

**REVIEW OF THE FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL'S GAMING AND TAB VENUE POLICY 2010
SUBMISSION FORM**

Subject: Review of the Far North District Council's "Gaming and TAB Venue Policy"		
Proposal: To adopt a sinking lid policy A sinking lid policy means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cap on the number of gambling machines and venues set at the existing level. • Lowering the cap automatically as venues close or relocate so there can be no more new venues and machines. 		
Your name:		
Your address:		
Post Code:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Your submission:		
Please support a "sinking lid" policy on gambling machines.		
Pokie machines are causing harm to the Far North District, not just to individuals with gambling problems but our whole community.		
Gambling is in oversupply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over \$15.8 billion was gambled in New Zealand in 2009 - \$27 million a day. • \$889 million was lost on pokies outside casinos in 2009 - \$2.57 a day on pokies. • The Far North District Council has 380 gaming machines in 31 venues. This is 1 machine per 104 people over 18 (the National average is 1:156). • Over \$15 million was lost in pokies in the Far North in 2009. Less than \$3 million was returned to the Far North via grants from pokie trusts. • Each pokie machine in the Far North averages \$40,492 takings annually. 		
How do pokie machines affect our communities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machines are most likely to be sited in vulnerable poor communities. 66% of the population lives in these communities. • Prevalence studies indicate that approximately 446-1005 people in the Far North could be problem gamblers with 3,112 to 17,085 people directly affected from other problem gamblers. • 10,000 people in New Zealand committed illegal activities due to their gambling in the last year. • The latest New Zealand research indicates that pokies result in net loss of economic output, employment, and household income. Pokies could be costing the Far North economy 200 full-time equivalent jobs each year. • Problem gamblers suffer from increased rates of bankruptcy, arrest, imprisonment, unemployment, divorce and poor physical and mental health. • One in five regular pokie players has a gambling problem. Approximately 80% of problem gambling is attributed to pokies. 		
Community funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no good evidence of decline in community funding as a result of sinking lid policies. Record amounts of money were distributed in recent years. The Department of Internal Affairs report that fewer operators should mean that overall costs go down; there are economies of scale and a good return to the community. • Currently pokie trusts give over \$20 million a year to horse racing prize money and each year use around \$150 million (in admin costs) to distribute around \$350 million. A fairer and more efficient system could mean greater returns to the community. 		
By introducing a "sinking lid" policy on pokie machines, Council can limit some of the harm caused by gambling, and in doing so help to protect the health of some of its most vulnerable citizens.		
Overall, do you support the stated proposal?	Yes	No
Do you wish to speak at a submission hearing?	Yes	No

Submissions on this policy should be addressed to: Far North District Council Gaming & TAB Venue Policy Review, Strategic development and Governance Unit, Consultation Management, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440. Submissions to be received by 7 July 2010.