XX August 2019

Dear [Member of Parliament]

**Re: Oppose Simulated Racing Machines**

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose the introduction of the Trackside simulated racing machines as part of the sale of the TAB.

Western Australia has been rightly proud that we have prevented the proliferation of electronic gambling machines throughout our community, as has been seen in the eastern states. The current legislation before parliament, however, will allow countless monitors into the 908 TABs across Western Australia – dramatically increasing the accessibility of gambling in our state.

With the odds generic and the winner randomly generated, it must be recognised that these so-called ‘simulated racing’ machines have much more in common with pokies than betting on a live race. They are a device to increase how often people are able to bet and so increase people’s exposure to the harmful impacts of gambling.

The harms from gambling can have a devastating impact on communities who then see increasing demand for services covering financial counselling, homelessness, alcohol and other drugs, and counselling.

WA currently has the lowest per capita expenditure on gambling in Australia at $683 per capita, compared to the national per capita spend of $1,251. By allowing electronic simulated racing machines into our TABs, the amount of money Western Australians lose on gambling will only increase. Any revenue that the State Government will receive by including the permission to use Trackside as part of the sale of TAB, will be greatly eclipsed by the social costs of gambling harm.

This will only increase hardship in our community. I implore you to oppose the introduction of Trackside into TABs throughout Western Australia.

Yours sincerely,