

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Clubs fear Armageddon as casino project gets the green light**

Clubs Queensland are furious that the government has reportedly signed off on a proceed deed for the ASF consortium IRD/Casino project on the Gold Coast spit without consultation and without a response to their recently released Synergies Economic Consulting report titled '***The impact of new casinos on Queensland community clubs***' which was provided to Government in May this year.

The independent report comprehensively outlines the social and economic impacts of the three proposed Integrated Resort Developments (IRDs), one being the Gold Coast.

Conservatively, 63 community clubs are forecast to experience serious financial risk with the report confirming that 30 Gold Coast community clubs would be at a very high risk of financial failure should the ASF development proceed.

Clubs Queensland CEO Doug Flockhart is deeply concerned by the impact of the proposed IRDs and that a proceed deed or master plan would be approved without any community or industry consultation.

"Without fully assessing the impact of these IRDs, particularly given the forecast failure of many community clubs, the consequential displacement of hundreds of thousands of community club members of all ages and the associated community infrastructure, is detrimental to the social fabric of local communities," Mr Flockhart said.

"The Synergies Economic Consulting Report confirms the process to date has been poor by community standards and should other IRDs be approved, a more rigorous and transparent evaluation process that is subject to substantial community input must be considered by the Government before any decisions are made", he said.

"We are staring down a conservative \$100 million annual revenue shortfall, which will be ripped out of local communities with community contributions and tax revenue alone impacted to the value of over \$75 million annually, \$34 million of that from the Gold Coast."

"Experience from NSW highlights that only 9% of all visitors to the Star Casino in Sydney are from overseas, with 65% of all visits being local residents, as well as the gaming market already being saturated.

"With Australian casinos focusing on locals to sustain operations, the report confirms that profitability across the community club sector is projected to fall by almost 25% after construction is completed.

"A new IRD will only take patrons from existing businesses and exacerbate the disparity that already exists between casinos and community clubs such as maximum bet, return to player, trading hours, and taxation.

"We are calling on the Government to consider the community, our industry and the flow on effects of all local businesses, should this oversized eye sore be approved.

"Community clubs are not for profit entities, purpose built to develop and contribute to infrastructure, services, and the local community as part of their objectives. The new ASF project will leave many community clubs unable to survive and certainly unable to supplement other not-

for-profit community groups, community infrastructure or service a significant portion of the local community”, Mr Flockhart said.

**ENDS**

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