Poker Machine Licensing Research 2021
EMRS Omnibus Research Report

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August 2021

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The research was conducted from the 7th to the 9th of August 2021.

1,000 Tasmanian residents were interviewed and responses weighted to reflect the Tasmanian adult population.

A sample of this size provides a maximum margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

This report has been prepared by
Enterprise Marketing and Research Services
60 Main Road, Moonah TAS 7009

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Katrin Roy
Senior Research Analyst
EMRS   **Phone: (03) 6211 1222**
PO Box 402   **Fax: (03) 6211 1219**
Moonah TAS 7009 **E-mail: katrin.roy@emrs.com.au**

The People Surveyed

From the 7th to the 9th of August 2021, n= 1,000 Tasmanian adult residents were interviewed. The tables which follow provide a breakdown of the demographic subgroups.

Table 1 – Gender
(Number and percentage of respondents)†

426	Number	Percentage
Total	1,000	100
Male	426	43
Female	574	57

Table 2 – Region
(Number and percentage of respondents)*†

Region	Number	Percentage
Total	1,000	100
South	513	51
North and North East	243	24
North West and West	244	24

Table 3 – Age
(Number and percentage of respondents)†

Age	Number	Percentage
Total	1,000	100
18 to 24 years	51	5
25 to 34 years	93	9
35 to 44 years	187	19
45 to 54 years	193	19
55 to 69 years	270	27
70 years or over	206	21

*Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.
†Number and percentage figures in these tables are unweighted. Elsewhere in the report, percentage figures have been weighted to reflect the demographic profile of the population.

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Table 4 – Employment Situation
(Number and percentage of respondents)*†

Employment Situation	Number	Percentage
Total	1,000	100
Employed full-time or self-employed	418	42
Employed on a part-time or casual basis	177	18
Engaged in home duties	37	4
Retired or on a pension	313	31
Unemployed	26	3
A student	25	3
Declined to answer	4	0

Table 5 – Household Situation
(Number and percentage of respondents)*†

Household Situation	Number	Percentage
Total	1,000	100
Single, never married	90	9
A couple with no children	65	7
Family, no children over 16	195	20
Family, children over 16 at home	232	23
Married, no children at home	239	24
Widowed	58	6
Sole parent	38	4
Separated or divorced	76	8
Declined to answer	7	1

*Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.
†Number and percentage figures in these tables are unweighted. Elsewhere in the report, percentage figures have been weighted to reflect the demographic profile of the population.
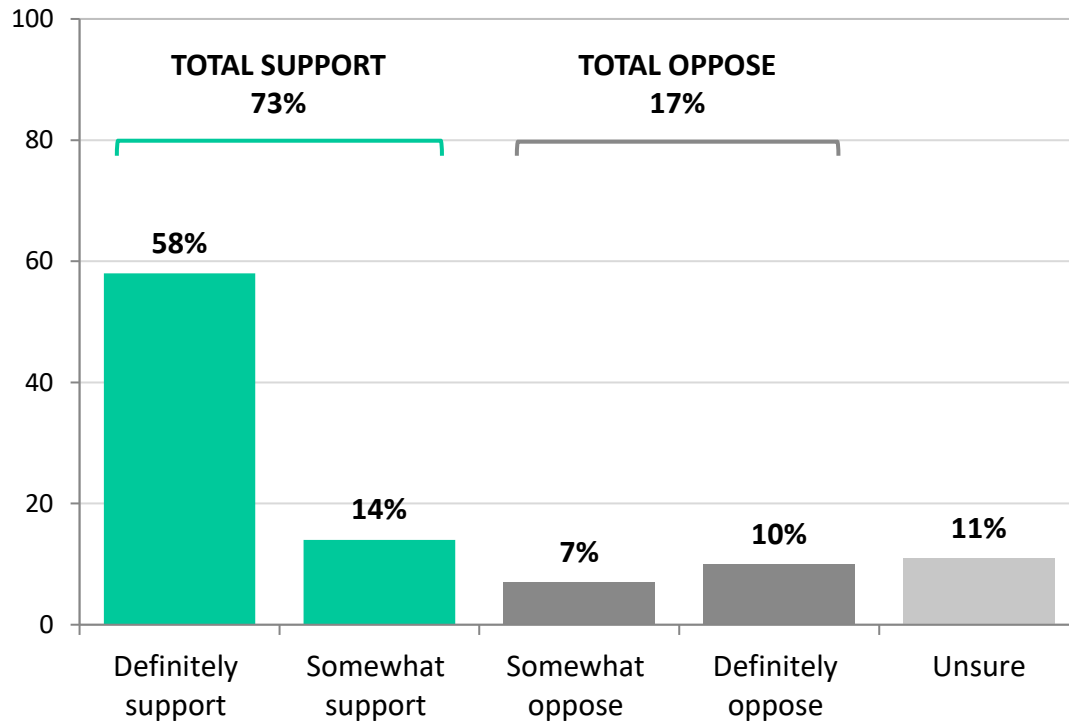
Table 6 – Household Income
(Number and percentage of respondents)†

