



# MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **NoPE calls on AFL boss to not be just another Gillon McLachlan**

Gillon McLachlan's appointment as CEO of Tabcorp is one of a natural fit, following his transformation of the AFL into an organisation reliant on the increase of gambling revenue.

Since McLachlan's departure from the AFL, we are yet to see any indication that the AFL, under new CEO Andrew Dillon, is willing to meet community expectations around gambling - neither to address the ever-deepening infiltration of sports-betting into all corners of the game, or to force an end to the reliance of a number of clubs on revenue derived from socially-destructive electronic poker machines.

In December 2023, following the Essendon FC AGM where 40% of voters selected an anti-pokies candidate in its board elections, NoPE wrote to the AFL imploring them to create a pathway for clubs to exit the poker machine industry. Apart from acknowledging receipt of this letter, no response was ever received from the AFL.

Given this inaction, and Dillon's long tenure with the AFL prior to his ascent to the CEO role, it is worth considering whether the AFL's continued unwillingness to recognise their gambling problem is a reflection of the culture of AFL House and their ever-growing distance from the fanbase.

NoPE calls on Dillon to be a true leader of the AFL and start working with the Clubs towards removing electronic poker machines from the game.

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### **About NoPE:**

No Pokies At Essendon (NoPE) is a grassroots group of Essendon fans actively advocating for the Essendon Football Club to make a meaningful and public commitment to exit the poker machine business.

[Nope.org.au](http://Nope.org.au)