

Question on Notice

No. 421

Asked on 28 March 2019

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise, as at 1 August 2018 and 28 March 2019, the number of approved electronic gaming machines in the Gold Coast local government area, specifically hotel authorities, (b) community club entitlements and (c) casinos (reported separately by date)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for his question.

In Queensland there is a State-wide cap on the number of gaming machines that can operate in hotels and clubs. The hotel cap is 19,500 and the club cap is 24,705.

For clubs or hotels to legally operate or increase the number of gaming machines at their premises they need to hold a gaming machine licence that specifies the number of machines they are approved to operate at the venue. The approved number may not generally reflect the number of gaming machines actually in operation.

To have their approved number of machines operating at their venue, hotels need to obtain an 'authority,' while clubs need an 'entitlement,' for each individual gaming machine. These can only be obtained through a competitive tender process or in the case of clubs also by direct transfer from one club to another. The number of authorities and entitlements available to the pub and club sector is the respective cap numbers.

It is for this reason the number of gaming machines a venue is 'approved' to operate does not reflect the number of machine entitlements or authorities they possess or the number of operational gaming machines. Because a licensee has not acquired the necessary authorities or entitlements it is not unusual that a venue is unable to put into operation its full quota of approved gaming machines. For example there are a number of approvals dating back to 2011 where the authorities or entitlements to operate gaming machines have not yet been acquired.

End of month data for the previous 36 months on the number of approved and operational gaming machines by local government area (LGA) and other statistical divisions is available on the Business Queensland website <https://secure.olgr.qld.gov.au/dcm/Gaming>. This data is generally updated on the 11th of each month depending on weekends and public holidays and is updated subsequent to the monthly taxation sweep of gaming machines across the State.

The following table shows the number of Commissioner-approved machines and those operating at hotels and clubs in the Gold Coast LGA during the months of July 2018 and February 2019.

Gaming machines	July 2018	February 2019
Number approved – hotels	2,739	2,820
Number operational – hotels	2,530	2,538
Number approved – clubs	3,202	3,190
Number operational – clubs	3,076	3,072
Total number approved	5,941	6,010
Total number operational	5,606	5,610

There is currently one casino in the Gold Coast local government area. The Star casino at Broadbeach is approved for 1,651 electronic gaming machines. The approved number has not changed since August 2018. Similar to the hotel and club industry, the Star does not operate at capacity at all times. The number of gaming machines in operation as at 28 February 2019 was 1,625.