE GOVERNMENTS ACTING AS "GAMBLING ENTREPRENEURS" by legislating new and more addictive forms of gambling since the mid 1980s.

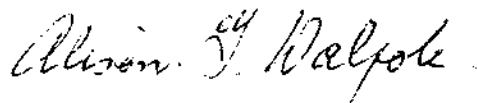
Revenue and economic considerations predominate at the expense of social cancers and public confidence in the integrity of government.

Higher government revenues may also come at the expense of heavy costs imposed on families, local communities and society as a whole. Appendix 5

Women are increasingly threatened by gaming venues. Government funding through the Community Support Fund is facilitating their development. Planning controls are inadequate to protect women and children. Appendix 6 and 7 and 8.

Increased funding for community education and counselling would be a beginning in educating communities to understand the alcohol/gaming culture, to adopt responsible drinking and gambling programs. Appendix 9 and 10.

Alison G. Walpole.
20th August 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison G. Walpole". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name and date.

MIRANDA



June Alexander

Women risk on gambling

GAMBLING venues are wonderful places for people who are feeling lonely, who are feeling blue.

They help a growing number of women feel wanted and cared for and special.

But Gambling Project worker Sarah Brown questions what sort of community we really want when we rely on gambling venues to meet our social needs.

Ms Brown spoke about gambling at a women's health conference in Melbourne.

She said gambling appeared to have filled a void for rural women.

There are few places women can go and feel comfortable and the gambling venues are one of them. It's secure, women are not alone.

Mrs Brown said.

For women who are not receiving attention from their partners at home, they are in a quite seductive atmosphere.

At home they are the carer, in the gaming venue they are cared for. The attendants bring coffee, they serve afternoon tea and snacks.

And the women get free gifts when they win a certain amount of credit.

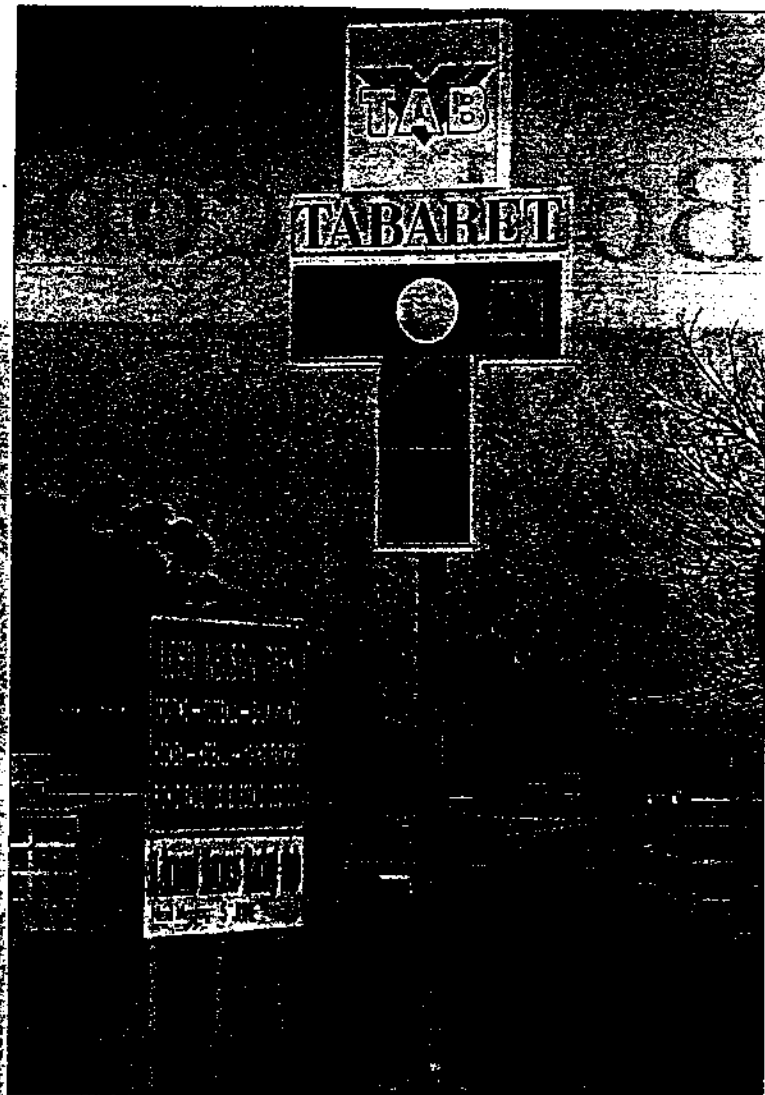
The gifts are female oriented, such as perfume and kitchen appliances.

The venues, compared with hotels, are upmarket," Ms Brown said.

There is plush carpet, fresh flowers on the bar. If this helps women feel special, this is a good thing, but what is this saying about our society?

Ms Brown has recommended to local governments around the state that they undertake local recreational and social needs studies to find out what the people want in their municipalities.

