TOLLNER PLAYING GAMES WITH POKIES LICENCES

Minister for Business, Dave Tollner, told today’s estimates hearing that he is considering increasing the number of gaming machines allowed in clubs from 45 to 90 machines and from 10 to 30 machines in pubs.

Shadow Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing, Michael Gunner, said that it was astounding that the Minister for Business had approached gaming licensees in the Territory with the suggestion of an increase in gaming machines.

“This suggestion by the Minister for Business, Dave Tollner, to double the number of gaming machines permitted in Territory clubs and triple the number of gaming machines in pubs is of grave concern,” Mr Gunner said.

“The CLP Government is looking to benefit from the increased revenue from an increase in the number of gaming machine licences with little regard given to the social impacts gambling can have on the community.

“No consultation with the community or community groups about whether they want more poker machines has taken place.”

Mr Gunner said the CLP Government has form for avoiding transparency in its decision making.

“Once again Dave Tollner is putting the views of Territorians last,” Mr Gunner said.

“Territorians deserve to have a say in important decisions, like the increase in the number of gaming machines, which can affect their community.”

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