

Kaupapahere mō ngā Wāhi Petipeti 2025 | Gambling Venue Policy 2025

Kaupapahere mō ngā Wāhi TAB 2025 |TAB Venue Policy 2025

Tauākī Tūtohu | Statement of Proposal



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Sensitive Site Maps

He Kupu Whakataki – Kaupapahere mō ngā Wāhi Petipeti | Introduction – Gambling Venue Policy

Under the Gambling Act 2003 all Councils are required to adopt a Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and are required to review the Policy every three years.

The Policy can set out how many venues in the district can have pokies at one time, and how many pokies can operate in the district at one time.

The Policy can set where venues with pokies can be located within the district and where they cannot be. Council can ensure new venues with pokies are not close to places like churches, schools, marae or children's playgrounds.

Council can also allow venues with pokies to move to a new venue, or for two venues with pokies to merge and become one venue.

Once Council allows a venue to operate pokies, Council cannot revoke the license. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is responsible for managing licenses once they are granted, including monitoring and enforcement.

Ngā Take mō te Tūtohutanga | Reasons for the proposal

Council reviews its Gambling Venue Policy every three years. During this review, Council identified some parts of the Policy that could change to improve the Policy going forward and make sure it is fit for purpose for our community.

These changes align with the objectives of the Policy, including:

- Controlling the growth of gambling within the district;
- Minimising the harm of gambling; and
- Reflecting the views of the local community in respect of the provision of gambling within the district.

Gambling in Matamata-Piako

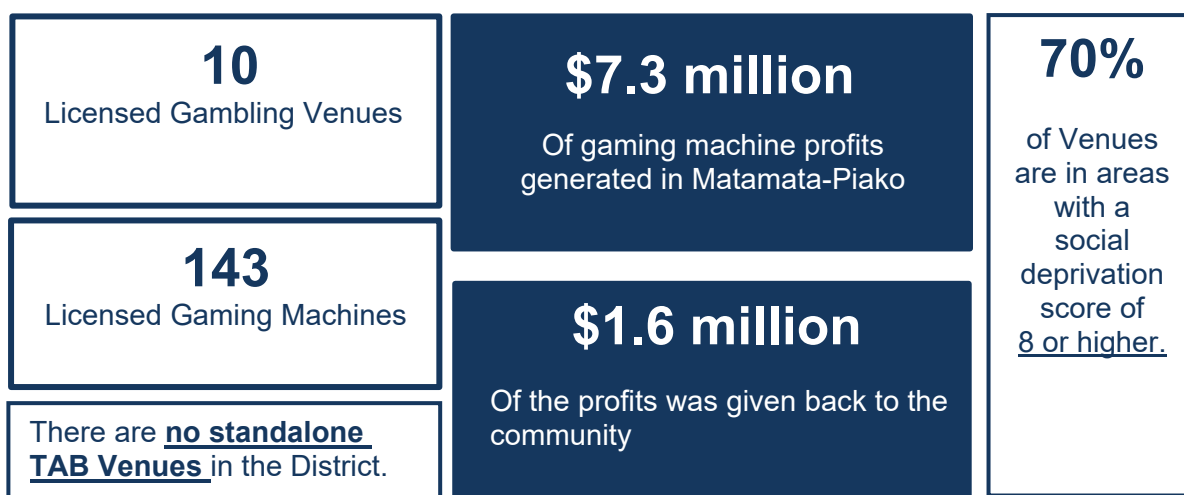
In Matamata-Piako, there are currently 140 gaming machines across 10 venues in the District - 4 in Matamata, 3 in Morrinsville, 3 in Te Aroha.

Most venues in the district do not own the gaming machines – they are owned by corporate societies, who pay these venues to have their gaming machines available to play.

Some venues in the district are clubs, like Matamata Club Inc, own their own machines, and can use the gaming machine profits for club purposes (such as maintaining their buildings).

In the case of societies, a portion of gaming machine profits go into a national pool of funds. People or organisations can apply to this pool and receive money in the form of grants.