Household Income	Number	Percentage
Total	**1,000**	**100**
Under $20,000	61	6
$20,000 and under $40,000	180	18
$40,000 and under $60,000	123	12
$60,000 and under $80,000	118	12
$80,000 and under $100,000	87	9
$100,000 and under $120,000	89	9
$120,000 and over	211	21
Declined to answer	131	13

†Number and percentage figures in this tables are unweighted. Elsewhere in the report, percentage figures have been weighted to reflect the demographic profile of the population.

Level of Support for Lowering the Maximum Bet Limit on Poker Machines from $5 per Bet to $1 per Bet

Chart 1 – Level of Support for Lowering the Maximum Bet Limit on Poker Machines from $5 per Bet to $1 per Bet (Percentage of all respondents)*

% August 2021 (n=1,000)

*Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

The clear majority of respondents were in support to some degree of lowering the bet limit on poker machines to a maximum of $1 per bet (a combined total of 73%).

Among those in support, the greater proportion by far said that they supported it "definitely" (58%).

The respondents opposing it to some degree (17% in total) were only marginally more likely to state "definitely" (10%).
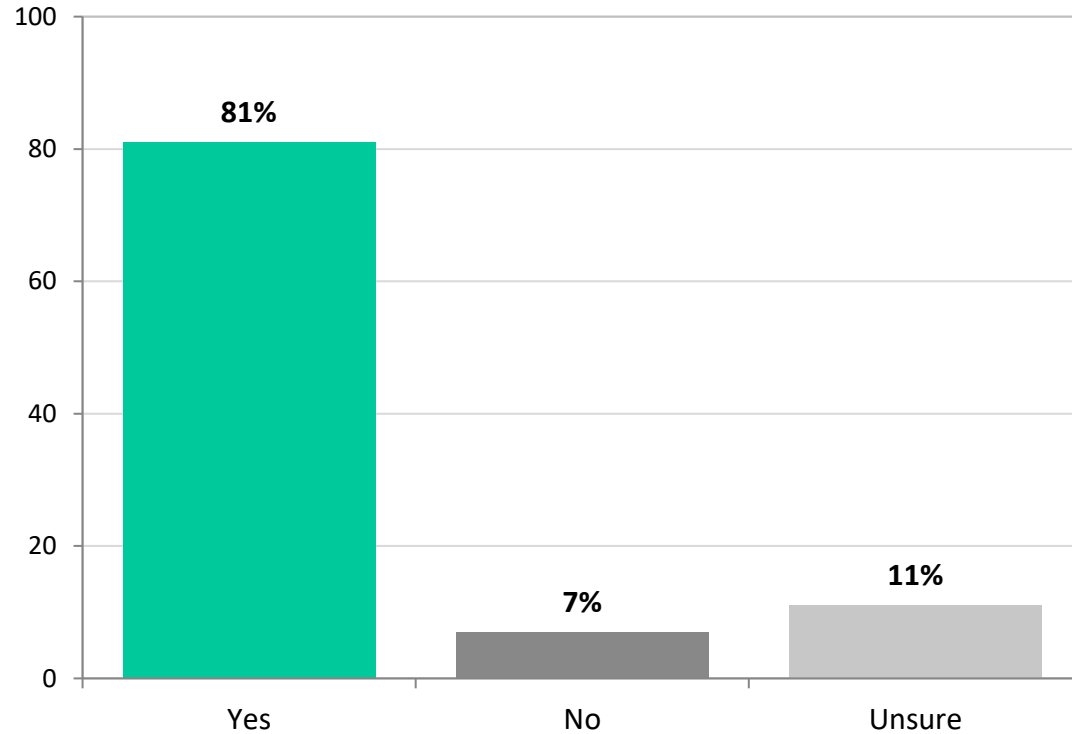
Across the population subgroups:

- Respondents who had given their past vote to The Greens were significantly **more likely to definitely support** the lowering of the limit (75%), particularly when compared to those who had voted Liberal (55%).
- Respondents aged 25-34 years were significantly **less likely to definitely support** it (41%), and more likely than the other age cohorts to support it "somewhat" (24%).

