



TAB Venue Policy

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Matamata-Piako District Council's Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) Venue Policy (Policy) sets out regulations for the provision of *TAB venues* in the Matamata-Piako District (District). This Policy is a requirement of, and complies with, the Racing Industry Act 2020 (the Act) and provides a policy framework for *TAB venue* applications.

This Policy sets out Matamata-Piako District Council's (Council) responsibilities in relation to *TAB venues* within the District. A separate policy covers class 4 gambling established under the Gambling Act 2003.

The Act states that a *TAB venue* policy must specify whether or not new *TAB venues* may be established in the territorial authority district and, if so, where they may be located.

1.2 Objective

The Policy intends to balance the need to minimise harm from racing and sports betting, by setting a limit on the number and location of *TAB venues*, and acknowledging the role of funding from racing and sports betting in supporting racing and sporting organisations.

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a. have regard to the social impacts of racing and sports betting including the cumulative effect of additional opportunities for gambling and betting in the District, and to acknowledge the role of funding from *TAB venues* in supporting racing and sporting organisations;
- b. control the growth of gambling and betting in the District;
- c. facilitate local community involvement into the provision of *TAB venues*.

1.3 Definitions

The following definitions are provided to clarify the intent, purpose and meaning of this Policy:

Consent – in this context refers to Council written approval.

TAB Venue - means premises owned or leased by TAB NZ and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting, sports betting, or other racing or sports betting services under the Racing Industry Act 2020.

2. Provision of TAB Venues

2.1 TAB venues may be permitted

2.1.1 *TAB venues* are permitted to operate in the District subject to the regulations stated in this Policy and relevant legislative requirements.

2.2 TAB venue cap

2.2.1 Regardless of present numbers and population changes, this Policy allows a maximum of one *TAB venue* per township, i.e. Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.

	Maximum number of TAB venues permitted
TAB Venue	1: Township ¹

2.2.2 The cap allows for moderate growth whilst addressing community concerns regarding the potential harms associated with gambling and betting.

2.3 TAB venue location

2.3.1 New *TAB venues* must meet the venue location requirements as outlined in this Policy.

2.3.2 The location of a new *TAB venue* must meet the requirements of the Matamata-Piako District Plan. Council's preference is that *TAB venues* are located within the Business Zone. Where an application is made to locate outside of the Business Zone under the Matamata-Piako District Plan, the application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.3.3 In considering where a *TAB venue* may be located, Council may have regard to any relevant matters, including the following considerations:²

- a. the characteristics of the district and parts of the district;
- b. the location of kindergartens, early childhood centres, schools, places of worship, and other community facilities;
- c. the cumulative effects of additional opportunities for gambling in the district.

¹ Each 'township' is defined by the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Area 2 (SA2), with Matamata being the sum of Matamata North and Matamata South, Morrinsville being the sum of Morrinsville East and Morrinsville West, and Te Aroha being the sum of Te Aroha East and Te Aroha West.

² As per detailed in section 96(4) of the Act.

3. Applications

3.1 Consent requirements

- 3.1.1** Council *consent* is required if TAB NZ wishes to establish a *TAB venue* in the District.
- 3.1.2** Consent is not required to establish a TAB facility within a bar, hotel or club. If a *TAB venue* wishes to also host gaming machines, a separate application must be made under Council's Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and the *TAB venue* must also meet the additional criteria set out in that policy.

3.2 Application requirements

- 3.2.1** *TAB venues* may be established within the District subject to:
- a. meeting the application and fee requirements as detailed on the Matamata-Piako District Council website.³
 - b. the number of *TAB venue* consents issued at any time not exceeding the cap for *TAB venues* in the District as detailed in this Policy.
 - c. the applicant having the appropriate resource consent approvals, if required.

3.3 Consideration of applications

- 3.3.1** The delegated body or person approved by Council shall consider all applications for *TAB venue consents* received.⁴
- 3.3.2** The delegated body or person approved by Council, shall suspend consideration of, or refuse consent where any part of the application falls outside of this Policy.
- 3.3.3** Council will respond with their decision within 30 working days of receipt of an application.

3.4 Social considerations

- 3.4.1** Due to the associated harms resulting from gambling and betting, consideration will not be given to proposed *TAB venues* where families and young people under 18 are likely to be present. Examples include, but are not limited to, sports clubs and family restaurants.
- 3.4.2** The applicant must be able to reliably demonstrate that they are likely to have a minimal negative impact on the surrounding community. Minimal negative impact is seen as a balance between the intrinsic problems that are associated with gambling and betting, and the benefits of funding to racing and sporting organisations and would include evidence of harm minimisation strategies, and responsible gambling provisions in place.

³ Application and processing fees associated with TAB venue applications, if not listed separately, are the same as those listed for gambling venues as per Council's Fees and Charges document.

⁴ Refer to Council Delegations Policy and Register for delegated body.

- 3.4.3** Council will consider any new applications in respect to the proximity to other gambling and betting opportunities in the surrounding area, and has the right to refuse *consent* on this basis.

4. Monitoring, Measurement and Review

- 4.1.1** Members of the public with concerns in relation to the ongoing operation of a *TAB venue* may direct these to the Department of Internal Affairs as the regulator of the Racing Industry Act 2020.
- 4.1.2** This Policy will be reviewed within three years of its adoption by Council. The review will consider the growth and spread of gambling and betting as a recreational activity in the District and the incidence of problems or benefits arising from its presence. Criteria to increase or decrease any District limits on *TAB venues* will be based upon an evaluation of the evidence of harms or benefits arising from gambling and betting.
- 4.1.3** As part of the Council's commitment to involving communities in pertinent issues, Council recognises that gambling is an issue of interest to our community. Members of the public are invited to submit their views on the Policy and provision of gambling and betting in the District as part of the Policy review.
- 4.1.4** Council will produce a Social Impact Assessment at the time of each review ensure the availability of up to date resources and literature to the local community and local agencies interested in this topic.

5. Relevant Documents and Legislation

- Social Impact Assessment of Gambling in the Matamata-Piako District 2021
- Racing Industry Act 2020
- Local Government Act 2002