Key numbers



For more information on gambling and its impacts, you can view the Social Impact Assessment on our website [here](#).

The current Gambling Venue Policy

The number of gambling venues and pokies allowed – population-based ratio:

Up to 15 venues with pokies may operate in the district at one time in total.

Up to 201 pokie machines may be in the district at one time in total.

There is a cap on the number of venues and machines that are allowed to operate per town:

Town	Maximum number of venues	Maximum number of pokie machines
Matamata	5	80
Morrinsville	4	56
Te Aroha	4	50
Rural	2	15
Total	15	201

Where gambling venues can be located:

Venues applying to operate pokie machines must consult, and get approval from, affected parties within a 250 meter radius of the proposed venue. If there is an objection, a hearing must be held.

It is Council's preference that venues with pokies are in the Business Zone, however this is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other rules:

Council will consider applications for venues with pokies to move to a new venue under special circumstances. Venues that relocate may have the same number of machines.

Council will consider applications for two venues with pokies to merge and become one venue. Venues that merge may have up to 18 machines or 30 machines (subject to the Gambling Act requirements)

Venues with pokies must have another purpose (e.g. serve alcohol or sports)

Te mānuka e kawea ake ana | What we're proposing:

Ngā panonitanga e tūtohuhia ana | What we're proposing to change:

- Have an absolute cap and remove the population-based ratios.
- Remove the restrictions on the number of machines and venues allowed in each town and apply district-wide restrictions only.
- Venues applying to host pokies must provide evidence in the application that the proposed site is:
 - 100 meter radius away from sensitive sites and;
 - Does not adjoin an existing class 4 gambling venue.
- Update the definitions to include sensitive sites and adjoining.
- Update the Policy to be easier to read.

Ngā mea e tūtohuhia ana kia pūmau tonu | What we're proposing to stay the same:

- No more than 15 venues with pokies may operate in the district at one time.
- No more than 201 machines may operate in the district at one time.
- Ability for venues to relocate under certain circumstances.
- Ability for venues to merge.
- It is Council's preference that gambling venues are only in the Business Zone.

Ētahi atu kōwhiringa me whakaaro ake | Other options we could consider

Population-based ratio

A population-based ratio Policy means Council sets a ratio of people to machines per town. As the population increases or decreases, the number of gambling venues and/or pokie machines allowed in the town changes to reflect the population change.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
The number of gambling venues or pokie machines allowed in the district would be relative to the population.	The number of gambling venues or gaming pokie allowed in the district is constantly changing depending on the population.
	Most Councils do not have population-based Ratios.
	Population information is gathered through the Census every five years.

Sinking lid

A sinking lid policy means that once a class 4 gambling venue closes, Council will not issue any other society a license to replace that venue.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Gambling availability may reduce over time.	May reduce gambling grants that local community groups rely on. Though this is a risk, gambling profits and grants have continued to increase in the district despite the reduction of gaming machines in recent years.
May reduce gambling harm over time.	May push people to online gambling over time.

Decrease the number of gambling venues and pokie machines allowed

We are proposing to have a cap of 15 venues and 201 pokie machines in the district. This cap could be decreased to allow less venues and less pokie machines in the district.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Gambling availability and associated harms may reduce over time.	May reduce gambling grants that local community groups rely on. Though this is a risk, gambling profits and grants have continued to increase in the district despite the reduction of gaming machines in recent years.

Increase the number of gambling venues and pokie machines allowed

We are proposing to have a cap of 15 venues and 201 pokie machines in the district. This cap could be increased to allow more venues and more pokie machines in the district.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Would allow more venues to have pokie machines in the district that have economic and entertainment benefits.	Gambling may become more widely available in the district over time.
More gambling profits could be generated in the district that could increase the grant funding for community organisations.	Gambling and associated harms may increase in the District.

Ētahi atu whakaarotanga | Other considerations

Closer to sensitive sites

New gambling venues could be less than 100 metres away from sensitive sites.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
There may be more options for location if there is a smaller distance from sensitive sites.	There may be more harm associated with being located closer to sensitive sites.