"A lot of people are saying 'we have enough gambling venues, we



Altered images: Gambling signs prevail in many of Victoria's regions.

don't want any more," Ms Brown said.

"We need to look at other ways we can meet people's social needs, which differ from region to region.

Count the number of gambling machines available in your area, count the coffee shops.

The men have had the pub, the public bar for years.

Women need somewhere to go as well. The CWA has provided a certain amount (of social outlets) but these need to be open every day all day.

"Everything closes at 6pm, what do you do after that?"

"The gaming venue is open, let's pop in there."

For some it starts out as social and then it can become problematic and then the whole community feels the ramifications.

Ms Brown warned that while gambling venues provide a cosy environment, once you get embroiled in the gambling, it's hard to get out.

There are no reality checks, there is no natural lighting, no clocks.

It is very easy to lose track of what times it is, particularly if you need to go and pick the kids up at 3.30pm.

"I want people to question what kind of a society we are developing."

Ms Brown said country people could more easily lobby Local Government about increasing recreational facilities. Rural towns, she said, had more of a sense of ownership issues, had more ability to be proactive.

Local Government was well placed to pressure the State Government.

The State Government decides to a large degree where the gambling venues will be," Ms Brown said.

For people trying to avoid gambling facilities, you can't — they are everywhere.

G-line is a 24 hour crisis line on 1800-622-112. Ask for the nearest BreakEven Problem Gambling Counselling Service, a free service around the State.

Queen of Hearts

The needs of Women

"Queen of Hearts" is the final report of the "Women and Gambling" research project undertaken by the Financial and Consumer Rights Council. The report's Executive Summary is published below.

The project analysed the needs of Victorian women who identified as having problems with gambling.

Sarah Brown and
Louise Coventry

This project was funded by the Victorian Women's Trust, the Lance Reichstein Foundation, The Myer Foundation and the Melbourne City Council.

Queen of Hearts: Executive Summary

The 'Women and Gambling' research project was a community based research project which analysed the needs of Victorian women who identified as having problems with gambling. The project was conducted from October 1996 to June 1997 by the Financial and Consumer Rights Council (FCRC). FCRC, the peak body for agencies and individuals concerned with the rights of low income and vulnerable consumers, co-^{inher}auspiced the project with the Consumer Law Centre of Victoria (CLCV). "Queen of Hearts" represents the final report of the 'Women and Gambling' project.

The key questions addressed by the project were:

- How can Victorian women who have developed problems with gambling be characterised in terms of
- the extent of their gambling activity
- their socio-economic background
- age, disability, ethnicity and geographical location?
- How do Victorian women who have developed problems with gambling perceive their gambling activities?
- To what extent do Victorian women who have developed problems with gambling access support and what is their experience of doing this?
- How best can the needs of Victorian women who have developed problems with gambling be met?

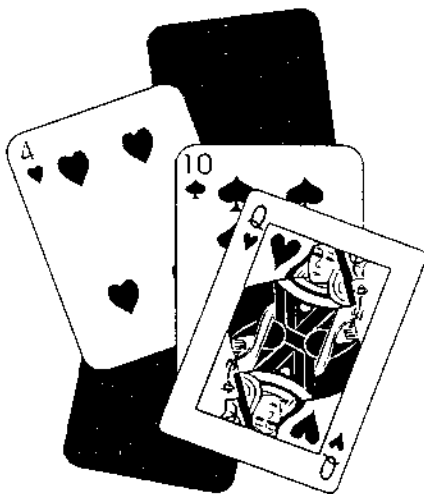
The major tasks undertaken in the project were a literature review,

collection and analysis of secondary data, observation of gaming venues, organisation of a statewide phone-in for women who gamble, and collation of case study material from financial counsellors across the state and through personal interviews.

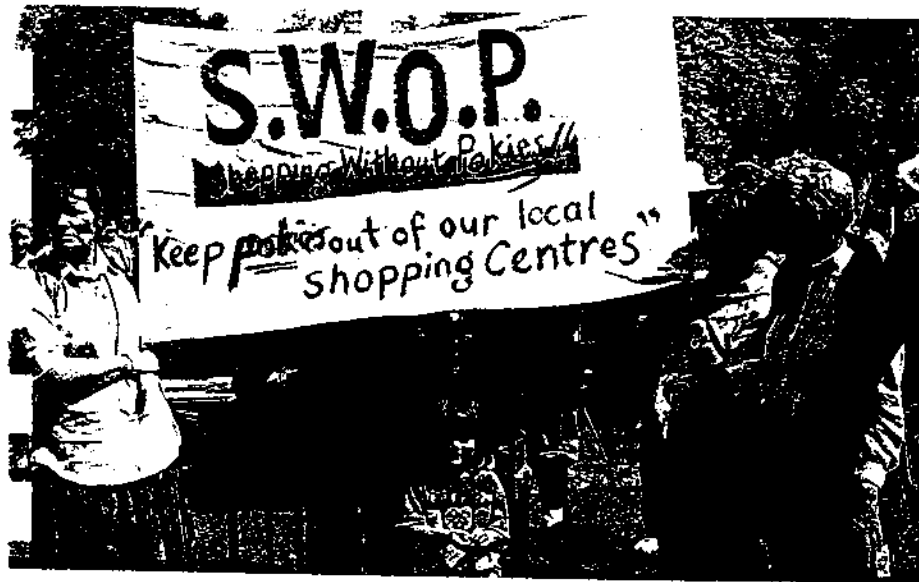
This research project has been particularly important in bringing new information to light about women's experiences of gambling and problem gambling. By relying on a feminist approach, asking women what they think are the key issues, and subjecting this information to considered analysis, we have confidence that the solutions proposed here will work.

