

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### GAMBLING PRODUCTS WORKING GROUP (17/12/2018)

**ATTENDEES:** Jason Cremona, Steve Thurston, Corrie Cavarra, Tony Phillips and Lindsay Shaw.

**APOLOGIES:** Helen Miller, Nick Vonarx, Craig Jenkins and Anthony Bendall.

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Matters discussed and minutes taken include:

#### VIC APPENDIX CHANGES

- JC advised that all briefs with the Minister, including proposed Vic Appendix changes, were returned to the VCGLR, unsigned and with no feedback.
- JC advised that the VCGLR is looking to address further changes to the Vic Appendix regarding RTP before going back to Minister
- VCGLR consulted with required stakeholders on new RTP proposed changes via email on 7 December, with feedback due 21 December. These changes only relate to RTP to RTP's and corrective statement.
- VCGLR determined corrective statement internally to support industry demand and desire to introduce such a corrective statement.
- JC to forward consultation email to VRGF.
- JC noted that statement determined by the VCGLR was very similar to that noted in Minister approved Player Information Standard.
- TP to provide VCGLR with a copy of the statement incorporated in the VRGF information sheet, notwithstanding that it is somewhat out of date
- JC noted that little feedback from industry to date, and expect to present changes to Commission in meeting late January 2019, with complete revamped standards/appendix to be forwarded to the Minister soon after, incorporating LDW, past results and RTP's changes.

#### TITO/CBC TECHNICAL STANDARDS

- ST briefed group that TITO technical standards also returned from Minister and the VCGLR was looking to correct several minor issues in the standards, as raised by industry during cashless development. These changes will also be presented to the Commission at its meeting in large January for approval, before being resubmitted to the Minister in line with the same timelines outlined above for Vic appendix changes.
- ST to submit the draft technical standards to VRGF for their information.

#### RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING ASSESSMENT TOOL (RGAT)

- CC provided feedback to the tool, in particular the need to:
  - Include a scale against the Y/N questions provided; and
  - Include response/mitigation strategy comments.
- TP acknowledged that these changes were consistent with their internal thoughts and proposed amendments

- CC confirmed that the current level of product features/capabilities/functions is acceptable and effectively the bench mark for acceptable products.
- JC noted that in late February 2019, a paper will be presented to the VCGLR's Legislation Regulation and Policy Committee to formalise the approach/tool.
- Next steps agreed with regards to RGAT include:
  - Tony to refine the tool for the final time and resend to VCGLR by early January 2019 for the VCGLR to own and revamp.

## **NEW GAMBLING RESEARCH**

- LS advised the WG that research on loot boxes and esports will be one of the Early Career Researcher Grants funded by VRGF. The research pieces will be announced by the Minister and commence in early 2019. LS supplied a copy of the VRGF's 2018/2020 research agenda.
- JC spoke to work/discussions with Riot and challenges re possible approval of esports as a betting event. May require consideration in the future to whether or not such events should be considered in Victoria as the regulatory regime appears to limit the possibility of the VCGLR approving such events, having regard to the sports integrity.
- TP noted that, given the level of complexity and technical difficulties in getting acceptable integrity in esports, the minister might be open to the option of simply getting ahead of the problem by banning such betting now. This would be something for discussion with OLGR.

## **NEW PRODUCTS**

### **Mini Roulette**

- JC advised that the product was recently approved after detailed consultation with tester on possible testing and analysis to inform decision making process. It was deemed that the level of testing required to reach an 'acceptable' level of surety regarding any issues in relation to speed and randomness of game, would be too onerous considering the potential issues.
- JC advised that the VCGLR deemed that the speed of game was not a significant issue, considering speed is mainly dictated by the dealer and not the roulette wheel.

### **Pop Shots**

- JC advised that at present there is still an expectation that the Commission will wait:
  - a) for the Minister to determine whether a FOTB trial is endorsed. If not it would suggest that the Minister may be concerned re introducing skill based gaming in Victoria, which would inform the Pop Shots consideration;
  - b) if the FOTB trial is endorsed, awaiting the result of the trial; and
  - c) for the Minister to respond to the RGMAC report into the consideration of new gambling products, including skill based gaming.
- JC advised that to ensure the Commission endorsed the current stance on Pop Shots, a commission paper will be presented to the Commission at its January meeting to endorse the

current approach re Pop Shots, or endorse that Licensing should approve/refuse the product based on currently available information.

