

4.3.10 MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

OVERVIEW

Agency	Forecast 1995-96	Estimate 1996-97	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
Department of Gaming and Racing			
Current Payments	23.6	34.6	46.6
Capital Payments	29.1	12.1	(-) 58.4
Casino Control Authority			
Current Payments	4.1	3.5	(-) 14.6
Capital Payments	0.2	0.1	(-) 50.0
Total, Minister for Gaming and Racing	56.8	50.3	(-) 11.4

The change in total current payments in 1996-97 compared to 1995-96 is mainly due to -

- increased expenditure in 1996-97 from the Department of Gaming and Racing's Community Benefit Fund which is funded from a levy on casino revenues; and
- expenditure in 1995-96 being incurred by the Casino Control Authority on legal advice for Supreme Court action initiated by Darling Casino Limited.

DEPARTMENT OF GAMING AND RACING

The responsibilities of the Department of Gaming and Racing involve the proper conduct and balanced development of the liquor, gaming, racing and charity industries.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Casino Community Benefit Levy, derived from casino revenues, will provide an estimated \$11.8 million for the Casino Community Benefit Fund. The Fund is administered by eleven Trustees drawn from charitable organisations and relevant Government agencies. The funds will be used for research into gambling and the social and economic impact on individuals, families and the general community, and for various community projects, including activities directed at problem gambling.

Strategic Directions

The on-going strategic focus of the Department is to promote the integrity and viability of the liquor, charity, racing and gaming industries. The Department's role is to ensure compliance with legislation, educate and monitor the viability of those industries.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The estimated total current payments for the Department in 1996-97 are \$34.6 million. The Community Benefits Levy, derived from casino revenues, will provide an estimated \$11.8 million for the Casino Community Benefit Fund.

Capital Payments

In 1996-97, capital grants and advances to be paid from the Racecourse Development Fund to support and develop racing facilities throughout the State will amount to \$11.876 million. Payments from the Fund include -

- provision of finance towards permanent improvements or the provision of totalisator facilities on any racecourse, or for permanent improvements to a training track and its ancillary facilities, providing they are under the management of a racing club; and
- assistance to allow horse or greyhound trainers to transfer training activities to premises at or in the vicinity of a track.

CASINO CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Casino Control Authority was established in September 1992 with the objective of maintaining and administering systems for the licensing, supervision and control of a casino.

The purpose of the Authority is to ensure that the management and operation of the casino remains free from criminal influence or exploitation, that gaming is conducted honestly and to contain and control the potential of the casino to cause harm to the public, individuals and families. The authority's role also includes the promotion of tourism and the encouragement of employment and economic development generally in the State.

1996-97 Budget

The licence for the Sydney Casino was awarded in December 1994. The temporary casino opened in September 1995. Current payments of \$3.5 million will be incurred by the Authority to meet operational needs.

The capital allocation of \$90,000 will enable the Authority to complete the establishment of a system to licence casino special employees as required by the Casino Control Act.