This project discovered that women who gamble come from a broad cross-section of society. They are usually Anglo-Saxon, aged between 30 and 59 years, have family commitments, have low incomes and secondary schooling, work in traditional areas of female employment, and many times, live in rural areas, mostly in their own homes. Although women from a non-English speaking background were not able to be accessed in this project, the researcher is unwilling to conclude that gambling is an Anglo-Saxon phenomenon. More research is required to determine the problem gambling support needs of women from a non-English speaking background.

Women prefer to use electronic gambling machines (EGMs) in local venues where they feel safe and a sense of belonging. Gambling, for these women, is a means of escape from the drudgery of their lives. Their experience of gambling, however, changes over time. Initially they are drawn to the social conviviality of gambling and relish their sense of belonging and safety in gaming venues, but they also recognise that they gamble to relieve boredom, isolation and loneliness. Over time,



with Gambling Problems



Pam Storey, Bannerist and Ruth Hamsen, Anglican parish priest

to observe that gambling causes stress, depression and shame. At this point, the women tend to compromise their commitment to themselves and their families, preferring to skip small luxuries than to gamble, or, in some cases, resort to illegal activities to fund their gambling. In turn causes more shame, guilt, depression, and the cycle continues. Women risk social and physical ill-health through gambling to the extent that some even characterise gambling itself as a disability. The most significant consequence of gambling, as reported by the women, was social problems.

Women are presenting to support services at relatively high rates in Victoria (and this may be associated with the speed of the introduction of pokies) although they tend not to access services until they reach a crisis point. Preventative work with those experiencing gambling problems is frequently very difficult. A concerted effort, on the part of community education workers, government and industry, is required to coordinate community education

campaigns and implement and monitor appropriate regulation. Women who access support services prefer them to be accessible from a single point, in a central or easily accessible location, with female staff available. They also want access to information about the profile of women who gamble which can assist in overcoming guilt and shame in accessing support and more general information about support services. Further, some support services assisting women who gamble may not refer to other complementary support services. The release of support service data to community education workers, community researchers and support services would assist in both meeting women's needs for information and cross-referrals between support services.

The women accessed through this project had some clear ideas for how their needs could be met, centring on the notion of shared responsibilities. Financial institutions, venue operators, and support services, all have a role to play in reducing the incidence and severity of problem gambling, and the

gaming industry, in particular, has a long way to go to demonstrate its commitment to responsible gambling, although this process has commenced. The gaming industry is called upon to revamp its Codes of Practice consistent with federally endorsed benchmarks, and to coreregulate and monitor their Codes. Redress for consumers and enforcement of the Codes are essential for their success.

Ultimately, reducing access to gaming facilities must be the cornerstone of any strategy to meet the needs of women with gambling problems in Victoria, as this was the most important concern expressed by the women: opportunities to gamble are too easily accessed. The development of a problem gambling policy based on harm minimisation principles is also essential. Women also wanted alternative forms of recreation and appropriate advertising about the dangers of gambling.

A copy of the full report is available for \$15 from The Financial and Consumer Rights Council (Inc.), Level 2, 347 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Telephone (03) 9614 5433
or Fax (03) 614 8433
Email: cafca@vicnet.net.au



Chronicle Letters

Time to question State Government over gambling

RECENT publicity of the financial problems of the Melbourne Crown Casino has reported it has been allowed to grow to three times the original planned size.

In this context the relationship of the State Government to the gambling industry should be discussed.

To read the State Planning Regulations is to realise it is government policy to introduce gaming into communities.

Using Local Government as its agent large grants from the Community Support Fund are being given to build Community Recreation Centres planned as suitable for the introduction of EGMs.

The Community Support Fund receives around \$1,400,000 per week from hotel gaming venues.

Since July 1996 the Premier has been in direct control of the allocations from the Community Support Fund.

The Inter-Church Gambling Taskforce, was refused funding from the Community Support Fund to publish an educational booklet on the development and impact of the gambling culture.

This publication has now been privately financed from church finance.

Private finance was provided by the Vic-

torian Women's Trust, The Lance Reichstein Foundation, The Myer Foundation and The Melbourne City Council for a research project "Women and Gambling".

