

## NewsRoom

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### Packer: gamblers a problem shared

GAMING CROWN chairman James Packer has used the group's annual meeting to launch an attack on the Federal Government's proposed gambling reforms

Speaking in Melbourne yesterday, Mr Packer said the proposed poker machine reforms would undermine investment in the gaming sector and hurt state government revenues

The proposed changes would affect Crown's customers, employees and shareholders, he said, and governments at state and federal level that receive the company's tax revenue

Under the reforms, players using machines that accept large bets would have to declare how much they were prepared to lose before they started playing

Low-intensity machines -- those that accept a maximum bet of \$1 for each "button push" -- would be excluded. "In my view, there is no evidence that introducing mandatory pre-commitment or introducing a \$1 maximum bet will be effective in tackling problem gambling," Mr Packer said

Crown had always been concerned about problem gambling and was prepared to do more, he said

"I believe no one in . . . the worldwide casino industry has done more to address **problem gambling.**" **Crown** owns **Crown casino** in Melbourne, Burswood casino in Perth, plus interests in casinos overseas

Mr Packer said Crown paid tax of \$680 million last financial year -- double its net profit of \$340 million.

#### --- Index References ---

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