

Dear Bishop Harrower,

On behalf of Kim Booth MP and the Tasmanian Greens, I would like to thank you very much for your letter about gambling (*please find a copy attached along with the response from Tom Allen on behalf of Nick McKim MP*).

As you would likely be aware, Mr Booth and the Tasmanian Greens have long had a strong position against pokies in Tasmania, which has only strengthened as each new piece of evidence indicates the considerable damage that they wreck in the community.

The Tasmanian Greens support the introduction of a compulsory pre-commitment system into poker machine use and have also been advocating for a \$1 bet limit (please see attached 2010 policy initiative). The Tasmanian Greens proposed \$1 bet limit Bill is currently before the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gaming Control (please see [here](#) for the transcripts to date) of which Mr Booth is Chairperson.

The Tasmanian Greens would welcome moves by the Tasmanian government to reduce their reliance from the taxation of gambling. Gambling taxation provided a revenue of \$84.3 million in 2006/07, which represents 11.5 per cent of state own source revenue (SACES, 2008). Pokies accounted for around 60 per cent of that total.

The Tasmanian Greens are the only political party in Tasmania to have not accepted a donation from Federal Hotels which is the company that own the monopoly license for all pokie machines in Tasmania. This monopoly was originally given to them in 1997 and was then extended, without going to tender, in 2003. Of note was a significant donation of \$20 000 made by Federal Hotels to the Tasmanian Liberal and Labor Parties in 1997 and again in 2003.

The Tasmanian Greens have a robust policy when it comes to accepting donations. Please see [here](#) and we have also publicly advocated for donations to be made public (please see below a communication we sent out in February 2011).

I hope this is of some help and I would encourage the Synod to present a petition on behalf of your members to the Parliament which Mr Booth would be privileged to table on your behalf.

Please let me know if you would like any more information or if you would like to meet with Mr Both at a time convenient to your both.

Kind Regards

Amy

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POKIES PRE-COMMITMENT GAINS MOMENTUM

As Premier Pledges Support for Pokie Pre-Commitment Technology

Kim Booth MP
Greens Gaming spokesperson

Monday, 11 April 2011
mps.tas.greens.org.au

The Tasmanian Greens today in Parliament continued to apply pressure on the Premier to act to protect the community from the extreme effects of addictive gambling, in light of the Federal Government's proposed Australia wide pre-commitment legislation, and to extract a commitment that State Labor would support Federal Labor.

Greens Gaming spokesperson and member for Bass, Kim Booth MP, asked the Premier whether she supported the Federal Labor and Andrew Wilkie MP pre-commitment pledge, in light of the \$20 million Clubs Australia pokies campaign.

"The Greens are very pleased that the Premier today confirmed that Labor was committed to the reform," Mr Booth said.

"Clearly Greens Minister Cassy O'Connor will be driving the State's push for joint harm-minimisation measures, and it is important to note that in this case Labor also supports the Federal reform moves."

"Finally Labor has made some concession to the harm that pokies have caused to our community and now accepts that harm minimisation needs to be legislated."

"Labor rolled out additional machines and extended the Federal Hotels monopoly in 2003 in a dishonest and stealthy manner, and now has finally had to face up to the harm that these machines have caused."

"The lost lives and families, the ruined businesses and the cost to the judicial system will never be recovered, however as a first step, this is a big step and the Greens are determined to ensure that this and other measures are introduced"

"The Greens have a pokies \$1 bet limit Bill before the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gaming Control at the moment and I am now calling on Labor to support the \$1 bet limit as well," said Mr Booth.