

# NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Our ref: DF25/076615

Ms Margaret Carew

11 December 2025

Dear Ms Carew

Application No.	1-9527734643
Applicant	Coonabarabran Bowling Club Co-Operative Ltd
Application for	Gaming machine threshold increase and gaming machine entitlement lease
Application date	14 July 2025
Decision date	19 November 2025
Licence name	Coonabarabran Bowling Club Co-operative Limited
Licence No.	LIQC300236684
Licensed trading hours	Monday to Sunday 05:00 AM – 05:00 PM
Premises	Edwards Street Coonabarabran NSW 2357
Legislation	Sections 3, 24, 25, 34 and 35 of the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i>

## Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

### Application for a gaming machine threshold increase and gaming machine entitlement lease – Coonabarabran Bowling Club Co-operative Limited

We **refuse** the application for gaming machine threshold (**GMT**) increase of 6 under section 34(4) of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* (the **Act**).

We **refuse** the lease of 6 gaming machine entitlements (**GME**) from Binnaway District Golf Club LIQC300200450 to Coonabarabran Bowling Club LIQC300236684 under section 25 of the Act.

### Impact of *ILGA v Whitebull & Ors [2023] NSWCA 224*

The court in *ILGA v Whitebull & Ors [2023] NSWCA 224* (the **Whitebull decision**) confirmed that the NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (the **Authority**) must take into

account harm minimisation considerations when making a decision under sections 25 and 34 of the Act.

The principles in the *Whitebull* decision underpin the Authority's decision-making under sections 25 and 34 of the Act.

## Statement of reasons

Having considered the objects of the Act we are not satisfied that approving the application would facilitate the balanced development, in the public interest, of the gaming industry and may not minimise harm associated with the misuse and abuse of gambling activities.

### Our main findings

The local community for the purposes of this decision is the Statistical Area 2 (**SA2**) of Coonabarabran. The broader community is the Local Government Area (**LGA**) of Warrumbungle.

The applicant is seeking a GMT increase of 6 and associated GME lease from the Binnaway District Golf Club Binnaway to Coonabarabran Bowling Club Coonabarabran.

### *Social impacts*

The submissions and material from L&GNSW identify several risk factors which suggest that the grant of the application may increase the harm associated with the misuse and abuse of gambling activities or that the application may not facilitate the balanced development, in the public interest, of the gaming industry, including:

- the venue is in a Band 3 SA2, that is, an area classified as in the riskiest 25% of the State for gambling related harm
- the average profit (customer losses) per gaming machine at the venue is higher than at comparable venues in the SA2, and the LGA. Within the SA2 there are some location factors associated with increased risk of gaming harm (higher rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) and lower protective characteristics (people with lower levels of education).
- the percentage of moderate and high-risk gamblers for the LHD is higher than the state average
- the gambling participation rate for gaming machines in the LHD is higher than the state average.

The submissions and material from both Liquor & Gaming NSW (**L&GNSW**) and the applicant identify factors that may partially or fully mitigate some of the risk factors, including:

- while the venue's licensed trading hours are unrestricted, based on current advertising on its website and CMS trading data, it does not operate past midnight
- there will be no net increase in the number of GMEs in the area as the proposed lease is between venues in the same SA2 and LGA
- the applicant had no objections to a no gaming past 12am or 2am condition
- due to low sample size, gambling rates in the Western NSW local health district (LHD) should be interpreted with caution.

Taking into consideration the objects of the Act, Government policy to encourage transfers of gaming machines from higher risk to lower risk LGAs, the risk factors and their mitigation, and material from Liquor & Gaming NSW and the applicant, we are not satisfied

that the approving the application minimises harm associated with the misuse and abuse of gambling activities. Accordingly, we have determined that the application must be refused.

### **The material we considered**

We considered the following material when making our decision:

- the application material — including evidence that stakeholders and the community were notified about the application
- the legislation
- Ministerial Directions issued 1 July 2025
- liquor licence documents
- applicant response to assessment and submissions
- the gaming plan of management
- proposed conditions
- data provided by L&GNSW pertaining to:
  - location factors for the LGA and SA2 where the destination venue is located
  - gaming profits at the destination venue
  - gaming participation and prevalence in the LHD
- venue map and images
- L&GNSW compliance materials.

This decision will be published.

### **If you have any questions**

Please contact Liquor & Gaming NSW at: [new.applications@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au](mailto:new.applications@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Lamb

**Chairperson**

**NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority**