

Feedback	Proposed Changes
The policy title should reflect the aim - gambling harm minimisation.	Rename to: Policy to Reduce Harm from Gambling & Strategic Plan to Reduce Harm from Gambling
<p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove the word ‘vulnerable’ to clarify that anyone can experience harm from gambling 2. Maximising opportunities for gambling activities to deliver social and economic benefits conflicts with the harm minimisation aims of the policy 3. Focus on partnerships with those that provide services to people directly affected by gambling harm, not indirectly 4. Advocacy to state government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reword to: Protect the community from the social, psychological and economic harms caused by gambling. 2. Remove this objective 3. Reword to: Strengthen our partnerships with organisations that provide services to people directly affected by gambling-related harm. 4. Added objective: Support advocacy to State and Federal government to protect the Wangaratta community from gambling-related harm.
<p>Pillars</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statement conflicts with aims, is a ‘business-as-usual’ statement, Council has little ability to impact the gambling industry 2. Needs to be clearer, questions around whether Council has the ability to measure engagement with services that people impacted by gambling. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reword to: Council will prevent or manage all forms of gambling on Council owned land and will support community groups, organisations and businesses offering gambling products to reduce their reliance on gambling-derived revenue. 2. Reword to: Council will be a leader in advocating to Federal and State Government and adjacent local governments, to implement harm reduction approaches, policies and legislation amendments
<p>Policy Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Council’s approach and remove language that suggests there are benefits associated with gambling products. • Support for using a public health approach and terminology. 	Include Council’s position to oppose an increase in the number of EGMs in Wangaratta.
<p>Action Plan</p>	
1.2 Reword for clarity and to emphasise how this relates to gambling	1.2 Reword to: Discourage conducting Rural City of Wangaratta activities, social outings, meetings or municipal events at venues that provide any form of gambling. Exemptions will be made for commemorative events such as ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veteran’s Day, and Remembrance Day commemorations, fundraising events that support disadvantaged

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	groups in the community, and events that provide recognition for volunteers.
1.3 Feedback was very supportive of this action. Most feedback suggested stronger language (replacing 'discourage' or 'minimise' with 'prohibit') and clear details around how these will be implemented	
2.2 Be more specific and name the networks. Many recommendations to join the Alliance for Gambling Reform	2.2 Reworded and separated into two actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of neighbouring councils to enhance combined regional approaches in reducing harm from gambling. • Join the Alliance for Gambling Reform
2.3 State Government Community Support Fund does not minimise harm	2.3 Remove this action
2.4 Strong support for this action, many community members noted their disapproval of the current Community Benefit Scheme.	2.4 Reword to be specific about changes: Advocate to the State Government for changes to the Community Benefit Statement, including removing the Class B (Indirect community benefits) and Class C (miscellaneous) categories.
3.2 Include wording specifying that Council will engage an external social and economic impact assessment agency to complete the social and economic impact assessment.	3.2 Minor rewording
3.4 Recommendation to replace the word 'discourage' with 'advocate to prohibit', and removing references to communities being 'vulnerable to gambling-related harm' as all communities can be vulnerable to gambling harm.	3.4 Reword to: Advocate to prohibit new gaming operators in communities with limited access to non-gambling activities.
3.6 The funders of Gambler's Help do not endorse or accept monetary community contributions from gambling venues. Gateway Health recommends directing the funds towards addressing population risk factors, precursors for gambling-related harm, or educational campaigns to raise awareness of gambling risks and harms.	3.6 Reword to remove references to gambler's help services and specify community contributions should be used to address population risk factors.
4.1 Be more specific in what this will look like	4.1 Reword to: Report to Council twice annually on latest gambling-related research, data collection or government enquiries.
4.3 focus on working with community partners, working with EGM venues is outside of the scope of this strategy	4.3 reword to remove references to working with EGM venues
4.4 Community support for this action, more detail requested for how this goes beyond business-as-usual	4.4 no change, will provide more detail in implementation plan