

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Firstly thanks go out to the members who attended our AGM in September and also to the members who voted in the Directors Elections. We would like to congratulate Robert "Bob" Waterson OAM, John Curdie OAM and John Prestidge RFD ED for being re-elected to the Board and Wendy Hough and Barry Hoschke for their interest in standing for the Board of Directors of your club.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CLUB MEMBERS

As a Club member you have an interest in this club's continued growth and success – after all, *"it's your club"*. I regret to inform you that your club's future is threatened because of a deal made by the Federal Government with an independent member of parliament from Tasmania, named Andrew Wilkie.

Mr Wilkie won only 13,000 votes in the election and has never visited our club. But he demanded the Federal Government take action on poker machines in order to win his vote and the Government agreed to his demands. This letter outlines for you what impact that deal would have for our club and how you can help to stop it from happening.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO OUR CLUB?

The Government committed that it will implement a \$250 daily withdrawal limit on ATMs in clubs and pubs (the casino will be exempted). This means that if you need more than that, you will be prevented from having access to your own money in your club.

The Government has also announced that it will support mandatory pre-commitment on poker machines. This means that you would have to apply for a device which you insert into the poker machine in order to activate it and the device would control how much money you can spend playing. The device would record how much you spend and stop you from playing on every machine in the country once you had reached a set amount of spending. It would be a "license to gamble".

WHY DOES THE CLUB OPPOSE THESE MEASURES?

We believe that these measures treat all our members as irresponsible and like problem gamblers. You should be able to have access to your money in your club. We believe you are already able to set your own limits on poker machine play like a responsible adult and should not be told by the Government how much you can spend. We also believe that problem gamblers should get proper counselling and help, rather than forcing all club members including you to get a license to play a poker machine.

These measures will be expensive and will force us to cut jobs, increase prices of food and drinks and reduce our community support. Because these measures would only apply to poker machines, punters will stop coming to the club and will go online, or to the Casino to gamble – reducing club revenue by around 30 percent. That is a high price to pay for one vote in parliament.

HOW CAN I HELP STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

If you want to stop the Government from doing this to our club, please write to our Federal MP John Alexander and ask him to support our club and vote against these proposals. He can be contacted at **Phone:** 9869 4288 **Mail:** PO Box 872, Epping, NSW 1711

Thank you for your support of our club at this important time and on behalf of the Board of Directors I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a happy and prosperous New Year and we hope you enjoy the entertainment and activities programmed over the next 3 months.



David Taylor
President