

DCDB - KDC - Pub Charity Submission

The Dargaville Community Development Board, a not-for-profit organisation, has a focus on helping to revitalise Dargaville town and environs, encouraging economic growth and development in the community.

We make this submission regarding the issue of pokie machines and the option of a sinking lid policy or a capped policy. We support keeping the number of machines at the present level, based on funding received from Pub Charity Limited to date.

The Dargaville and Environ community that we have been involved with have benefitted by approximately \$200,000 in the past 2 years, from funding organisations who assist communities to improve their quality of life and environment.

Sports and Leisure activities

The Arts

Education

Tourism

IT and Social Media

Safety and security

The DCDB has received over \$50,000 from Pub Charity which has had major benefits for our community across a wide range of initiatives.

The sum of \$30,000 from Pub Charity contributed to our near-completion of the first stage of the Safer Dargaville Campaign Closed Circuit Television network, which has already proved to be a vital service for our police force, enhancing security and safety for business and residents alike. This project will be completed by the end of this month (November 2018) and involves the purchase of camera's, software, hardware, cabling and sufficient funds for a part time co - ordinator.

Pub Charity has also contributed \$20,000 for the development of a website and a social media awareness campaign to raise the profile of Dargaville. This website is first and foremost a resource for the community and a platform to encourage people to do business, work, live, play and visit Dargaville.

Other projects which Pub Charity has contributed to is the Dargaville Arts Association, including community workshops, exhibitions and a Wearable Arts event

As a small rural community with limited funds and a low socio economic ratepayer base, it is imperative that the Pub Charity organisation is encouraged to offer communities like ours the opportunity to secure funds, that are collected from Pokie Machines and then are released back into the community, for desired projects that enhance the lives of our residents..

There are many forms of gambling available to our communities including Lotto, TAB, and On-line betting. The majority of gambling simply siphons cash out of the community and the country. Reducing pokie machines will simply cut a source of funding that will not be replaced. This will have a huge negative impact on organisations working to improve and enhance our community, providing much needed infrastructure and many diverse opportunities for community funded projects.

We urge you to review your proposal to have a sinking lid policy of the Pokie Machines business. Should Pub Charity's existence in Dargaville be diminished, many clubs and organisations would not be able to develop their initiatives.

Capping machines at the present level will ensure that, should a venue close for any reason, the machines allocated at that venue, can be transferred to a new venue, ensuring Pub Charity continues as a vital funding source.

Thank you for hearing this submission.