The project was conducted by the Financial and Consumer Rights Council co-chaired with the Consumer Law Centre of Victoria.

It reported women who gamble come from a broad cross section of society - many live in rural areas, mostly in their own homes. Women prefer to use electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in local venues. Initially they gamble to relieve boredom and loneliness.

Over time they observe gambling causes them stress, depression and shame.

The most significant consequences of gambling reported by the women was financial problems.

The report showed a concerted effort, on the part of community education workers, government and industry, is required to coordinate community education and implement and monitor appropriate regulation.

Ultimately, reducing access to gaming facilities must be the cornerstone of any strategy to meet the needs of women with gambling problems in Victoria.

Women also wanted alternative forms of recreation and advertising about the dangers of gambling.

The Victorian Local Governance Association is meeting with the Inter-Church Gambling Taskforce, the Local Planners Association and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace to plan a March forum to discuss the impact on our communities of gambling.

Break Even Gambling Services and G-Line have been established to help people with gambling problems.

However, it does not seem that a service is provided by the government to advise communities before development of gaming facilities is considered.

There is need for explanation of the control and use of the Community Support Fund. The Mitcham By-election has clearly signalled voters lack of confidence in the Premier.

Appointing a board of management, comprised of community representatives, for the Community Support Fund as was suggested by the Auditor General would be a beginning in restoring confidence in the current government.

Alison G. Walpole, Whorouly South.

Moved CG/HB - that these reports be accepted - Carried

4.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES:

(18/06/98 minutes distributed & a verbal report given of 02/07/98)

4.1 VLGA Review will be ready for the AGM

4.2 VLGA publications: Reruns of *Local Government CheckList* & *Code of Good Governance* were approved by the Committee.

Moved MJ/MC - that these items be approved - Carried

5.0 SPECIAL REPORTS

5.1 *Leaders of Local Government Forum & Code of Good Governance Panel*

MH reported on Leaders forum at which four resolutions were passed regarding the continuation of this initiative and the setting up of a *Good Governance Panel*. Hon. Alan Hunt AM is to chair this panel and Dr Rosemary Kiss is another member. Funding is to be raised from local governments.

5.2 *Staff Appointments*

The position of Office Manager has been split into two positions that of Administrative Officer (Elizabeth Eastwood) and Project Officer (Guido Tresoldi).

Moved TM/HB - the reports be received and the appointments be approved - Carried

5.3 *Nillumbik*

MJ provided an update on the Nillumbik Inquiry and the Commissioner's recommendations. The report recommendations had been largely adopted, although some changes were made due to legal advice. MJ reported that Councillors' earning capacities had been affected. Councillors want to see the shire survive. Staff are unsettled and confused. Victorian Planning Provisions are a big issue and Councillors need to complete this task. VLGA support has been greatly appreciated.

Wyndham.

HB reported on the Toxic Dump, a continuing issue in the municipality. The Minister has knocked back the L107 amendment and has made no further decision since that time. MC reported that Greater Geelong also is still waiting on a decision regarding its Toxic Dump.

There have been further fatal accidents on the Princess Highway and letters to both State and Federal ministers had failed to receive an adequate response.

Brimbank

CG reported that Council is working to address huge debts. The LASB debt is still a problem and Health Planning 2000 has been completed to the satisfaction of the community.

Yarra Ranges

MD (Mark Davis) reported that Chicken-A-Go-Go has been granted a Gambling establishment (licence to 3-00am). Council has supported the concerned community and is hoping that opposition to the Liquor Licence is a means of stopping the application. A committee was formed at a meeting of 50 residents to progress the issue.

Macedon Ranges

TL reported that the Sunbury residents were attempting to withdraw themselves from the City of Hume. The resident groups feel that they lack common interests with the remainder of Hume.

Greater Geelong

MC reported that the Council budget saw an 11% rate rise. The forced rate cut was now shown to be a subterfuge, a smoke and mirrors trick to justify the restructure.

4

Community awareness has been raised now. The Minister's visit had included threats and bluster, which had had a negative impact on the Councillors. In Greater Geelong, there are seven new Councillors and they were amazed by the Minister's threatening behaviour. Gambling had been opposed at LaTaverna in the main shopping centre. Councillors had a victory there and at another center. An appeal to the Liquor Licencing Commission concerning 24-hour gambling has social and economic repercussions. If Council loses this appeal then there is a likelihood of further 24-hour venues being established. This is a statewide issue, with churches and local groups taking supportive action.

MH reported that he had visited Greater Geelong and met with some of the Councillors and staff. The dinner time debate had focussed on the role of Councillors. MH felt that this debate was in its infancy.

Discussion centered on the fact that in Greater Geelong and Surf Coast sitting Councillors had struggled to be returned. It was likely that this was due to Councillors bearing the blame for some of the adverse impact of the restructure and the financial tightening. The clear message is that unless Councillors educate their communities about the real impact of the restructure and CCT and subsequent state government meddling in local government, the Councillors would finish up wearing the community wrath electorally.

