



**For Immediate Release  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**15 December 2010**

## **Gaming policy adopted by Council to guide decisions on pokies**

Council adopted a Gaming Policy Framework at its meeting last night to guide decision-making on applications for electronic gaming machines and venues in the Shire.

“Council recognises that electronic gaming is a legal and controlled activity within Victoria but also acknowledges the harm that can be caused by electronic gaming to particular groups in the community,” said Cr Janet Cropley, Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire.

“The Gaming Policy Framework provides Council with a basis in which to determine planning permit applications as well as informing any Council submissions to the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation regarding applications for the approval of a premises as suitable for gaming,” said Cr Cropley.

The Gaming Policy Framework identifies areas within the Shire that may be more vulnerable to gambling problems, based on socio-economic and demographic indicators. It also identifies how accessible electronic gaming is to populations living in the Shire.

“Council planners will now use the Gaming Policy Framework to assess future planning applications for electronic gaming, including considering the impact on vulnerable groups, accessibility and provision of alternatives to gambling as well as other land use planning factors,” said Cr Cropley.

“Council will now request the Minister for Planning to authorise the preparation of a planning scheme amendment to incorporate the Gaming Policy into the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme,” said Cr Cropley.

For further information, please contact Sue Howard, Director Economic and Social Development on 5471 1820.

Ends....

**Media enquiries:**

Aileen Walsh  
Communications Officer  
Mount Alexander Shire Council  
Tel: 5471 1810 or 0407 706769  
Email: [a.walsh@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:a.walsh@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)