- JC advised that this information has been relayed to WYMAC.
- JC sought an update on the status of the RGMAC report. LS and TP advised that they have seen the report, but unsure of its status regarding whether it is with the Minister or not.
- JC to seek status update from Helen Miller.
- In general discussion it was noted that there are two aspects to this. One is the approval or not, to effectively accept skill based features as part of EGMs, a qualitative change in the gambling product. This appears to be a core issue of policy for the minister. The second is consideration of the effect of specific skill based games in relation in increasing or potentially increasing harm.

### **Bloomtopia**

- CC provided an update on the VCGLR's consideration of the Bloomtopia product.
- Concerns were initially noted regarding the concept and whether it was responsible in nature. However as the VCGLR worked through the challenges they appeared to be somewhat minor and/or mitigated by other positive responsible gambling attributes.
- WG discussed the following regarding Bloomtopia:
  - Whether it was a true separation from the EGM;
  - Whether the feature could act as a further inducement to either play the machine or return to the venue;
  - Was it a benefit that the game feature was not to win credits/money?
- JC advised the WG that it believed it had worked through the challenges associated with the game and was close to approving it. JC considers that in applying the initial assessment of the product (does it present different features) and then applying the draft responsible gambling tool, the product did not raise 'significant' red flags to warrant referral to the VRGF for consideration. Essentially the VCGLR believes it is in a position to consider the product with the information available at this point.
- TP advised, that although no serious consideration has been given to the product, it would be important that the game provided adequate player information to the player, in particular in relation to probable costs of obtaining the tools and resources to maintain the garden. CC to consider this issue.

### **CROWN BUSINESS CLASS PROPOSAL**

- JC and CC provided the WG with an outline of the Crown Business Class proposal. This proposal essentially is a gaming suite which can be utilised by high rollers which is a confined area with a FATG terminal, massage chair (with gaming screen linked to the FATG terminal), a TV screen and a drinks buzzer.
- TP and LS raised immediate concerns regarding how the concept will entice a problem gambler because they will be 'out of sight'.
- JC advised that the VCGLR currently did not believe any approvals (other than basic technical approvals for required hardware) is required before Crown can implement the proposals. The VCGLR is merely considering seeking that Crown apply for a change to the Casino layout to identify the location of such suites, to allow for appropriate regulatory oversight and monitoring.

- TP noted that as part of its responsible gambling practice an expectation could be given to Crown that it would commit to high level monitoring of these pods, including not just camera surveillance but regular visits by staff, for example every half hour.
- WG concurred that it is advisable the VCGLR inform the OLGR of the proposal. CC to consult with OLGR on this issue.

#### **INTERACTIVE GAMBLING APPLICATION**

- JC advised that in recent weeks an entity has submitted an application to be issued with an interactive gambling licence (same company that submitted the 'Spot the Ball' concept)
- JC advised that the Commission will consult further with the applicant and provide further considerations that need to occur, and also the challenges associated with consideration of any interactive product (ie; how to validate that a proposed game is 100% skill based, which is the only way the Commission deemed it can consider an interactive game)
- JC noted that the OLGR provided legal advice the Commissions ability to consider an interactive gambling product, in light of the IGA prohibitions, and this advice conflicted with that obtained by the VCGLR. JC further advised that the Commission will rely on its own legal advice in this matter, however will be a challenge to approve any interactive product as 100% skill based.
- JC to continue to update the WG on progress in this regard.

#### **TATTERSALLS 'SPECIAL DRAWS' PRODUCT/PROPOSAL**

- Matter not discussed as essentially a matter for VCGLR/OLGR to consider.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- LS sought clarity regarding data available post Point of Consumption Tax (POCT) introduction, in particular segregated data re Fixed Odds and Tote betting.
- JC advised that the VCGLR regulatory approach will not change and current data sets will continue to be available
- TP and LS indicated that it would be useful to have access to data splits for all tax paying entities into Victoria. JC advised that the SRO would be able to advise what information other (non Victorian Regulated) Sports Betting Providers will be required to provide
- JC to provide Emily Biggins contact details to VRGF to raise issue of data directly with the SRO.