MCC

LP reported on Royal Park. The Commonwealth Games proposal threatens to have a dramatic impact on the park and this appears to be about to become the *Albert Park of the Northern Suburbs*. The issue is intensification of use of the park and the commercialization of one of Melbourne's critical inner city passive parks. The plans are being developed in secret and Councillors and the community are not being briefed. The community is involved in legal and political and planning action on the issue and neighbouring local governments (Moreland and Moonee Valley) are showing concern.

City of Stonnington

TM reported on an unsuccessful attempt to rescind the Council budget.

Moreland

GR reported on a Women's Forum, attended by 150 people. It covered issues of social and economic importance to women.

A submission was presented through Councillor Sara Coward to the People Together Project. As society's carers women are facing difficulties through the stripping of support structures.

A Transport study has been 18 months in development. Key planks are a shift from car dependence to other modes and an increased emphasis on walking and cycling.

Casey

SA reported that the rates were increased by 4%.

The Hallam by-pass of the Princes Highway is expected to decrease traffic flow in the whole area.

A crowded public meeting was held to save Waverley Park. It was proposed to establish a sporting facility by a breakaway group, including two AFL clubs and other sports. Waverley Park is the only sporting facility of its type in the eastern suburbs.

Moved GR/HB - *that reports be accepted* - Carried

6.0 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

6.1 Building Project

Pamela McClure is putting papers together to send to participants at the City of Yarra Building Forum, Councils and the media.

6.2 Financial Issues

THE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

Gambling Taxation in Australia

Julie Smith
Research Scholar
Division of Economics and Politics
Research School of Social Sciences
Australian National University

Discussion Paper Number 16
March 1998
ISSN 1322-5421

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Only 2% of national tax revenues come from gambling. But the ethics, economics, and fairness of gambling taxes are becoming a critical issue as 'the global economy' challenges the sovereignty of governments. The ever-narrowing range of revenue options has left state governments with little choice but to conform with nearby jurisdictions pursuing expansionary gambling policies.

Over the decade to 1996, Australian gambling activity and taxes more than doubled in real terms. Gambling now provides at least one of every ten tax dollars collected by state governments. All Australian states are now equally dependent on gambling taxation. The boost to revenues arose from governments promoting gambling, not raising gambling tax rates.

In spite of losing about \$500 million annually due to state tax competition and tax concessions over the last decade, state governments collected \$3.5 billion pa from gambling taxation in 1996-97. At least half these revenues result from state governments acting as 'gambling entrepreneurs', by legalising new, and more addictive forms of gambling since the mid 1980s.

Some would count the new alliance between gambling corporations and public treasuries as an economic gain. Consumer needs are being met. Gamblers 'willingly' pay \$72 billion a year for a gambling 'investment', or 'entertainment' opportunity. And governments have over \$3 billion a year of easy money that can be put to good use in times of rising pressures on public services and diminishing public revenue sources.

Gambling also acts as a 'safety valve' for economic insecurity, lack of opportunity and social tensions.

Surveys of gambling spending show over 80% of gambling spending is by heavy gamblers. Up to a third of Australia's \$3.5 billion gambling taxes may be from a mere 200,000 gambling 'addicts' and their families. Such gamblers lose thousands of dollars a year each on gambling, with thirty cents in every dollar to public revenue. They are disproportionately in low income households. As casinos and gaming machines become more accessible to lower income groups, the regressivity of gambling taxation worsens.

Offsetting the regressive burden of gambling taxation requires stronger progressive taxation, and reforms to state land, and other taxes. But as the early easy money tumbles in from a new gambling 'product', politicians have ample money for their pet spending programs. Treasuries are relieved of pressure to get hold of fairer, but more politically contentious tax dollars. Earmarking gambling revenues — the 'gambling for good purposes' approach — silences gambling critics and soothes public disquiet. With a couple of years grace before gambling dollars diminish, governments can contemplate new spending without tackling controversial issues of federal finance and tax reform.

Expanding gambling activities lets governments 'off the hook' in dealing with pressing social, fiscal and economic issues. Gambling revenues have become a 'tax-reform avoidance scheme' for Australia's state and federal governments.

Australian state governments know the long term growth of gambling taxes depends on heavy marketing to offset tendencies for gambling activity and revenue to decline over time. Public patronage of individual gambling products is short lived. Addicts and heavy gamblers, who are critical to revenues, reach the limits of their credit. After the initial flood of dollars, gambling revenues dwindle. Governments have endorsed new forms of legal gambling to widen their revenue base since lottery and racing revenues began shrinking from the mid 1980s.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been rising public concern at links between the growth of gambling and government gambling taxation. A perception of government dependency on gambling revenues gives rise to fears that governments promote gambling without balancing its revenue benefits against gambling's wider social and economic costs. Recent rises in government gambling receipts heighten concerns about their regressivity. There are fears individual state governments compete for gambling revenues at increasing cost to national revenues, while state government promotion and expansion of gambling may have effects which undermine other businesses and weaken other tax bases. Any revenue benefits from higher gambling revenues could well be offset by the budgetary costs of dealing with additional adverse social impacts. Higher government gambling revenues may also come at the expense of heavy costs imposed on families, local communities and society as a whole.

