

# Reducing Harms from Gambling: Planning Scheme Policy

Southern Metropolitan Region  
Healthy Urban Planning Initiative Regional Forum  
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# Why?



Concern about impact on:

- Health and wellbeing of problem gamblers
- Families
- Community

Council opposed applications by:

- Marine Hotel to increase machine numbers
- New Bay Hotel to install 50 pokies

Unsuccessful:

- At VCGR (now VCGLR)
- On appeal at VCAT

Legal advice and Council decision

- To introduce a gaming policy in the planning scheme



# How? Planning scheme amendment

March 2010  
to July 2010

- Research and consultation
- Report and draft policy to Council

Aug 2010 to  
July 2011

- Minister approval to prepare amendment
- Exhibition, submissions, Council revises policy

Dec 2011 to  
May 2013

- Panel hearing, and report
- Council adopts revised policy, seeks approval
- Planning scheme amended May 2013

# What? Key policy controls

Objectives

- Net social and economic impact will not be detrimental to the wellbeing of the community

Locate more than 500m from

- Most disadvantaged households (bottom 20% SEIFA)
- Other gaming venues
- Sensitive community facilities and welfare agencies
- Railway stations or transport interchange

Not in

- Neighbourhood activity centres
- Suburbs where pokies density greater than Melbourne metro average

Appropriate venue

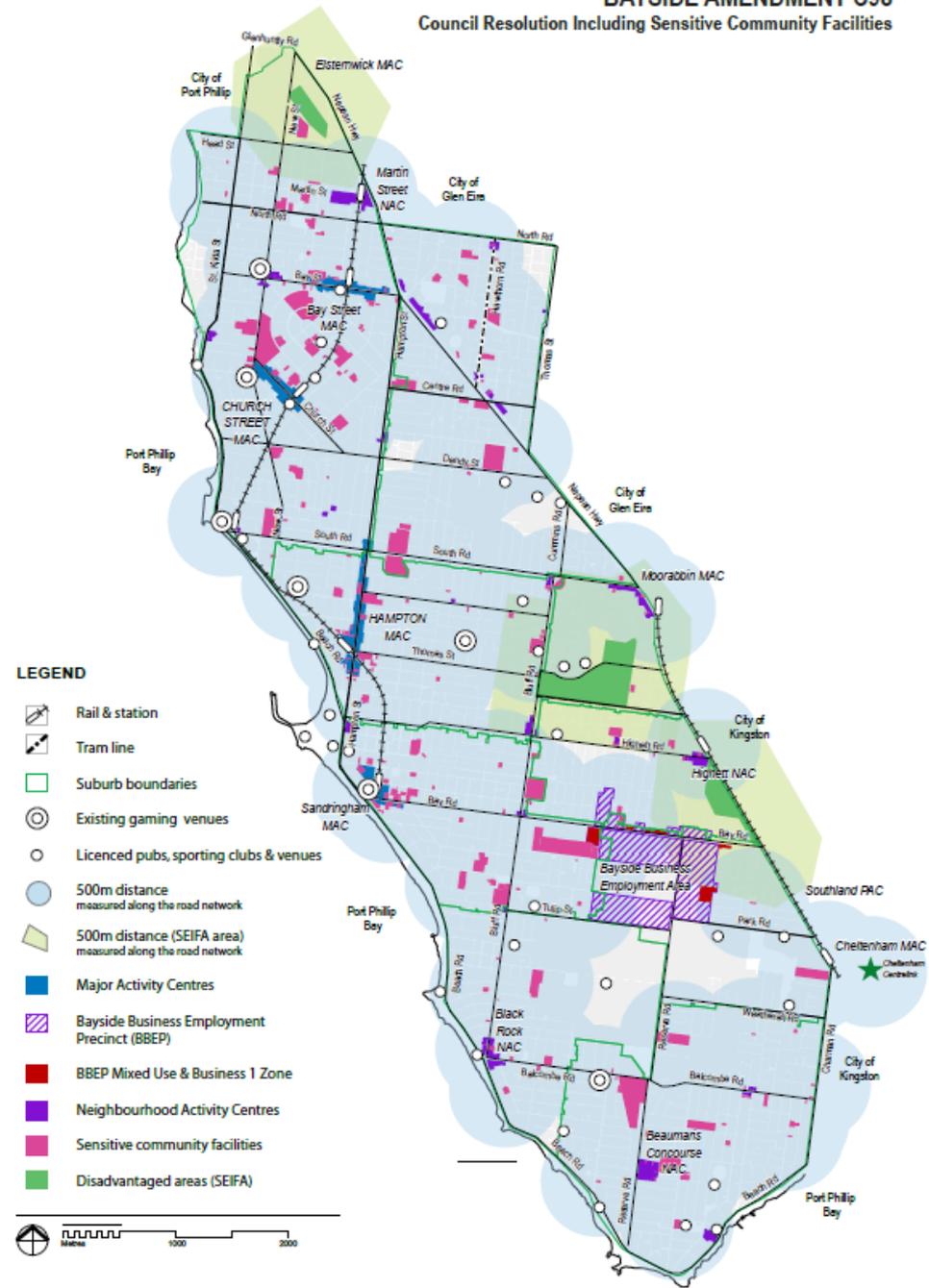
- Floor space, light, separation, hours, other activities, amenity



# Where?

“Overall the Panel accepts that the very restricted opportunities for gaming in Bayside reflect the land use characteristics of the municipality”

