



9 April 2014

The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Tatts Group submission: Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

I refer to the proposed amendments to the *Wagering Act 1998* and *Lotteries Act 1997* incorporated within the Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 (the Bill).

Tatts Group Limited (Tatts Group) is the ultimate holding company of the Queensland lottery operator, Golden Casket Lottery Corporation Limited (Golden Casket), and the Queensland race and sports wagering licensee, TattsBet Limited (TattsBet).

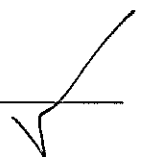
Now the fourth largest Queensland ASX listed company, Tatts Group's operations directly employ some 1,350 Queenslanders; close to another 10,000 Queenslanders are indirectly employed in selling our products (including many small businesses such as our TAB agencies and newsagencies).

Tatts Group's 11,350 strong team of Queenslanders, working throughout our 1808 sites state-wide, depend upon the continued strong performance of Tatts and its operational footprint in Queensland.

Employment, job creation, and local investment aside, our relationship with the Queensland public extends well beyond our products and commercial relationships. Indeed, 53% of our shareholders are Queenslanders – with many of these 41,000 Queenslanders having purchased their shareholdings from the Queensland Government upon the original float of TAB Queensland in 1999.

In terms of revenue, Tatts Group's direct \$300 million contribution to the Queensland Government via wagering and lottery taxes in the 2013 financial year - along with an additional indirect contribution of \$82 million from our GST payments - has been generated by virtue of the Group's continued and sustained investment in our people, systems and infrastructure across the State.

Our annual revenue contribution to the Queensland Government has been supplemented over the last 14 years by an additional amount exceeding \$1.5 billion paid directly to the Queensland racing industry.



Tatts Group welcomes and supports the proposed red tape reduction changes to the lotteries and wagering legislation incorporated within the Bill. Tatts also supports the amendments proposed to the Wagering Act to facilitate the introduction of minimum pool guarantees, which will improve customer satisfaction and the competitiveness of the licence operator.

The proposed initiatives represent a positive step toward achieving red tape reductions in the lotteries and wagering space, allowing resources to be redirected toward innovation and product enhancements. This allows our companies to build on the positive community contributions made to Queenslanders since the establishment of Golden Casket in 1916.

Further red tape reductions could be realised by a full scale review and modernisation of both the Wagering Act and Lotteries Act, whilst keeping them as separate Acts of Parliament. Both Acts reflect regulatory environments that are well over 10 years old and do not provide the flexibility required to operate in changed markets, with considerable product and technological advances. Consistency between the Acts is also desirable.

Substantial red tape reduction could further be achieved through streamlining internal government processes to hasten the implementation of positive legislative change which enhances the productivity and competitiveness of Queensland companies.

We note that in this Bill amendments are proposed to the *Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999* to allow for the gross proceeds that would define the meaning of category 1, 2 and 3 games to be prescribed in a regulation. In particular, we note that these changes are being proposed to provide flexibility for Queensland charities and non-profit organisations to readily respond to external forces, such as changes in consumer price index and market conditions, to assist them to adapt and remain competitive. Tatts Group reserves its comments on these proposed changes until the amendments to the *Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999* and accompanying explanatory notes are made available. We trust that consultation will be undertaken with us prior to any proposed changes to the Regulation being made.

Tatts Group looks forward to these and further red tape reduction initiatives we have suggested through separate processes being realised in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Robbie Cooke
CEO & Managing Director
Tatts Group Limited