Q. Poker machines currently have a maximum bet limit of $5 per bet. Would you support or oppose lowering the limit from $5 per bet to a maximum of $1 per bet?

Whether Poker Machines in Casinos and in Hotels Should be Taxed at the Same Rate

Chart 2 – Whether Poker Machines in Casinos and in Hotels Should be Taxed at the Same Rate (Percentage of all respondents)*

81%

7%

11%

Yes   No   Unsure

% August 2021 (n=1,000)

*Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

The respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of poker machines in casinos and in hotels being taxed at the same rate, with 81% stating "yes" that they should be.
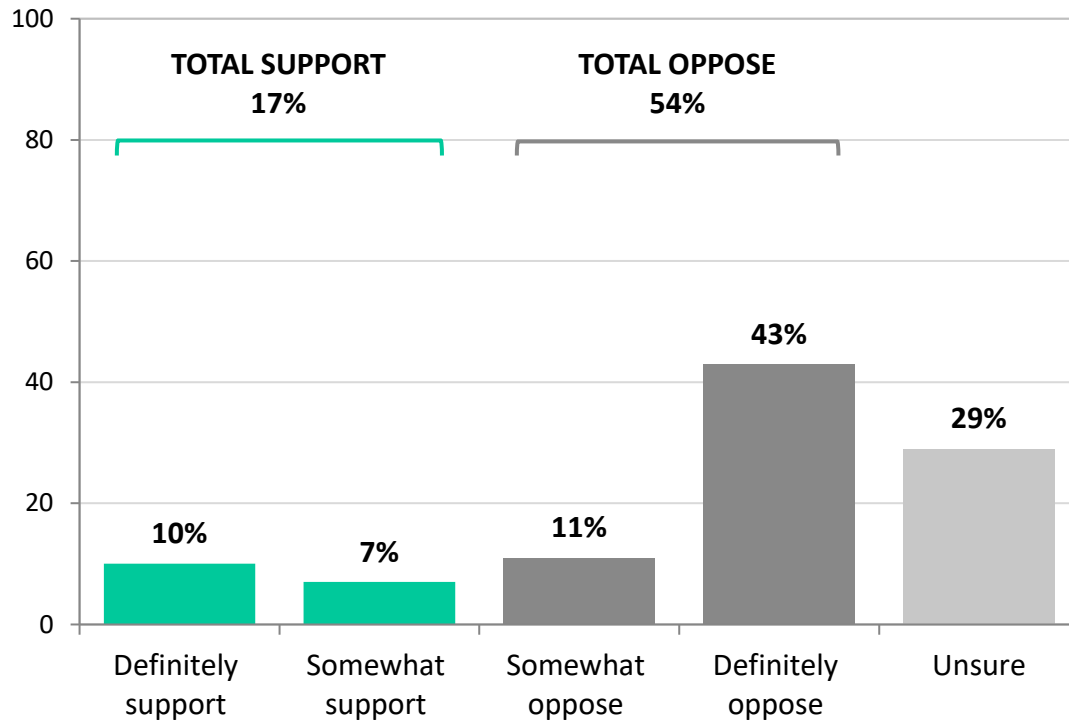
There were no significant variations to emerge on comparing the responses across the population subgroups.

Q. Do you think that poker machines in casinos and in hotels should be taxed at the same rate?

Level of Support for Poker Machines in Casinos Being Taxed at a Lower Rate than Poker Machines in Hotels

Chart 3 – Level of Support for Poker Machines in Casinos Being Taxed at a Lower Rate than Poker Machines in Hotels
(Percentage of respondents not believing that they should be taxed at the same rate)

TOTAL SUPPORT 17%
TOTAL OPPOSE 54%

- Definitely support: 10%
- Somewhat support: 7%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Definitely oppose: 43%
- Unsure: 29%

% August 2021 (n=190)

Over one half of the respondents who had not felt that poker machines in casinos and in hotels should be taxed at the same rate went on to report that they opposed poker machines in casinos being taxed at a lower rate than those in hotels (a combined total of 54%).