Keep the current location rules

The current Gambling Venue Policy requires new venues to consult with all affected parties within a 250 meter radius of the proposed venue, including existing gambling venues. The applicant must get written consent from the affected parties. If the applicant receives a written objection, then a hearing must take place.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Ensures all affected parties are notified and consulted when a gambling venue may be established.	Consulting with existing gambling venues may impact competition.
	The consultation and potential hearing process is time-consuming for staff and the Hearings Committee.
	There is no legal requirement under the Gambling Act 2003 for applicants to get approval from affected parties.

He Kupu Whakataki – Kaupapahere mō ngā Wāhi TAB | Introduction - TAB Venue Policy

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020, all Councils are required to adopt a TAB Venue Policy. The Policy sets out whether TAB venues may operate in the district and if so, how many may operate and where they may be located.

A TAB venue is a venue which is owned or leased by TAB NZ and where the main business carried out at the premises is the provision of racing betting, or sports betting. There are currently no standalone TAB venues in the district.

Ngā Take mō te Tūtohutanga | Reasons for the proposal

Council reviews its TAB Venue Policy every three years. During this review, Council identified some parts of the Policy that could change to improve the Policy going forward and make sure it is fit for purpose for our community.

These changes align with the objectives of the Policy, including:

- Controlling the growth of gambling, racing and betting activities within the district;
- Minimising the harm of gambling; and
- Reflect the views of the local community in respect of the provision of gambling within the district.

The Current TAB Policy

Cap rules

Three standalone TAB venues may be in the district at one time. Only one venue can be established in each of our three main towns. One in Matamata, one in Morrinsville and one in Te Aroha.

Location rules

Venues applying must consult, and get approval from, affected parties within a 250 meter radius of the proposed venue. If there is an objection, a hearing must be held.

It is Council's preference that venues are in the Business Zone, however this is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ngā Tūtohunga | What we're proposing:

Ngā panonitanga e tūtohuhia ana | What we're proposing to change:

- Applications for standalone TAB venues must provide evidence in the application that the proposed site is 100 meter radius away from sensitive sites.
- Update the definitions to include sensitive sites.
- Update the Policy to be easier to read.

Ngā mea e tūtohuhia ana kia pūmau tonu | What we're proposing to keep the same:

- No more than three TAB venues may operate in the district at one time and there may only be one standalone TAB venue in each of our three main towns.

Ētahi atu kōwhiringa me whakaaro ake | Other options we could consider

No TAB venues allowed

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Prevent any potential harm from betting	May prevent possible economic opportunities.

Increase the number of TAB venues allowed

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Would allow more venues in the district that may have economic and entertainment benefits.	Betting on sports and racing could become more widely available in the district over time.

Ētahi atu whakaarotanga | Other considerations

Closer to sensitive sites

New TAB venues could be less than 100 metres away from sensitive sites.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
There may be more options for location if there is a smaller distance from sensitive sites.	There may be more harm associated with being located closer to sensitive sites.

Keep the current location rules

The current TAB Venue Policy requires new venues to consult with all affected parties within a 250 meter radius of the proposed venue. The applicant must get written consent from the affected parties. If the applicant receives a written objection, then a hearing must take place.

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Ensures all affected parties are notified and consulted when a TAB venue may be established.	The consultation and potential hearing process is time-consuming for staff and the Hearings Committee.
	There is no legal requirement under the Racing Act 2020 for applicants to get approval from affected parties.

Ngā Whakaarotanga ā-Ture | Legal considerations:

Local Government Act 2002 Gambling

Act 2003

Racing Industry Act 2020

Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More information

For more information about this proposal, and to see what else we are seeking feedback on, click [here](#).

He kōrero whakahoki | Feedback

Whether you agree, oppose or you have suggestions on things we want to hear from you!

Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Your feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public.

