



Speech by

**Hon. D. HAMILL**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

---

Hansard 16 November 2000

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gaming Machines**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (9.44 a.m.), by leave: The Queensland Government has introduced new laws to ensure that the community has a say on the growth of gaming machines.

From 1 December, the date of proclamation of the Gambling Legislation Amendment Act 2000, new gaming machine sites and existing sites that want to significantly increase the number of gaming machines must—and I stress must—undertake community consultation.

The new laws require applicants to publicly advertise the proposed installation of new gaming machines and invite public comment. Applicants will also be required to prepare a detailed community impact statement which will set out information such as the closeness of shopping centres, churches and schools as well as the number of gaming machines already existing in the area. Under the new laws, community impact statements may be viewed by members of the public and will assist members of the public who wish to have their say on a proposed increase in gaming machines in their community.

During debate on the new laws, I indicated that we would be preparing guidelines for applicants wanting to establish new sites or significantly increase the number of machines at existing sites. I also indicated we would prepare guidelines for preparing community impact statements. I am delighted to inform the House that both of those documents are now available from the Queensland Gaming Commission and I seek leave to table them for the information of members.

Leave granted.

**Mr HAMILL:** There is very genuine community concern about the proliferation of gaming machines in Queensland which occurred because of the free for all policies of the previous Government. We have listened to Queenslanders, heard their concerns and taken steps to ensure the community has its say on any expansion of gambling in their local community.

A key issue in this consultation process will be the concentration of gaming machines already in the area. Anyone wanting more information should contact the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation or visit their website at [www.qogr.qld.gov.au](http://www.qogr.qld.gov.au).

---