

29 July 2026

Rod Holden
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmanian Times

Via email: [REDACTED]

ACMA file reference: IGA-2026-00276

Dear Mr Holden

Interactive gambling advertising on the Tasmanian Times website

We refer to your email to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on 9 March 2026. In this email, you advised that the remaining article on the Tasmanian Times which appeared to include designated interactive gambling service advertisements had been removed.

As we outlined in our letter to you on 9 March 2026, we understand that a decision to cease accepting advertorial content going forward has been made and implemented. However, we note that in the recent governance update published on the Tasmanian Times website on 13 March 2026, it states:

'Tasmanian Times has recently decided to end advertorial content, but legacy obligations remain for a set period. Therefore, this policy will remain in force until the legacy advertorial period has ended.'

We therefore wish to seek confirmation from you that there is no content which remains published by the Tasmanian Times - or any affiliated third parties - which promotes illegal online gambling services. This includes any content which promotes or provides hyperlinks to online casinos or any associated services.

Penalties for promoting or publicising illegal online gambling services

As you are aware, the ACMA enforces the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (IGA) which prohibits certain online gambling services from being provided or advertised to Australians.

We wish to advise that the ACMA has a broad range of enforcement powers available where a contravention of the IGA occurs, including issuing significant penalties for promoting or publicising illegal online gambling services. Corporations found to be advertising such services may be liable for civil penalties of up to \$297,000 per advertisement per day, while facilitating access to these services (such as by providing hyperlinks) can attract even more substantial penalties of up to \$12,375,000 per day.

Attached are key provisions of the IGA and further information is available on our website at: <https://www.acma.gov.au/interactivegambling>.

Next Steps

We request your written response by **7 April 2026**. You can contact the Gambling Compliance Team at igtaskforce@acma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Manager
Gambling Compliance Team

Key Provisions of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001*

4 Definitions

designated interactive gambling service means:

- (a) a prohibited interactive gambling service; or
- (b) an unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service.

gambling service means:

- (a) a service for the placing, making, receiving or acceptance of bets; or
- (b) a service the sole or dominant purpose of which is to introduce individuals who wish to make or place bets to individuals who are willing to receive or accept those bets; or
- (c) a service for the conduct of a lottery; or
- (d) a service for the supply of lottery tickets; or
- (e) a service for the conduct of a game, where:
 - (i) the game is played for money or anything or else of value; and
 - (ii) the game is a game of chance or of mixed chance and skill; and
 - (iii) a customer of the service gives or agrees to give consideration to play or enter the game; or
- (f) a gambling service (within the ordinary meaning of that expression) that is not covered by any of the above paragraphs.

Unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service means a regulated interactive gambling service that is provided in contravention of subsection 15AA(3).

5 Prohibited interactive gambling services

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a **prohibited interactive gambling service** is a gambling service, where:

- (a) the service is provided in the course of carrying on a business; and
- (b) the service is provided to customers using any of the following:
 - (i) an internet carriage service;
 - (ii) any other listed carriage service;
 - (iii) a broadcasting service;
 - (iv) any other content service;
 - (v) a datacasting service

Note: This definition relates to the offence provisions and civil penalty provisions set out in section 15 and Part 7A.

(2) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsection (3).

Excluded services

(3) For the purposes of this Act, none of the following services is a **prohibited interactive gambling service**:

- (a) a telephone betting service;
- (aa) an excluded wagering service (see section 8A);
- (ab) an excluded gaming service (see section 8B);
- (aba) a place-based betting service (see section 8BA);
- (ac) a service that has a designated broadcasting link (see section 8C);
- (ad) a service that has a designated datacasting link (see section 8C);
- (ae) an excluded lottery service (see section 8D);
- (b) a service to the extent to which it relates to the entering into of contracts that are financial products within the meaning of Chapter 7 of the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- (ba) a wholesale gambling service;
- (bb) a trade promotion gambling service (see section 8BB);
- (c) an exempt service (see section 10).

8 Australian-customer link

For the purposes of this Act, a gambling service has an Australian-customer link if, and only if, any or all of the customers of the service are physically present in Australia.

8E Regulated interactive gambling service

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a **regulated interactive gambling service** is:

- (a) a telephone betting service (see section 8AA); or
- (b) an excluded wagering service (see section 8A); or
- (c) an excluded gaming service (see section 8B); or
- (d) a place-based betting service (see section 8BA); or
- (e) a service that has a designated broadcasting link (see section 8C); or
- (f) a service that has a designated datacasting link (see section 8C); or
- (g) an excluded lottery service (see section 8D); or
- (h) an exempt service (see section 10);

where:

- (i) the service is provided in the course of carrying on a business; and
 - (j) the service is provided to customers using any of the following:
 - (i) an internet carriage service;
 - (ii) any other listed carriage service;
 - (iii) a broadcasting service;
 - (iv) any other content service;
 - (v) a datacasting service; and
 - (k) in the case of an exempt service—a determination under subsection (2) is in force in relation to the service.
- (2) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine that each exempt service included in a specified class of exempt services is covered by paragraph (1)(k).
- (3) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsection (4).
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, neither of the following services is a **regulated interactive gambling service**:
- (a) a wholesale gambling service;
 - (b) a trade promotion gambling service (see section 8BB).

