1. From 23 March 2020, many businesses were forced to close to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus within the community (COVID-19).
2. These businesses included licensed clubs, hotels and casinos.
3. The Queensland Government has been delivering a wide range of measures to support businesses, including by providing payroll tax deferrals and refunds, low interest loans and energy rebates.
4. The Queensland Government also waived the 2020-21 annual liquor licence fees estimated at $22.7M for all of Queensland’s nearly 9,000 existing liquor licensees.
5. In addition to these measures, under the arrangement approved by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House, gaming machine tax due in April 2020 (in respect of March 2020 gaming machine revenue) is deferred until July 2020.
6. Deferred gaming machine tax and levies revenue equates to approximately $50M.
7. Around 50 licensees who had already paid their gaming machine taxes and levies in March 2020 will be returned about $1.4M.
8. The Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming will examine options to allow for flexibility in how the deferred gaming machine tax is to be repaid.
9. The Queensland Government’s focus is to assist industry through COVID-19 and to not unduly impede recovery.
10. Cabinet noted the deferral of the collection of March 2020 gaming machine taxes valued at approximately $50M.
11. *Attachments*
* Nil.