Me pēhea te tuku urupare | How to give your feedback

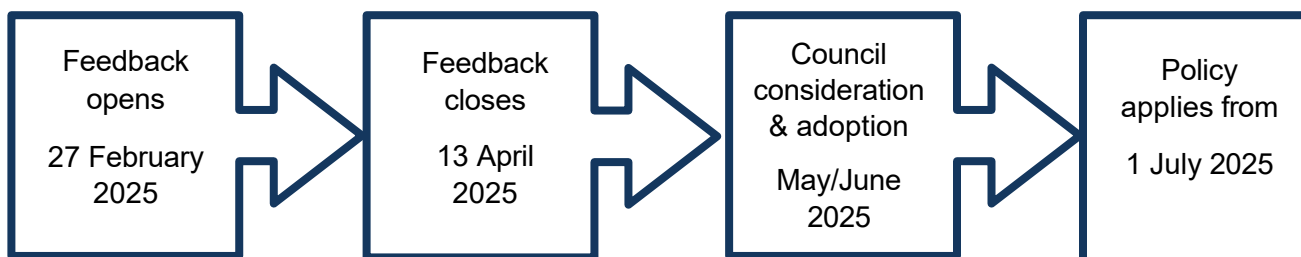
🖨 Online: To fill out the online form click [here](#).

✉ Mail to: Matamata-Piako District Council, PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342

✉ Email: info@mpdc.govt.nz

🗨 In-person: You can drop your feedback form into any of our Council offices or libraries.

Ngā Rā Matua | Key dates



Puka whakahoki kōrero | Feedback form – Gambling and Tab Venue Policies

Please provide your feedback by 13 April 2025

I am submitting: ☐ As an individual ☐ On behalf of an organisation

If you are submitting as an individual, please do not fill out the 'organisation' field.

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: ☐ Matamata ☐ Morrinsville ☐ Te Aroha ☐ Other: _____

Age: ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–24 ☐ 25–34 ☐ 35–44 ☐ 45–64 ☐ 65–74 ☐ 75+

Would you like to speak to the Mayor and Councillors about your feedback?

Feedback can be provided in person or via video on Wednesday 7 May 2025 (and Thursday 8 May if required).

☐ Yes ☐ No

Privacy statement: Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Your feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public.

Gambling Venue Policy:

1) Which of these Policy options do you support?

☐ **Proposed option: Absolute cap**

- ☐ Allow up to 15 gambling venues and 201 pokies to operate in the district at one time.
- ☐ Remove the number of gambling venues and pokies allowed per town and have a district-wide cap only.

☐ **Option 2: Population-based ratio**

- ☐ Set the number of gambling venues and pokie machines allowed in each town in the district based on population.

☐ **Option 3: Sinking lid**

- ☐ Council would not allow any new gambling venues in the district.
- ☐ If a gambling venue closes, a new venue could not replace it.

☐ **Option 4: Decrease cap**

- ☐ Decrease the number of gambling venues and pokies allowed to operate in the district at one time.

☐ **Option 5: Increase cap**

- ☐ Increase the number of gambling venues and pokies allowed to operate in the district at one time.

☐ **Option 6: Other**

☐

Other/Comments

See next page

TAB Venue Policy

2) Which of these Policy options do you support?

☐ **Proposed option: Absolute cap**

- Allow up to three standalone TAB venues (one in each of our three main towns) to operate in the district at one time.

☐ **Option 2: No TAB venues**

- Council would not approve any applications for standalone TAB venues to operate in the district.

☐ **Option 3: Increase cap**

- Increase the number of venues allowed to operate in the district at one time.

☐ **Option 4: Other**

-

Other/Comments

See next page

Gambling and TAB Venue Policies

3) Which of these other considerations do you support?

☐ **Proposed option: Sensitive sites**

- New gambling venues with pokies and new TAB venues must be 100 meters away from sensitive sites.

☐ **Option 2: Closer to sensitive sites**

- New gambling venues with pokies or new TAB venues can be less than 100 meters away from sensitive sites.

☐ **Option 3: Current requirements**

- New gambling venues with pokies or TAB venues must consult with affected parties within a 250 meter radius and get written consent before the venue can be established.

