

Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitted by: Queensland Hotels Association
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Queensland Hotels Association – Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

The Queensland Hotels Association (QHA) is the peak body representing the hotel and tourism accommodation industry in Queensland. The QHA has over 900 members from beyond the tip of Cape York, to country pubs and throughout the coastal strip down to Coolangatta. These businesses employ over 80,000 Queenslanders.

This QHA is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the *Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Bill)* and provides the following comments:

Levelling the playing field for wagering fees and taxes

The QHA supports the changes contemplated in this Bill and the Government's decision to level the playing field on wagering fees and taxes. This will have positive, flow-on benefits for our members and will ensure large foreign-owned bookmakers return a fair share of profits back into Queensland venues and communities.

Queensland hotels are missing out

Under the current wagering tax model, our members are missing out. Foreign-owned bookies are profiting from customers in our venues but are not giving back to Queensland or the local industry.

As the only licensed cash retail wagering operator in Queensland, Tabcorp goes to market in Queensland via our members' hotels. When a customer bets with the TAB in a QHA venue (either online on the TAB app, with an operator or via an electronic terminal), that venue receives a commission from TAB. At this time, if a customer is betting with a foreign-owned bookmaker, our venues get nothing. Over 60% of customers who bet in a pub on their phones are betting with an NT-licensed foreign-owned bookie.

As such, QHA members miss out on a commission every time a person bets in a venue on a mobile device with a foreign-owned bookie (see **Table One**).



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Table One: Est Ave Contribution of a Bet

	Estimated average contribution from a bet	Total in FY 2021
Australian TABs (ex-WA)	2% ²³	Over \$150 million
Foreign-owned bookies	nil%	\$nil

Similarly, the TAB wagering equipment in QHA venues (e.g., Sky Racing media, betting terminals, form guides, etc.) is paid for by our members. This means that other bookies can leverage and benefit from the TAB facilities for free, and it is our members who are footing the bill.

The QHA maintains a strong commitment to minimising gambling harm, and we support policy settings and legislation that encourages betting in a retail venue (as opposed to betting online at home). If the local wagering licensee (the TAB) is responsible, sustainable, well-regulated, and able to innovate and be responsive to customers’ expectations, that ultimately benefits our members too. The QHA believes this legislation is in the best interest of our members and that they will get a fair share of the benefits.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the Bill. We look forward to working with the Queensland Parliament to ensure that Queensland pubs are supported. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [redacted] or at [redacted] if we can provide any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Hogan
 Chief Executive
 Queensland Hotels Association