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To: DA Submission Mailbox
Subject: Online Submission

18/11/2024

MRS HEGVOLD SAMANTHA
4 WICKLOW PL
KILLARNEY HEIGHTS NSW 2087

RE: DA2024/1303 - 11 / 0 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed expansion of the gaming area at [Local RSL Name]. While I understand the need for financial sustainability in community clubs, I am particularly troubled by the substantial increase in the number of poker machines.

Poker machines, often described as a "hidden tax" on vulnerable communities, have been shown to contribute significantly to gambling addiction, financial distress, and mental health issues. The introduction of more machines can exacerbate these problems, particularly in areas already struggling with social disadvantage.

Numerous studies highlight the disproportionate impact of poker machines on low-income and at-risk individuals, with many experiencing financial ruin or severe emotional distress. Expanding this area may result in more people becoming ensnared in harmful gambling habits, which can have devastating long-term effects on their lives and their families.

I urge you to reconsider the scale of the gaming area in the proposed development, and to explore alternative ways to support the RSL without expanding the gambling component.

In addition to the size of the gambling area, the eating/drinking areas have been significantly reduced. The outdoor dining area is miniscule, and not much larger than the toilets.

It is clear that the entire focus will be on gaming instead of offering a community based Leagues club where emphasis is on community and togetherness.

I am vehemently opposed to the plan
Regards
Samantha Hegvold