



## TAB Board Venue Policy 2019



## 1. Context and goals

The Racing Act 2003 has the following purposes:

- To provide effective governance arrangements for the racing industry.
- To facilitate betting on galloping, harness, and greyhound races, and other sporting events.
- To promote the long term viability of New Zealand racing.

Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) is required under the Racing Act 2003 (Act) to have a TAB Board Venue Policy (Policy). This Policy covers stand alone TAB board venues, which are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB). Council consent is not required under the Act to establish a TAB board venue in a bar, hotel or club. If a TAB board venue wishes to also host gaming machines, a separate application must be made under Council's Gambling Venue Policy. The TAB board venue must also meet the additional criteria set out in that policy.

This Policy identifies Council's responsibility and role in meeting the goals and objectives of the Racing Act 2003 and managing the social issues that surround gambling within the Matamata-Piako District (district).

This Policy covers TAB Board Venues. A separate policy covers class 4 Gambling Venues established under the Gambling Act 2003.

## 2. Community awareness

Council recognises that gambling is an issue of interest for many communities. Community members are concerned about the social, community and individual harms arising from gambling but do not always have access to up to date literature and reference material on the topic. To address this, Council collates relevant information each time the Policy is reviewed, which can be made available upon request to assist the local community and local agencies interested in this topic. Under the Act, reviews of this Policy must have regard to the social impact of gambling within the district.

### 2.1 What this means

Council will endeavour to engage relevant stakeholders at the time of each policy review in order to gather the following information and establish trends:

- Monitoring of the social effects of gambling in the district.
- Collection of statistical data from the Department of Internal Affairs.
- Identification of issues associated with problem gambling in the district.
- Recommendation of changes to the Council on its TAB Board Venue policy.
- Identification of projects supported and grants awarded by gaming machine proceeds through trust and societies.

Information on social harm and gambling proceeds in the district can be obtained from the Problem Gambling Foundation and the Department of Internal Affairs website. In addition to the above data, Council will collect and make available specific information concerning the number and location of TAB board venues in the district and the formulae and rationale behind any licensing decisions.

This information can be made available upon request.

**3. Harm minimisation**

TAB board venue operators are required under the Act regulations to demonstrate a satisfactory level of compliance with responsible gambling codes of practice, ethical operations and practices of problem gambling harm minimisation.

**3.1 What this means**

As the regulation of TAB board venue operators is the responsibility of the NZRB, Council will not require applicants to establish their reliability as an operator. The Department of Internal Affairs has a limited role in the regulation of TAB board venues.

**4. TAB board venue limits**

Regardless of present numbers and population changes this Policy allows a maximum of one TAB board venue for each township i.e. Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.

			Number of TAB board venues (rounded to nearest figure)
TAB board venue			1:Township

In this section each ‘township’ is defined by the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Area 2 (SA2), with Matamata being the sum of Matamata North and Matamata South; Morrinsville being the sum of Morrinsville East and Morrinsville West and Te Aroha being the sum of Te Aroha East and Te Aroha West.

In the public consultation conducted for the development of the original policy in 2007, a strong preference was indicated for maintaining the status quo while allowing room for future growth of the industry. To accommodate this input, a district cap has been developed. The system will limit the number of TAB board venues available in the district.

**4.1 TAB board venue limit review**

The maximum number of TAB board venues that Council will consider for approval will be reconsidered at the time of the next policy review in 2022. Increasing these limits will be contingent on the levels of gambling related harm measurable or reported in the district remaining at, or below, current levels.

**4.2 What this means**

**4.2.1 New applicants**

Council will only approve an application for a new TAB board venue consent when the approval will not result in a ratio of TAB board venues to area population greater than that outlined in this Policy, and the applicant can reliably demonstrate that they are likely to have minimal negative impact on the surrounding community.

**4.2.2 Minimal negative impact**

Minimal negative impact is seen as a balance between the intrinsic problems that are associated with gambling and the benefits arising from the generation of funding for the community. It would include evidence of harm minimisation strategies and responsible gambling provisions being put in place by the applicant.



## **5. Application criteria**

New TAB board venues must meet the application criteria outlined in this Policy.

### **5.1 Zoning**

Applications for new stand alone TAB board venue consents will only be considered within urban areas zoned for business under the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

### **5.2 Association with family and children's activities**

Consideration will not be given to proposed TAB board venues such as sports clubs, family restaurants or other venues where families and young people under 18 are likely to be present.

### **5.3 Other considerations**

In considering where any TAB board venue may be located, Council may have regard to any relevant matters, including the following considerations set out in section 65D(4) of the Racing Act 2003:

- The characteristics of the district and parts of the district.
- The location of kindergartens, early childhood centres, schools, places of worship, and other community facilities.
- The cumulative effects of additional opportunities for gambling in the district.
- The current district cap levels (as provided in clause 4 of this Policy).
- Whether or not the applicant can demonstrate that they are likely to have minimal negative impact on the surrounding community (as provided in clause 4 of this Policy).

## **6. Applications**

### **6.1 Applications**

Applications will be made to Council. Applications should include all relevant documentation and an application fee.

Council will respond with their decision in 30 working days of receipt of an application.

### **6.2 Charges**

The application and processing fees associated with TAB board venue applications, if not listed separately, are the same as those listed for gambling venues as listed in Council's fees and charges.

## **7. Review and monitoring**

This Policy will be reviewed within three years of its adoption by Council. Any review will consider the growth and spread of gambling as a recreational activity in the district and the incidence of problems or benefits arising from its presence.

The review will specifically examine the quota formulae and the district caps this level imposes on the number of TAB board venues in the district. Criteria to increase or decrease

any district limits on TAB board venues will be based upon an evaluation of the evidence of harms or benefits arising from gambling.

## **8. Definitions**

Some definitions were seen as useful to clarify the intent, purpose and meaning of this Policy.

### **8.1 Board**

'NZRB means the New Zealand Racing Board established under section 7 of the Racing Act 2003.

### **8.2 TAB board venue**

'TAB board venue' for the purpose of this Policy refers to the definition in the Act of 'board venue' and means premises that are owned or leased by the NZRB and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services under the Racing Act 2003.

A subset of this definition should not be used to allow increased quotas of TAB board venues by expanding the TAB board venues available to an operator (i.e. TAB board venue should not be considered as a room for the purpose of quotas when more than one room in the same building is intended for gambling purposes – for the purposes of this Policy the most inclusive consideration of TAB board venue is intended).

This definition is not intended to prohibit operators maintaining separate TAB board venues, providing all other aspects of this Policy are adhered to, and the TAB board venues can be considered separate and individual places of operation.

## 9. Appendices

### 9.1 Appendix 1: Application Process Flowchart

