



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Andrew Braddock MLA on Monday, 22 August 2022: Daniel Ng, acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript Monday, 22 August 2022 [PAGES 118-119]]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you. Just thinking of the change to the betting operations tax, has there been any analysis or modelling of how that might impact gaming and particularly gaming harm here in the ACT?

Mr Ng: Yes. So, the betting operations tax is led by Treasury, Chief Minister's Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. To the extent of the implications for online gaming policy I guess we would reflect that there has been an observation that over the last two years there has been an increase in online gaming activity. And the government's current disposition is make good on the remaining bits in the work program of the online consumer protection framework.

MR BRADDOCK: But I am asking the question of has any sort of assessment been done in terms of what that would do in terms of gambling harm. Can we demonstrate the increase in it from 15 to 20 per cent will actually reduce gambling harm in the ACT?

Mr Ng: No I do not think so, Mr Braddock. Sorry, just in relation to your question about what the correlation is between the proposed reforms and—

MR BRADDOCK: Yes, exactly. Just in terms of any analysis, any modelling, any evaluation that might indicate that through the increase to 20 per cent do we anticipate the decrease in gambling harm in the ACT?

Mr Ng: Well, I would have to take that question on notice, Mr Braddock.

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

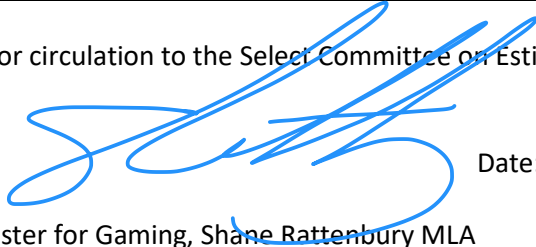
The *Betting Operations Tax Act 2018* establishes the betting operations tax as a point of consumption tax. It better aligns levy of wagering taxes with the location where the social cost of gambling occurs. The betting operations tax was introduced to shift tax arrangements from collection at the point of supply, which provided an opportunity for online operators to gain a tax advantage by basing themselves in low or no tax jurisdictions.

The increase in the betting operations tax was not introduced to reduce gaming harm. The betting operations tax goes to consolidated revenue. The increase in the tax will result in additional consolidated revenue to fund a range of services to the community.

Further discussion of the intent of the Act is available in the Explanatory Statement to the Betting Operations Tax Bill 2018.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

1/9/22

By the Minister for Gaming, Shane Rattenbury MLA