The recent High Court decision on state governments' franchise fees increases states' reliance on gambling revenues. As a tax on services, and an important part of state revenues, gambling taxation is firmly within the ambit of the current tax reform debate.

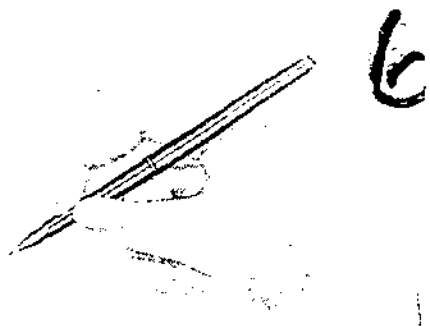
This paper sets out to critically review gambling taxation in Australia, in the context of federal state financial relations and tax policy debate. It examines the level, pattern and trend of gambling taxation in Australia, and assesses current gambling taxes against conventional revenue, distributional, and efficiency objectives of taxation. It also considers potential negative effects on other tax receipts, and the revenue cost of gambling tax concessions and subsidies. It then assesses the overall costs and benefits of state governments relying on gambling revenues as a taxation strategy.

Section two of this paper sets out a historical background and conceptual framework for government regulation and taxation of gambling, highlighting the likely conflict of interest between regulator and 'shareholder' in gambling profits, and tendencies to government involvement and monopolistic supply of gambling services. It also draws attention to characteristics of the gambling industry which led to governments stimulating or creating market demand.

The third section documents trends and patterns of gambling taxation in Australia, and the following section (section 4) assesses the revenue, fairness and efficiency effects. The fifth section overviews the wider economic and political issues arising from Australian, and overseas governments' recent role as 'gambling entrepreneur'.

Finally, the paper discusses the implications for public policy of state government dependence on gambling revenues, including the place of gambling taxation in national tax reform. It suggests how government financial motivations to promote gambling might be prevented from overriding proper consideration of wider and long-term costs.

Mailbag



Dear Editor,

The Government is making large grants of money from the Community Support Fund (gaming profits) to communities for recreation centres. As the planning controls for gaming venues have been changed in recent times this is an insidious way of introducing gaming machines into small communities.

In this district I at first supported a move to build a new venue as the local hall is not suitable for present day functions when people are seated at tables. However when the size of the proposed building was enlarged to a size to seat 200 I started asking questions. It did not seem economic for a district of this size as nearby towns have functions centres in economic difficulties.

My research led me to Father Peter Norden of the Roman Catholic Church Social Welfare Department and the Uniting Church Social Department. I learnt of how government funding is being used through local government to encourage gambling. When I had the planning regulations professionally searched I learned that a Community Centre with seating for 200, amenities of a certain standard and a liquor licence can, as soon as the licence is granted, without a permit, move in gaming machines up to 25% of the licenced floor area.

I have further information. Briefly the situation is that a 200 seat community centre once it obtains a liquor licence cannot be stopped

from installing gaming machines. The time to decide whether your community wants a gaming venue in its midst is before the building of a community centre is commenced. A Sports Pavilion which can be used for social activities cannot legally be used for gaming.

Recently the Prime Minister said "I think we're....at saturation level as far as gambling facilities in Australia are concerned." (Melb. Age 3.3.'97)

Should CWA members be supporting the call from the Victoria Council for Problem Gambling for a properly compiled social and economic impact study before gaming machines spread further?

Alison G Walpole

Dear Editor,

Last year I wrote to you requesting that you publish a letter for me in your CWA Newsletter. I sent a similar request to the CWA in each State and Territory. I have been researching the location of quilts in public areas and will be publishing the results in a book to be called the Australian Quilters Directory. The places listed will be many and varied, but will include galleries, museums, historic homes, council chambers, court houses, libraries and other civic institutions.

The directory is intended to be a State by State guide for the use of other quilters as they travel throughout the country. It will be

designed to help them locate interesting quilts in both major cities as well as towns and regional areas of each State and Territory. The aim is to enable quilters to stop and enjoy the quilting artworks which are in abundance throughout the country but the whereabouts of which are often not known.

I am writing now to thank you for including my letter and to tell you that I have heard from many country women from all over Australia. Some of the quilts they have told me about are treasures from the past and located in historical museums or heritage homes open to the public. Some have been created more recently to celebrate the town's heritage, either for the Bicentennial or for the anniversary of a particular area. Often these quilts have been hung in local council chambers or civic centres, some in libraries and some as theatre curtains. Many are remarkable for both their beauty, the quality of work as well as for the commitment shown by whole communities to create them. As I include entry after entry from country areas I feel the most enormous pride that these beautiful quilts have been made by women who often have many other worries and responsibilities and who also may have limited access to fabric shops and classes. I read the many articles that now appear in the newspapers about the problems confronting rural Australia and yet I know from my correspondence and my phone conver-

Continued on page 20...

