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Letter to the Editor

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Gaming machine licensing changes post 2012

When the Brumby Government announced its new structure for the ownership and operation of gaming machines from 2012, the Liberal/National Coalition expressed concern that these changes would seriously disadvantage small community and sporting clubs.

The lack of detail presented to these clubs over the operation of this new model is now causing great concern and is having a detrimental effect on current gaming venues.

Over recent weeks I have received many letters and phone calls from numerous community and sporting clubs from across Western Victoria in addition to Clubs Victoria's proposal that seeks the pre-allocation of licences to existing clubs with gaming machines.

In the last ten days, I have also received more than 60 individually signed letters from club members who are worried about the Government's plan for managing gaming machines and want support to save their clubs.

The Brumby Government must announce the detail necessary so that these smaller community and sporting clubs can plan for the licensing auction scheduled for 2010, and the new licensing regime beyond 2012.

The gaming machine auction needs to be structured so that it gives full weight to the outstanding contribution smaller clubs in particular make to their local communities. I have asked the Minister for Gaming, Tony Robinson, to give these clubs the option to bid on gaming licenses, which should not be allocated just on the basis of the deep pockets of major organisations.

Yours sincerely



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