15 Prohibited interactive gambling services not to be provided to customers in Australia

(2A) A person must not provide a prohibited interactive gambling service that has an Australian-customer link (see section 8).

Civil penalty: 7,500 penalty units.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2A) do not apply if the person:

- (a) did not know; and
- (b) could not, with reasonable diligence, have ascertained;

that the service had an Australian-customer link.

Note: In the case of proceedings for an offence against subsection (1), the defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matters in subsection (3) (see subsection 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

15AA Unlicensed regulated interactive gambling services not to be provided to customers in Australia

(3) A person must not provide a particular kind of regulated interactive gambling service if:

- (a) the service has an Australian-customer link (see section 8); and
- (b) the person does not hold a licence (however described) under a law of a State or Territory that authorises the provision of that kind of service in the State or Territory.

Civil penalty: 7,500 penalty units.

(5) Subsections (1) and (3) do not apply if the person:

- (a) did not know; and
- (b) could not, with reasonable diligence, have ascertained;

that the service had an Australian-customer link.

Note: In the case of proceedings for an offence against subsection (1), the defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matters in subsection (5) (see subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code).

61BA Basic meaning of designated interactive gambling service advertisement

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, a designated interactive gambling service advertisement is any writing, still or moving picture, sign, symbol or other visual image, or any audible message, or any combination of 2 or more of those things, that gives publicity to, or otherwise promotes or is intended to promote:
 - (a) a designated interactive gambling service; or
 - (b) designated interactive gambling services in general; or
 - (c) the whole or part of a trade mark in respect of a designated interactive gambling service; or
 - (d) a domain name or URL that relates to a designated interactive gambling service; or
 - (e) any words that are closely associated with a designated interactive gambling service (whether also closely associated with other kinds of services or products).
- (2) This section has effect subject to sections 61BB, 61BC, 61BD, 61BE, 61BF, 61BG and 61BGA.

61CA Basic meaning of publish a designated interactive gambling service advertisement

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, a person publishes a designated interactive gambling service advertisement if the person does any of the following things:
 - (a) the person includes the advertisement, or something that contains the advertisement, on a website;
 - (b) the person includes the advertisement in a document (including, for example, a newspaper, magazine, program, leaflet or ticket) that is available, or distributed, to the public or a section of the public;
 - (c) the person includes the advertisement in a film, video, television program or radio program that is, or is intended to be, seen or heard by the public or a section of the public;
 - (d) the person:
 - (i) sells, hires or supplies the advertisement, or something containing the advertisement, to the public or a section of the public; or
 - (ii) offers the advertisement, or something containing the advertisement, for sale or supply to, or hire by, the public or a section of the public;
 - (e) the person displays, screens or plays the advertisement, or something that contains the advertisement, so that it can be seen or heard in or from:
 - (i) a public place; or
 - (ii) public transport; or
 - (iii) a workplace;
 - (f) the person otherwise:
 - (i) brings the advertisement, or something that contains the advertisement, to the notice of; or
 - (ii) disseminates the advertisement, or something that contains the advertisement, to; the public, or a section of the public, by any means (including, for example, by means of a film, video, computer disk or electronic medium).
- (2) This section has effect subject to sections 61CB, 61CC, 61CD, 61CE and 61CF.

61DA Designated interactive gambling service advertisements not to be broadcast or datacast in Australia

- (1A) A person must not broadcast or datacast a designated interactive gambling service advertisement in Australia if:
 - (a) the broadcast or datacast is not permitted by section 61DB; and
 - (b) the broadcast or datacast is not permitted by section 61DC.
 Civil penalty: 180 penalty units.
- (3) A person must not authorise or cause a designated interactive gambling service advertisement to be broadcast or datacast in Australia if:
 - (a) the broadcast or datacast is not permitted by section 61DB; and

(b) the broadcast or datacast is not permitted by section 61DC.

Civil penalty for contravention of this subsection: 180 penalty units.

61EA Designated interactive gambling service advertisements not to be published in Australia

(1A) A person must not publish a designated interactive gambling service advertisement in Australia if:

- (a) the publication is not permitted by section 61EB; and
- (b) the publication is not permitted by section 61ED; and
- (c) the publication is not permitted by section 61EE; and
- (d) the publication is not permitted by section 61EF.

Civil penalty: 180 penalty units.

(2A) A person must not authorise or cause a designated interactive gambling service advertisement to be published in Australia if:

- (a) the publication is not permitted by section 61EB; and
- (b) the publication is not permitted by section 61ED; and
- (c) the publication is not permitted by section 61EE; and
- (d) the publication is not permitted by section 61EF.

Civil penalty: 180 penalty units.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a designated interactive gambling service advertisement that is included on a website is taken to be published **in Australia** if, and only if:

- (a) the website is accessed, or is available for access, by end-users in Australia; and
- (b) having regard to:

- (i) the content of the website; and
- (ii) the way the website is advertised or promoted;

it would be concluded that it is likely that a majority of persons who access the website are physically present in Australia.