



## Casino Control Amendment (Supervisory Levy) Bill 2013 (Proof)

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Extract from NSW Legislative Council Hansard and Papers Tuesday 28 May 2013 (Proof).

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#### Second Reading

**The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER** (Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [9.32 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have my second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

#### Leave granted.

The Casino Control Amendment (Supervisory Levy) Bill 2013 amends the Casino Control Act 1992 in order to impose a casino supervisory levy on the casino operator.

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority regulates the activities of the Sydney casino.

This includes the licensing of individuals performing sensitive functions at the casino; approval of new games; auditing of casino revenue and most importantly the monitoring of casino operations 24 hours 7 days a week through the on-site inspectorate.

The authority also undertakes detailed licence investigations under section 31 of the Act every five years and inquiries into specific matters or its management as situations arise.

Under these existing arrangements much of the cost of maintaining the casino oversight regulatory regime in New South Wales is borne by taxpayers.

Regulatory systems are in place to protect industry integrity and ensure that the operation of the casino is free from criminal influence and exploitation.

Regulation also promotes community confidence that the conduct of operations at the casino is fair for patrons and that the casino is operated in a responsible manner.

The casino environment is a dynamic one and to address this issue the regulator is required to regularly review and adjust its approach to protect against emerging risks and maintain public confidence.

There is currently no ongoing levy imposed on the casino to assist in meeting the day to day public costs of maintaining this regulatory system.

The bill before the House introduces a supervisory levy that will assist in meeting these costs and maintaining a high degree of oversight and supervision of the casino.

The amount of the levy will be prescribed via a regulation making power in the Casino Control Act and will be paid to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Providing for the levy in regulations will allow it to be adjusted periodically for inflation and to reflect change to the regulatory activities, where necessary.

The Government's intention is to have regulations in place for the 2013-14 financial year.

A high level of regulatory oversight is necessary in a casino environment to ensure that the unique risks associated with such a venue are identified and managed within a strict regulatory framework.

A robust system of monitoring and supervision ensures appropriate accountability and consequently promotes public confidence for the people of New South Wales.

It is appropriate that costs associated with regulating the casino should be borne by the casino operator.

The bill before the House will help to achieve this.

I commend the bill to the House.