Among those in opposition, the greater proportion by far said that they opposed it "definitely" (43%).

The respondents supporting it to some degree (17% in total) were only marginally more likely to state "definitely" (10%).
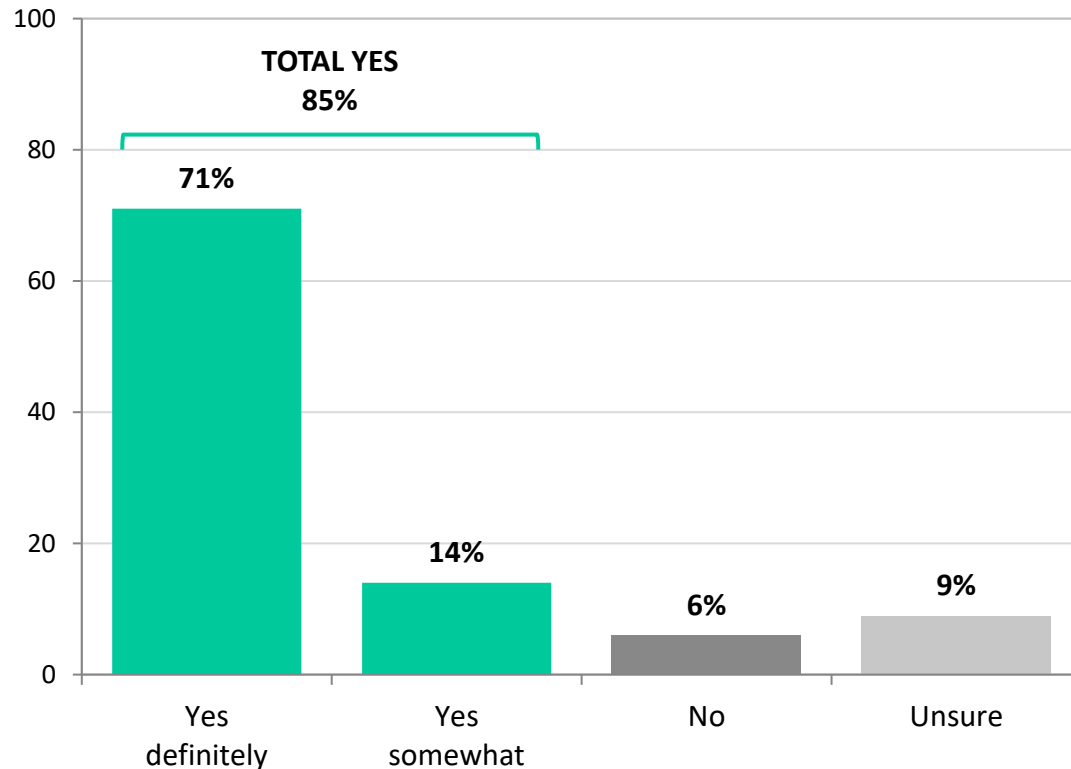
It should also be noted that a significant proportion of the respondents said they were "unsure" (29%).

There were no significant variations to emerge on comparing the responses across the population subgroups.

Q. Would you support or oppose poker machines in casinos being taxed at a lower rate than poker machines in hotels?

Whether the Legislation for Poker Machine Licensing Changes Should Include Consumer Protection and Harm Minimisation

Chart 4 – Whether the Legislation for Poker Machine Licensing Changes Should Include Consumer Protection and Harm Minimisation (Percentage of all respondents)

TOTAL YES
85%

71%

14%

6%

9%

Yes definitely | Yes somewhat | No | Unsure

% August 2021 (n=1,000)

The respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the legislation for poker machine licensing changes including consumer protection and harm minimisation, with 85% in total stating "yes" that it should.

Moreover, these respondents were significantly more likely to provide the more decisive response, namely "yes – definitely" (71%).

Across the population subgroups:

- Respondents who had given their past vote to The Greens were significantly **more likely to state yes "definitely"** (91%), particularly when compared to those who had voted Liberal (65%).

- Respondents resident in the South of the state were significantly **more likely to state yes "definitely"** (77%).

- Respondents resident in the Clark electorate were significantly **more likely to state yes "definitely"** (31%).

Q. Do you think the licensing changes to poker machines in Tasmania should include consumer protection and harm minimisation in the legislation?