



**Michael Aird, MLC**

Treasurer

Sunday, 14 November 2010

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## **Second Social and Economic Impact Study of Gambling**

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The Treasurer, Michael Aird, today announced the Allen Consulting Group has been awarded the tender to conduct the next social and economic impact study of gambling in Tasmania.

Mr Aird said that Allen Consulting will collaborate with external experts from the Problem Gambling Research and Treatment Centre (a joint venture of Monash University and the University of Melbourne), and the Social Research Centre.

“Allen Consulting has sound experience and knowledge with a strong track record in delivering projects of this scale and complexity,” he said.

“The project team has extensive experience in conducting gambling studies of this nature and includes Dr Jerome Fahrer and Mr Andrew Wade from Allen Consulting together with Professor Alun Jackson, Professor Shane Thomas and Dr Nikki Dowling from the PGRTC,” he said.

The scope of the study comprises three parts:

- an update of sections of the previous study;
- a detailed analysis of gambling with electronic gaming machines in selected local government areas characterised by low socio economic status; and
- an assessment of Tasmania’s harm minimisation measures and developing a framework for ongoing evaluation; a review of advertising and promotion of gambling; and an assessment of sentencing options for gambling-related crime and improving data collection in courts and prisons.

Mr Aird said that while Allen Consulting had successfully tendered to conduct the majority of the study, a component relating to the assessment of sentencing options for gambling-related crime and improving data collection in courts and prisons will also be undertaken.

The Government will procure this component of the study separately.

Mr Aird said that both components of the study will be completed by late 2011 in time for a consolidated report to be provided to the Government in accordance with the requirements of the Gaming Control Act.

“The study will build on the previous study and provide valuable insights into the nature of problem gambling, particularly electronic gaming machines in lower socio economic areas,” he said.

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**Further information:** Tasmanian Government Communications Unit

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