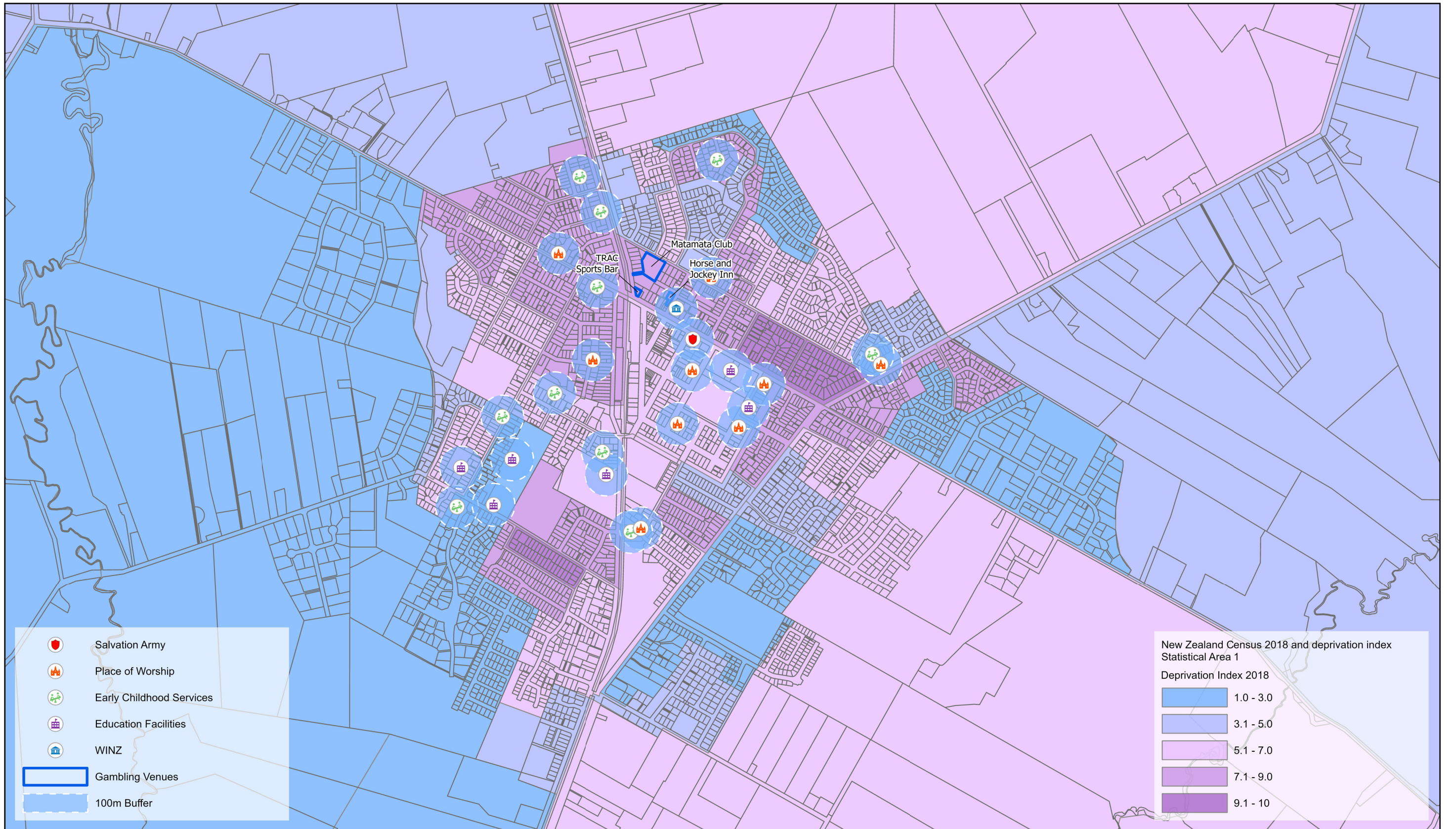
☐ **Option 4: Other**

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Other/Comments

Do you have any other feedback about gambling venues or TAB venues in Matamata-Piako?