7.

9.2.5.2 STATE SECTION AMENDMENT S69 – GAMING MACHINES

State Amendments

73.030.001

Background

The Minister for Planning and Local Government has introduced a State Section amendment, Amendment S69 (approved 15 December 1997).

This amendment effectively has two parts, the first part has the effect of prohibiting the establishment of any new gaming machines/venues in "strip shopping centres".

An exemption regarding this prohibition applies to:

- existing gaming venues;
- proposed venues for which a gaming permit has been granted;
- proposed venues for which approval under the Gaming Control Act 1991 has been granted.

In order to undertake the second part of the amendment the Minister requested Council to provide details of each strip shopping centre in the municipality for which the Council seeks a continuation of the prohibition on the establishment of new gaming venues.

Council is now required to provide a formal response on Amendment S69.

Under Amendment S69, a strip shopping centre is defined as an area:

- zoned for business use, and
- consisting of a least two separate buildings on at least two separate and adjoining lots, and
- in which a significant proportion of buildings are shops, and
- in which a significant proportion of lots abut a road accessible to the public generally.

There are a number of retail areas within the municipality including the rural townships, which by this definition could be considered as "strip shopping centres". Council needs to identify strip shopping centres (if any) within the municipality where the establishment of gaming machines should continue to be prohibited.

A letter has been received from the "Retail Traders' Association of Victoria" indicating its opposition to any new gaming machines. The main concerns expressed relate to the notion that "gaming machines are a major competitor to retailers and are causing extreme concern to many retail shop owners, particularly in suburban and country areas. Many retailers have been forced to close or have had profits reduced so dramatically that it has become questionable whether the store remains viable".

Assessment

As a matter of local planning policy Council needs to consider whether the establishment of new gaming venues within strip shopping centres or parts of some centres is considered appropriate.

In discussions with the Gaming Commission it was revealed that an application for any new gaming machines lodged with the Gaming Commission would require

- evidence that a contract had been executed with a Gaming Operator (ie Tatts or Tabcorp)
- consent had been obtained from the local authority (Council).

It is understood that any gaming operator will undertake significant market research to ensure any decision to enter into a contract is economically viable.

Although not confirmed the Department of Infrastructure indicated that on approval of the second part of this Amendment the provisions of Clause 8-4.1, 8-4.2 and 8-4.3 would again apply. The contents of each of these clauses are as follows:

Clause 8-4.1 Permit not required – restricted area

No permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in a restricted area if that area does not exceed 25 per cent of the Gross floor area of the premises where liquor may be consumed.

Clause 8-4.2 Permit not required – unrestricted area

No permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in an unrestricted area.

Clause 8-4.3 Permit required – restricted area

A permit is required to install and use a gaming machine in a restricted area if the requirement of Clause 8-4.1 is not met and the installation and use of one or more gaming machines is not otherwise permitted under the scheme

These provisions indicate when a planning permit is required for gaming machines. Basically no permit is required within an approved venue (unrestricted area) or within an area which does not exceed 25 per cent of the Gross floor area of a premises where liquor may be consumed (restricted area).

Without any detailed research available on the effects of gaming machines within the municipality it would be difficult for Council to substantiate outright prohibition within all strip shopping centres. The number of gaming machines permitted within any area is essentially based on the commercial decision of the gaming operators.

Obviously the decision to, or not to, prohibit the establishment of future gaming machines has potential adverse effects especially on the retail sector of the municipality. In light of these concerns it is considered necessary to initiate open discussions on this issue involving the community. A representative from the Department of Infrastructure should also be in attendance to provide relevant information and answer specific queries in relation to this matter.

Recommendation

1. That a public information session be conducted by Council on Amendment S69.
2. That representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Department of Infrastructure and other interested persons be invited to attend the public information session regarding the implications of Amendment S69 after which a further report shall be presented to Council.

(Moved Councillor M Booth / Councillor J Vance)

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

CONCERNING WHOROUY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE
THE MINUTES R.C.O.M. (WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL)
17TH JUNE 1997 PAGE 79, SECTION 8.3.4. STATE, REGARDING
"THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE FACILITY AS A FUTURE
GAMING VENUE."
"SHOULD SUCH A PURPOSE BE REQUESTED IT WOULD
BE SUBJECT TO THE PLANNING PROVISIONS OF
COUNCIL AND THE GAMING MACHINE CONTROL ACT 1991"

"Silverlea" R.M.B. 1320
Whorouly South
3735
Home Phone 03/57271372

Chief Executive Officer,
Wangaratta Rural City Council,
PO Box 238,
Wangaratta 3676.

5th July 1998

Dear Sir,

I have read 9.2.5.2. page 66 minutes of Wangaratta Rural City Council meeting 16th June 1998, also amendment S69 and notes as supplied by the Department of Infrastructure.

