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Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Chair

Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Our ref: PRO24/3490

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Dear Ms Lawder

Nicole

I am writing to clarify information I provided to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-25 at its hearing of Friday, 2 August 2024, where I appeared in my capacity as Minister for Gaming.

In response to a question from Dr Marisa Paterson MLA I indicated that the ACT Government has not been developing legislation to support implementation of a central monitoring system (CMS) for electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in the ACT because this has not been authorised by Cabinet.

While Cabinet has not at this stage given policy agreement to implementation of a CMS, the government authorised the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to begin the development of draft legislation as part of in-principle agreement to continued analysis and policy development about whether a CMS should be introduced to facilitate EGM harm reduction measures.

The Directorate subsequently developed draft legislation that was intended as a possible first tranche of several complementary bills successively introduced as consultation continued and specific policy settings were settled. It addresses a specific aspect of the necessary legislative framework and was not comprehensive.

Specifically, the draft legislation provides robust governance and regulatory arrangements for a third-party to deliver and operate a CMS on behalf of the government. While based on arrangements typical in other Australian jurisdictions, the Directorate deeply considered the government and community interests and stakeholder concerns during the drafting process, including those raised by

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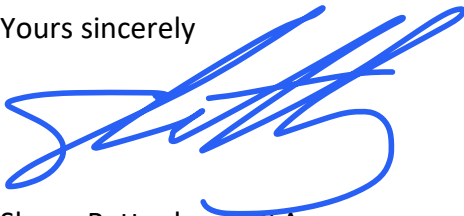
Dr Paterson. Some of the relevant issues are outlined in the ACT Government's 2022 discussion paper about lowering bet and credit limits, available online at <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/electronic-gaming-machine-bet-and-credit-limits>, and in the ACT Government Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety *Inquiry into cashless gaming*.

This draft legislation was made available on a confidential basis to parties interested in responding to the market sounding process, undertaken during April 2024, on the basis that it might be relevant to the operational, technical and price information sought by the market sounding.

Importantly, I ask the Committee to note that the government has not yet agreed to proceed with the proposed CMS and this draft legislation is not agreed for introduction.

I trust this information will help to assist the Committee's consideration of this issue.

Yours sincerely



Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Gaming

12 September 2024