

2018

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Government Response to Auditor-General's Report No 5/2018
Performance Report: ACT Clubs' Community Contributions
TABLEING STATEMENT**

**Tabled by
Gordon Ramsay MLA
Minister for Regulatory Services
Attorney General
31 July 2018**

Madam Speaker,

The Auditor-General presented Report No 5 of 2018 on ACT Clubs' Community Contributions to you on 27 April 2018. The report was tabled in this place on 8 May 2018. The objective of the audit was to report on the effectiveness of the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission's regulation of ACT Clubs Community Contributions.

Matters reviewed by the Auditor-General included the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission's activities to oversee, monitor and regulate ACT Clubs and the community contributions made by the clubs. This included consideration of the Commission's activities to provide policy or administrative guidance; regulate clubs' compliance with legislative requirements; and review or evaluate the benefits of clubs' community contributions.

On 5 July 2018 I presented to you the ACT Government Response to the Auditor-General's Report for distribution to members of this chamber out of session. Today I table that Government Response.

The Auditor-General has made eight recommendations. Those recommendations show that there is more work to do in ensuring the transparency of our community contributions scheme, and that we can do better when it comes to providing rules and regulations for clubs. The Government has taken on board the Auditor-General's findings, and agreed to

six recommendations; agreed in principle to one recommendation, and noted one recommendation.

This month, the Government will be delivering on its commitment to ensure that our gambling industry is focused on harm minimisation, and regulated in a way that serves people in our community. Independent of and prior to the Auditor-General's report, this Government committed to review the current community contributions scheme. That review has commenced and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate is now directly engaged with industry and community groups. The Directorate wants to hear from stakeholders in relation to what is good about the current scheme and the areas in which it might be enhanced or improved. That feedback, along with the Auditor-General's report, reports commissioned by the public service, and reports commissioned by the GRC, will help the Government to deliver improvements to the community contributions scheme.

The Government response I am tabling today makes clear that this Government will be delivering more robust regulation of the gambling industry. This response is one part of a comprehensive, broad ranging effort to deliver stronger harm minimisation and greater transparency in the industry.

This sitting month, we will be deliver a suite of new policies, including:

- The findings of the ACT Club Industry Diversification Support Analysis.

This piece of work is the foundation for achieving a reduction from 5,000 to 4,000 gaming machine authorisations;

- Reforms to strengthen the Territory's gambling harm minimisation rules.

These reforms will address issues arising from the gambling harm minimisation roundtables and the outcomes of the investigation into the Raiders Club Belconnen in relation to Professor Laurie Brown's complaint. We are going to reform the Gambling and Racing Code of Practice. The purpose of that reform will be to ensure that our regulators have the tools they need to enforce our harm minimisation rules; and

- The outcomes review of the community contributions scheme and the work the Government will be doing to ensure that this scheme is delivering for the community.

The Government will continue to ensure that our legislative framework is robust, and focused on people. Our gambling industry regulations are in place to ensure that first and foremost, our community is protected against gambling

harm. Those regulations also ensure that the industry delivers real, direct benefits to the community and serves to support people and organisations.

This response to the Auditor-General's report is another example of our commitment to a more robust, community-focused approach to the gambling industry. We will keep being responsive, to the latest evidence about harm minimisation, to our community's clear and unambiguous calls for stronger and more robust regulations, and to continue to protect against gambling harm. The Government will deliver effective initiatives that prevent gambling harm, while ensuring the club industry continues to make a valuable contribution to the ACT community.

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