Panel report, Bayside C98 amendment  
10 January 2012



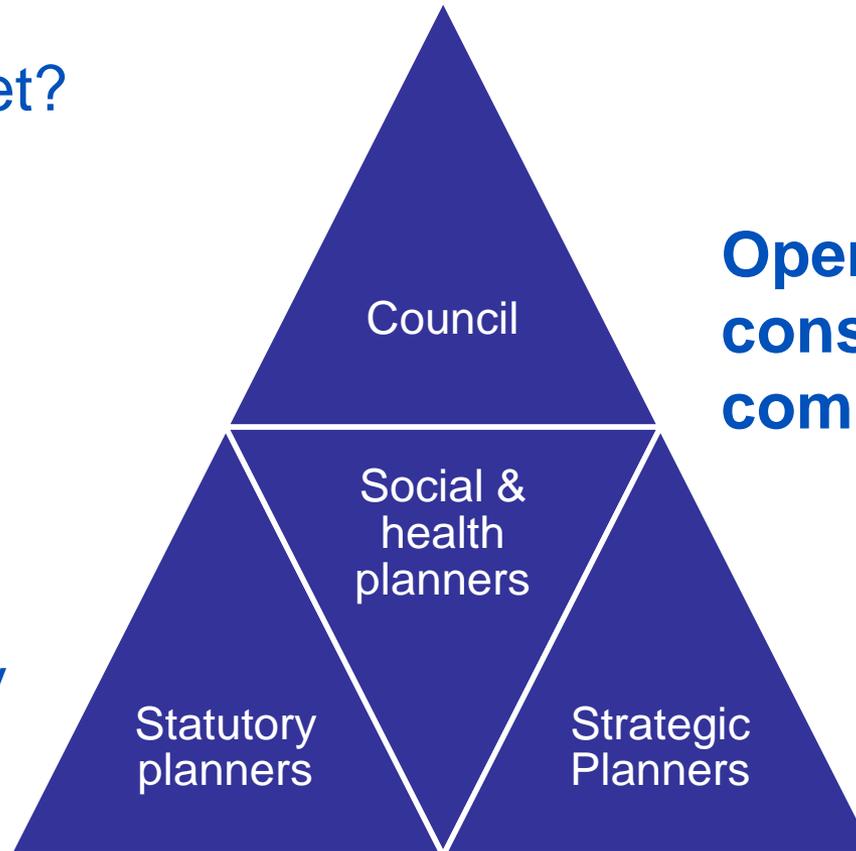
# Who? Challenges and Opportunities

Whose Budget?

Who leads?

Recognising expertise

Responsibility for outcome



**Open, honest,  
consistent  
communication**



# Results and Learnings

Planning controls not yet tested

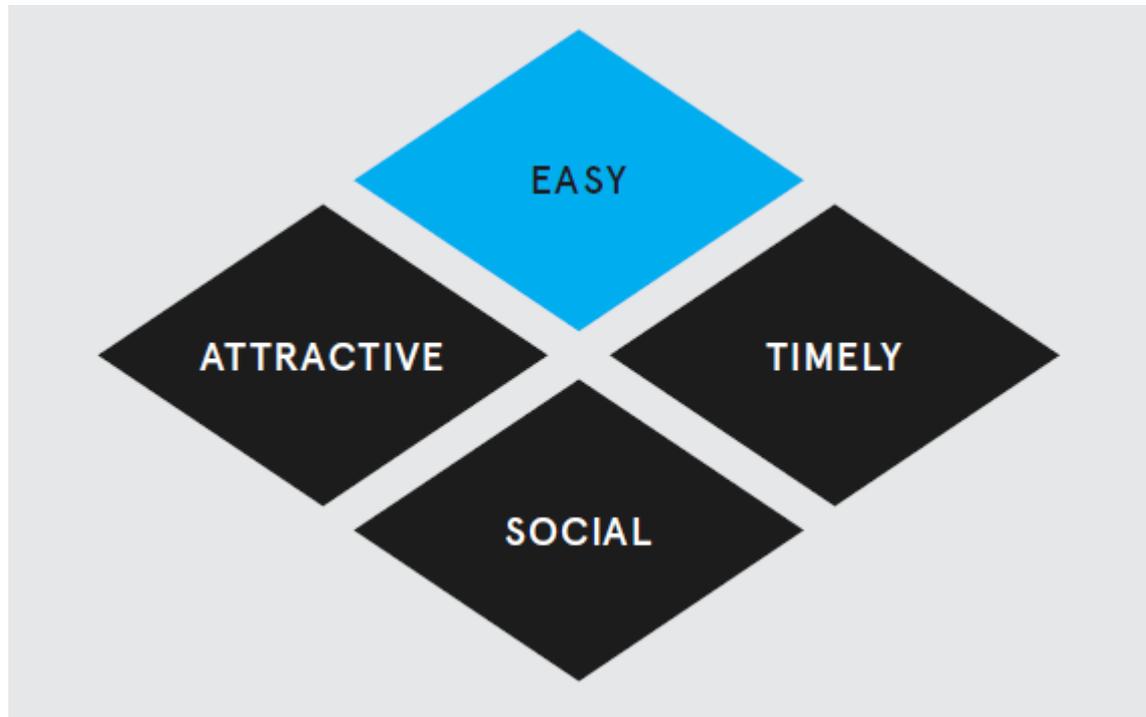
Model of cooperative approach to build on

Development of Alcohol Policy and referrals for health assessment

Current project to develop Bayside Healthy Planning policies and practices



# Go EAST!



UK Behavioural Insights Team – see VicHealth Leading Thinkers Initiative

