

INFORMATION SHEET: KEY FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALASIAN CASINOS

Our member Casinos make a large wide spread positive contribution to various sectors. For example the economy, tourism sector and communities in which they operate. Casinos also provide employment, tourism facilities such as hotels, cultural and entertainment facilities such as theatres and gaming, recreational facilities such as pools and gyms and business facilities such as conference and meeting venues.

The most up to date figures indicate that Australasian Casinos currently:

- **Generate \$4.5 billion of gross revenue**- an increase of 22.8% since 2007 (\$3.68 billion).
- **Paying in excess of \$1.2 billion in taxes each year to all levels of government**- this contributes to state interests such as maintaining hospitals and schools.
- **Providing \$35 million annually in community grants and sponsorship.**
- **Is investing \$5 billion over 5 years on tourism infrastructure, as well as spending a further \$1.6 billion on upgrading facilities.**
- **Employing 25,000 Australians in a number of industries, as well as being a major training provider**- over the past 5 years 2380 people have commenced apprenticeships with our members across the nation.
- **Are the most popular tourist destinations in the nation**- according to the Euromonitor International- Top 100 leading world attractions, Crown Melbourne (17th), Jupiter's Casino (18th) and The Star (31st) were Australia's most popular destinations.

Casinos and the Australian Economy – Report

Casinos and Resorts Australasia (formerly, The Australasian Casino Association) commissioned The Allen Consulting Group to undertake a major study into the Australian casino industry as part of its submission to the 2008 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling.

The report, *Casinos and the Australian Economy*, focused on:

- Providing an overview of the Australian Casino Industry;
- Providing a detailed insight into the regulatory and taxation environment confronting casinos;
- Providing an assessment of the economic contribution made by the casino industry to the Australian economy.

The Key Findings to emerge from the report are as follows:

1. **Casinos make a significant export contribution to the Australian economy**
Over 1 million international tourists made 2.4 million visits to Australian casinos in 2007/08. These tourists spent a total of \$4.9 billion during their time in Australia – an average of \$4940 per visitor, compared to \$2630 by international visitors not visiting casinos
A group of international visitors, known as international VIP program players, spent \$739 million during their visits to Australia in 2007/08. Expenditure associated with these players increased gross domestic product by \$84 million in 2007/08. Maintaining this export will raise Australian private consumption by

\$1.8 billion over a 10-year period.

- 2. The Casino Industry has improved Australia's welfare, as measured by social surplus. Social surplus measures benefits to consumers and producers.**

In 2007/08 the Australian Casino industry generated a social surplus of \$3 billion with the main beneficiaries being casino patrons.

Casinos received a small share of the social surplus, with a negligible amount attributable to the provision of non-gaming services. Non-gaming facilities and services by casinos depend upon gaming revenues.

- 3. Casinos are a key provider of tourism infrastructure, including hotels, restaurants and conference facilities that raise Australia's profile as a tourism destination.**

This infrastructure also supports major international events such as the Australian Grand Prix, the Spring Racing Carnival and the Hopman Cup.

- 4. The Casino Industry is highly capital intensive, with Casino development a catalyst for urban regeneration in a number of cities.**

- 5. Over the next three years Australia's Casinos are planning a number of major capital works projects valued at just under \$1.6 billion.**

These projects will make an important economic contribution to Australia's construction industry, particularly in times of economic uncertainty.

Ongoing Casino Investment depends upon taxation and regulation certainty.

- 6. Casinos are major employers, with some casinos the largest single site employers in their respective states.**

Casinos spent \$889 million in 2007/08 employing just under 20,000 staff.

- 7. All Australia's Casinos undertake extensive staff training, spending \$9 million on training in 2007/08. Several Casinos are Registered Training Organisations.**

- 8. Casinos paid 30% of revenues in taxes in 2007/08, totalling \$1.2 billion**

- 9. Casinos operate in total compliance environments, adhering to casino and gambling specific legislation as well as general legislation.**

Casinos have voluntarily implemented measures to provide a responsible gambling environment, such as hiring staff to promote responsible gambling.

A complete copy of the Allen Consulting Group report can be downloaded from the Association's website at www.auscasinos.com

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