



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

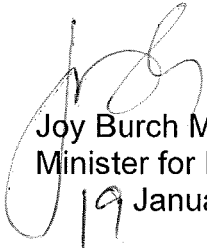
MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

I refer to your letter of 28 October 2015 regarding petition number 13-15 that was lodged by Mr Andrew Wall MLA and received by the Assembly on the 28 October 2015. As the Minister responsible for Racing and Gaming in the ACT, my response to this petition for tabling is at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely


Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Racing and Gaming
19 January 2016

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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PETITION Number 13-15

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws to the attention of the Assembly that: NSW Lotteries and Woolworths petrol stations have entered into an agreement in the ACT that allows for Woolworths petrol stations to sell a full range of lottery products, therefore, threatening the viability of small businesses in the ACT that currently sell these products in a responsible manner. It also exposes ACT residents that are at risk of problem gambling to greater access to these products in a less controlled environment.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to: support any legislative move that prevents the sale of lottery products in the ACT by corporate giants such as Woolworths and Coles.

Response:

The government acknowledges concerns about the wellbeing of our small business community following the announcement that NSW Lotteries is expanding its sales network to include selected fuel outlets in the ACT.

The Government has moved to ensure the increased availability of lottery products does not place the ACT community at a greater risk of harm from problem gambling. The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission have introduced restrictions on the sales hours of lottery products to ensure they are not available after certain times. The Commission will also continue to monitor the sale of these products at retail fuel outlets to ensure all legislative requirements are upheld.

As Minister for Racing and Gaming I also sought, and received, assurances that NSW Lotteries will not seek to expand its sales network into large ACT supermarkets until at least 31 March 2018. This assurance is in line with the terms of the NSW Memorandum of Understanding signed between NSW Lotteries and the NSW Government, and is an important protection measure for existing ACT lottery outlets, the majority of which are small businesses.

A Private Members Bill was introduced to the Legislative Assembly by Mr Wall MLA in September 2015 seeking to exclude larger businesses (in addition to other entities) from being lottery outlets in the ACT. As part of the bill's debate, while acknowledging the good intentions behind the bill, the Government believed that it would not deliver on its intended purpose of restricting the sale of lottery products to small business operators. Significant amendments are required to the bill before it can be brought forward for further consideration.