The minutes of Wangaratta Rural City Council meeting 17th June 1997 page 79 8.5.4. reads regarding the Whorouly Community Recreation Centre "the potential use of the facility as a gaming venue"

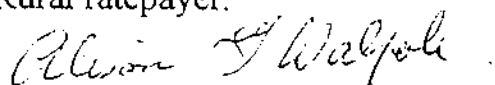
"Should such a purpose be requested it would be subject to the planning provisions of the Council and the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991."

At present being built, the Whorouly Community Recreation Centre is partly funded by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund, it is managed by a Special Committee of Council and Council has made financial commitment to the building [minutes 17-6-97]. In addition to the cash donation, Council has provided loan interest loans for the building and allowed commencement of the building while a public appeal is undersubscribed.

It appears the Wangaratta Rural City Council has a pecuniary interest in legislating planning regulations in relation to Whorouly Community Recreation Centre.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G. Walpole,
Rural ratepayer.



Copies to V.L.G.A.

Rob Hull, Shadow Minister for Gaming.
Productivity Commission inquiry into the Gambling Industry.

9.

"Silverlea" R.M.B. 1320
Whorouly South
3735
Home Phone 03/57271372

The Editor,
The Chronicle,
Box 221,
Wangaratta 3677.

23rd June 1998

Dear Sir,

Chronicle, June 22nd page 5, announces a proposed public meeting to discuss S69 a planning regulation concerning the introduction of gaming machines to strip shopping centres. This applies to small centres such as Milawa or Appin as well as Murphy and Reid streets. For background knowledge for this discussion I recommend reading "THE LUCK BUSINESS" by Robert Goodman (Free Press). I bought my copy at Wangaratta Collins Bookstore.

Professor Goodman was director of the United States Gambling Study released in 1994. The 2 year delay usually associated with American trends moving to Australia allows this book, based on this study, to explain what is happening here. The effect of the intertwining of governments with the gambling industry is explained. John Kenneth Galbraith commented "In clear, persuasive English, Professor Goodman makes a strong case against extracting money from the poor, the gullible and sometimes insane for public use and private gain."

Electronic gambling machines are a growing sector of the gaming industry. In Victoria there is government encouragement to introduce them into small communities without education of the communities of the problems they can introduce. Professor Goodman was recently Keynote Speaker at a conference "Gambling Away Our Community" arranged by the Inter-Church Gambling Taskforce, c/o 472 Nicholson St., North Fitzroy 3068.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G. Walpole

Alison G. Walpole.

"Gambling Away Our Community"

26.6.98 Chronicle

THE Chronicle (June 22 page 5), announces a proposed public meeting to discuss S69 a planning regulation concerning the introduction of gaming machines to strip shopping centres.

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Alison G. Walpole,
Whorouly

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10
Sent to Victorian Country Women
Weekly Times
Anglican Advocate

Silverlea,
RMB 1320,
Whorouly South,
Victoria 3735.

16th June 1998

Dear Sir,

Valuing Rural Communities is the title of a discussion paper published in April by the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission. It deals with the government Rural Development Policy, its impact on rural communities and how communities respond.

As people work to provide welfare for people in need of help through church and other organisations are they forgetting the need to ask is it government policies creating the need for this welfare? The discussion paper records figures for youth suicide. In rural areas among 15-24 year old males there were 37.7 deaths per 100,000 in 1992. What could have been done to help these young people?

The dependence of sports clubs on sales of alcohol and gaming machine revenue for finance is being encouraged by the Victorian Government without community education of how to handle the problems created. Children and young people encouraged to play sport should not be exposed to the alcohol/gaming culture at sportsgrounds. What controls are placed on people managing these venues?

The Valuing Rural Communities discussion paper is available from ACSWC, PO Box 326, Curtin, ACT 2605.

Yours faithfully,

Alison G. Walpole

Alison G. Walpole.

Responding to the needy

DEAR MIRANDA —

"Valuing Rural Communities" is the title of a discussion paper published in April by the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission.

It deals with the government's rural development policy, its impact on rural communities and how those communities respond.

As people work to provide welfare for people in need of help through church and other organisations, are they forgetting the need to ask where the need comes from in the first place?

The discussion paper records figures for youth suicide.

In rural areas among 15 to 24-year-old males, there were 37.7 deaths per 100,000 in 1992.

What could have been done to help these young people?

The dependence of sports clubs on sales of alcohol and gaming machine revenue for finance is being encouraged by the Victorian Government without community education on how to handle the problems created.

Children and young people

encouraged to play sport should not be exposed to the alcohol-gaming culture at sports grounds.

What controls are placed on people managing these venues?

The "Valuing Rural Communities" discussion paper is available from ACSWC, PO Box 326, Curtin, ACT 2605.

— ALISON WALPOLE
Whorouly South

• This paper was discussed in Miranda's column on May 27.
— Mira

— W.T. 1-7-98