Please provide your feedback by 13 April 2025



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

Matamata

Deprivation Index (2018) with Gambling Venues

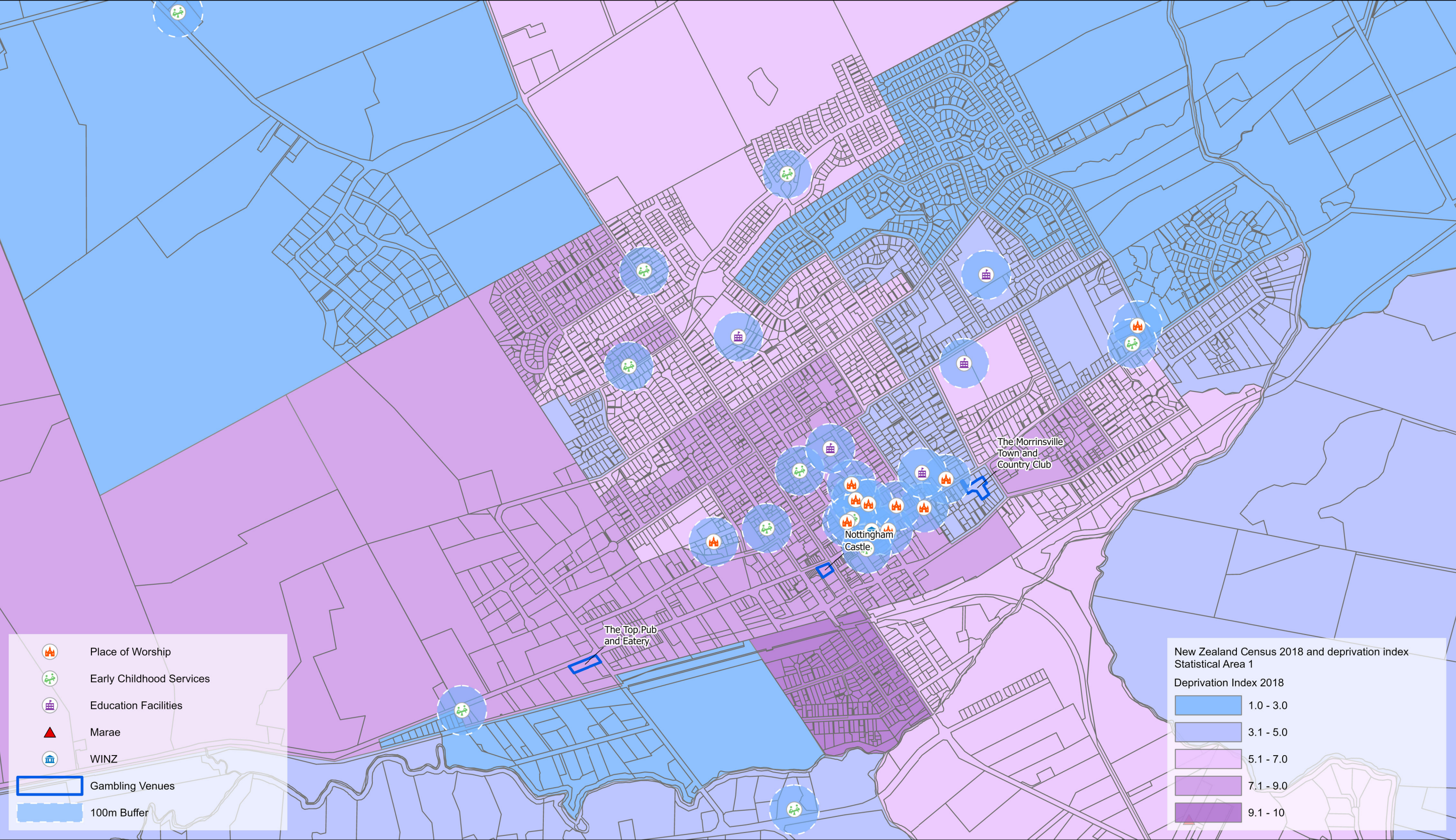
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Morrinsville

