

MEDIA RELEASE

12 November 2009



Gaming Machines Refused at the Romsey Hotel

VCAT has this morning refused an application to install gaming machines at the Romsey Hotel.

Mayor John Letchford said this is a great win for the community and local government in relation to being able to have a say on the placement of gaming machines in their municipality.

“Over several years, the community repeatedly voiced strong opposition to the installation of gaming machines in Romsey and Council has been committed at each stage to opposing the application,” he said.

“The proposed installation of 30 gaming machines at the hotel would have resulted in \$2million per year being drained from the town. Feedback from residents has highlighted that local businesses, employment opportunities and families would have been substantially affected if the proposal had proceeded,” he said.

Background/Key Dates

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| 8 December 2004 | Application to extend Romsey Hotel and install gaming machines refused by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. |
| 21 April 2006 | Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation (VCGR) refuses the Romsey hotel's application to install electronic gaming machines. |
| 11 January 2007 | Justice Morris (VCAT) overturned the VCGR's 21 April 2006. |
| 7 February 2007 | Macedon Ranges Shire councillors unanimously vote to appeal the VCAT decision. |
| 19 March 2008 | A landmark challenge against VCAT by Macedon Ranges Shire Council on behalf of its community is won, with the Supreme Court ruling that VCAT erred in law in granting approval to the Romsey Hotel for the installation of gaming machines without taking into account the evidence of community opposition. |
| 12 November 2009 | VCAT refused an appeal by the Romsey Hotel to the VCGR to install electronic gaming machines. |

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