

15 February 2023

Tēnā koe

We are contacting you today to let you know that council is consulting on proposed amendments to the Class 4 Gaming and TAB Venue Policy. The council is required to have a policy about the number and location of Class 4 Gaming machines (also known as pokie machines), and standalone TAB venues, in the Far North district. This policy has been reviewed, and the council is proposing some changes to the policy.

What are the proposed changes?

The existing Class 4 Gaming and TAB Venue Policy (2014) already has a 'sinking lid' policy on pokie machines in place, which means that no new class 4 gaming machines are allowed in the district, and machines cannot be redistributed. Under the current policy, venues may only relocate under certain circumstances.

The proposed changes are to ensure that the whole policy is consistent with a sinking lid approach, and to update it, by:-

- clarifying what is meant by a 'sinking lid' policy
- applying the sinking lid approach to standalone TAB venues
- updating with references to newer legislation (Racing Industry Act 2020)
- bringing the criteria for relocation into line with the sinking lid approach, such as restricting relocations into areas of higher deprivation than the existing venue.

Notice of Consultation

In accordance with section 102 of the Gambling Act 2003, the council must give notice of the proposed policy to each corporate society that holds a class 4 venue licence for a venue, and organisations representing Māori, in the Far North district. We are also contacting other interested parties directly. We encourage any person or organisation who wishes to make a submission.

The period for making submissions is from 15 February 2023 to 15 March 2023. People wishing to make an oral submission will be given the opportunity to do so.

A statement of proposal with more details about the proposed changes, further information about making a submission, and a copy of the proposed policy, is available on [council's website](#).

How can I have my say?

You can make a submission by using any of the following methods:

- online at the council's website www.fndc.govt.nz/have-your-say
- email your submission to submissions@fndc.govt.nz
- drop-off your submission at any council service centre or library
- post your submission to: Strategy Development Team, Far North District Council, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440
- make an oral presentation of your submission at a council meeting

We would appreciate your feedback on the proposed amendments to this policy.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'RGA' in a cursive, stylized font.

Roger Ackers
Group Manager – Planning and Policy