Deprivation Index (2018) with Gambling Venues

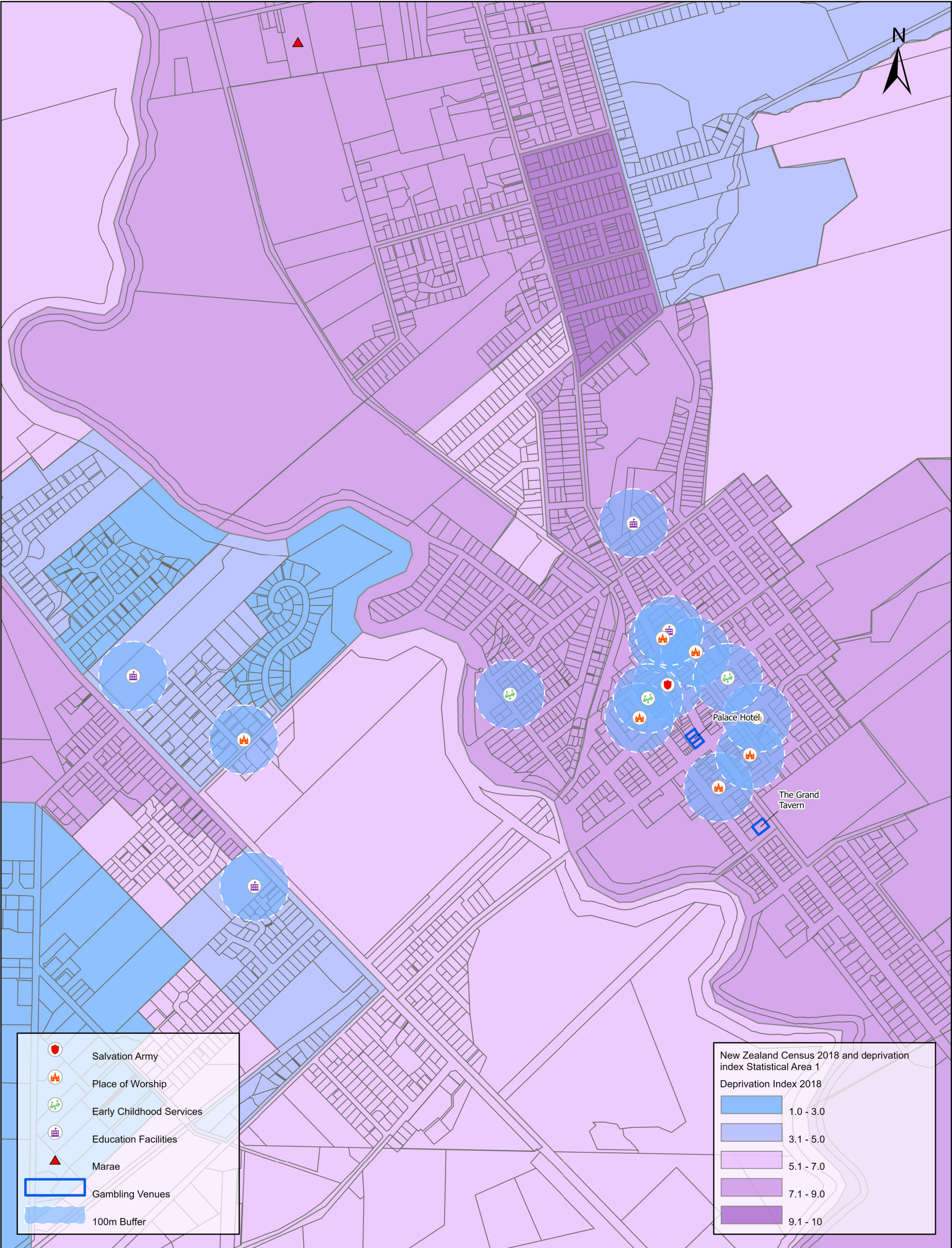
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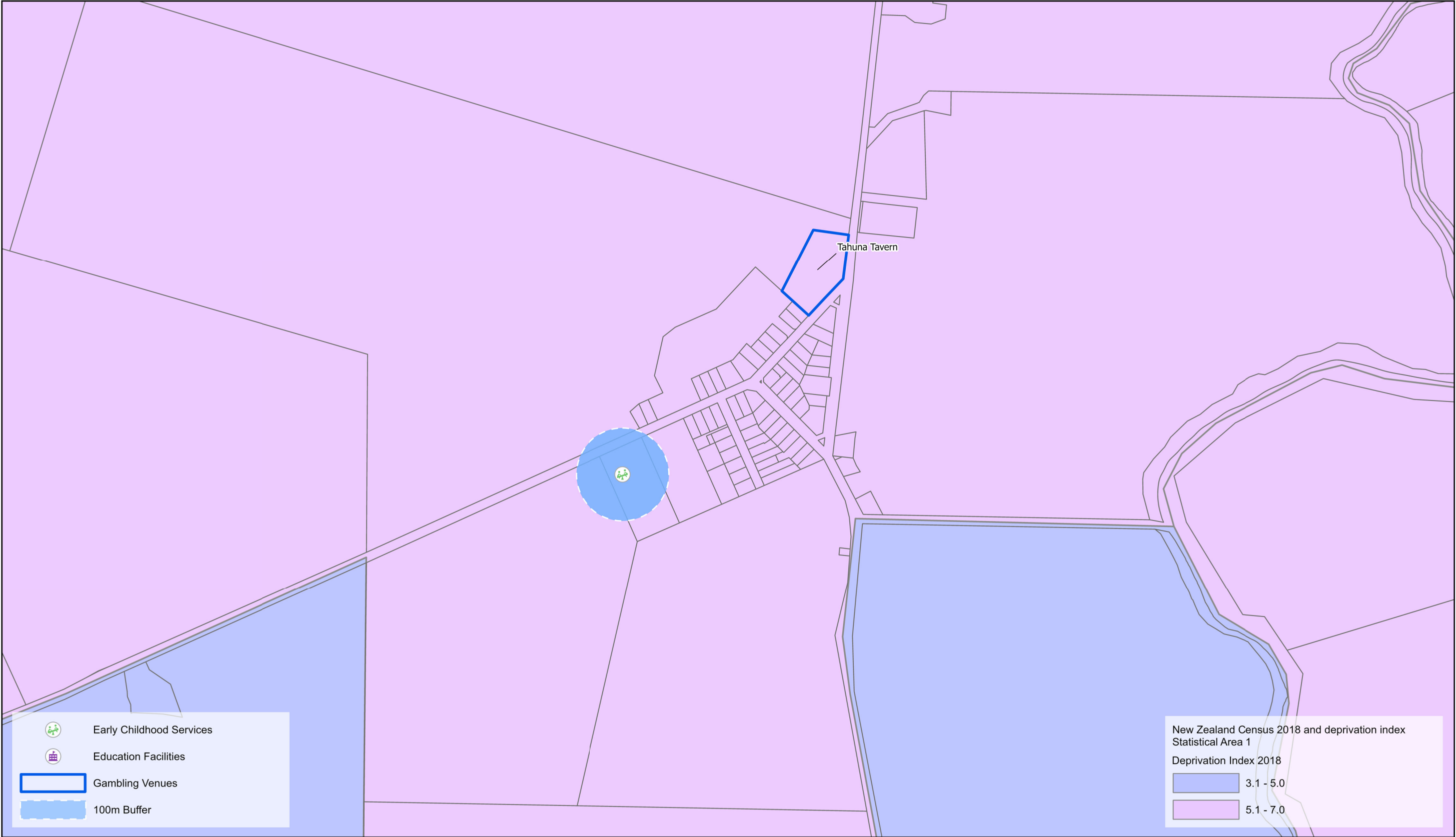
October 29, 2024

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te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

Tahuna

Deprivation Index (2018) with Gambling Venues

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