

NSW Poker Machine Loss Data Analysis Q2 2026





Executive Summary



NSW residents lost \$2.38 billion on poker machines in Q2 2026, the highest Q2 losses ever recorded and an increase of 4.7 per cent on the same quarter last year. Combined losses for the first half of 2026 now total \$4.75 billion. The first half of 2026 produced the highest half-year poker machine losses ever recorded in NSW, continuing an unbroken rise from \$3.85 billion in the first six months of 2022 to \$4.75 billion in 2026. More than \$311 million higher than the first six months of 2025, NSW is now on a trajectory towards around \$10 billion in annual poker machine losses.

That equates to approximately \$26 million every day, more than \$182 million every week, and around \$1.08 million every hour being lost on poker machines across clubs and hotels. Losses have now exceeded \$1 million an hour for two consecutive years, highlighting how deeply entrenched gambling losses have become in communities across the state.

While the pace of growth has moderated from the exceptional increases recorded in Q1 2026 and throughout much of 2025, losses continue to rise at a pace greater than the inflation rate despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures and a reduction in the number of venues operating across NSW. The trend remains unmistakably upward. NSW is now normalising quarterly poker machine losses above \$2.3 billion and hourly losses above \$1 million.

The burden continues to fall disproportionately on the same communities. Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown and Cumberland remain the highest-loss metropolitan areas, while the Central Coast, Wollongong and Newcastle continue to record some of the highest losses in regional NSW. Across the first six months of 2026, Fairfield and Canterbury-Bankstown alone accounted for almost \$770 million in poker machine losses. The rankings shift little from quarter to quarter, demonstrating how concentrated gambling losses have become in a relatively small number of communities.

These losses are not abstract figures. They represent money no longer available for rent, groceries, power bills, education and savings. Behind every dollar lost is growing pressure on household budgets and community wellbeing. Without stronger evidence-based reforms, including reduced operating hours and effective mandatory harm prevention measures like account-based gambling with robust harm prevention measures built in, NSW remains on track for another year of record gambling losses.

Rev. Stu Cameron
CEO & Superintendent

* 2022 and 2023 EGM figures are approximate and derived from NSW Liquor & Gaming six-monthly gaming machine reports. Comparable quarterly EGM totals were not available for those years. Figures are included to illustrate long-term trends.



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NSW Poker Machine Loss Data Analysis

Quarter 2 2026

This analysis is based on data published by the [NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming in its quarterly gaming machine reports](#), covering poker machine losses across clubs and hotels in New South Wales.

Headline Figures

NSW residents lost \$2.38 billion on poker machines in the second quarter of 2026, up \$106.8 million or 4.7 per cent on the same quarter last year. There were 88,039 poker machines operating across clubs and hotels in Q2 2026, an increase of 109 machines compared with Q2 2025. That equates to losses of approximately \$26 million a day, or \$1.08 million every hour.

Total Losses Q2 2026	\$2,380,843,827
Total losses Q2 2025	\$2,273,997,658
Change from Q2 2025	+\$106.8m (+4.7%)
Total Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) Q2 2026	88,039 (+109 YoY)
Daily losses Q2 2026	\$26.16m per day
Hourly losses Q2 2026	\$1.09m per hour
Average loss per EGM Q2 2026	\$27,043 per machine

By venue type

Clubs generated \$1.33 billion in losses in Q2 2026 across 65,553 machines in 983 venues, while hotels generated \$1.05 billion across 22,486 machines in 1,127 venues. Both sectors recorded year-on-year growth in losses despite fewer venue operating than a year earlier. Hotel losses grew 6.1 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in clubs, after the two sectors recorded almost identical growth in Q2 2025. The average hotel poker machine generated more than twice the losses of the average club machine.

Venue type	Net losses (Q2 2026)	# EGMs (Q2 2026)	# Premises (Q2 2026)	% of losses (Q2 2026)	Average loss per EGM (Q2)
Clubs	\$1,327,849,605 (+3.6% YoY)	65,553 (+152 YoY)	983 (-13 YoY)	55.83%	\$20,256 (+3.3% YoY)
Hotels	\$1,052,994,222 (+6.1% YoY)	22,486 (-43 YoY)	1,127 (-18 YoY)	44.2%	\$46,831 (+6.3% YoY)
Overall	\$2,380,843,827 (+4.7% YoY)	88,039 (+109)	2,110 (-31 YoY)	100	\$27,043 (+4.6% YoY)

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Q2 Comparison (2022 – 2026)

Q2 statewide losses have increased from \$2.03 billion in 2022 to a record \$2.38 billion in 2026, an increase of approximately \$353 million, or 17.4 per cent, over four years. The 4.7 per cent year-on-year increase in 2026 is lower than the 8.8 per cent increase recorded in Q2 2025, indicating that the pace of growth has moderated, even as losses continue to reach new record levels. Over the same period, the total number of EGMs has remained broadly stable, showing that rising losses are being driven primarily by higher losses through each machine rather than significant growth in machine numbers.

Q2 year	Clubs losses	Hotels losses	Total losses	YoY change	Total EGMs
2022	\$1,171,791,196	\$856,004,838	\$2,027,796,034	—	87,298*
2023	\$1,117,297,727	\$855,792,442	\$1,973,090,169	-2.7%	87,545*
2024	\$1,177,176,842	\$913,070,104	\$2,090,246,946	+5.9%	87,875
2025	\$1,281,888,254	\$992,109,404	\$2,273,997,658	+8.8%	87,930
2026	\$1,327,849,605	\$1,052,994,222	\$2,380,843,827	+4.7%	88,039

Half Yearly Comparison (2022 – 2026)

The first six months of 2026 produced the highest half-year poker machine losses recorded in NSW history. Between January and June 2026, NSW residents lost \$4.75 billion on poker machines, an increase of more than \$310 million (7.0 per cent) compared with the same period in 2025, and more than \$885 million compared with the first six months of 2022. Losses are now running at around \$26.3 million per day, placing NSW on track for approximately \$10 billion in annual poker machine losses if current trends continue. The figures also show that while governments have spent years debating and introducing limited and peripheral gambling reforms, losses continue to increase and remain concentrated in many of the same communities.

Year	Clubs losses H1	Hotel losses H1	Total losses H1	Change
2022	\$2.217bn	\$1.633bn	\$3.850bn	—
2023	\$2.251bn	\$1.670bn	\$3.921bn	+1.8%
2024	\$2.357bn	\$1.782bn	\$4.139bn	+5.6%
2025	\$2.529bn	\$1.914bn	\$4.444bn	+7.4%
2026	\$2.687bn	\$2.066bn	\$4.754bn	+7.0%

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Losses by Local Government Area

Metropolitan New South Wales – Top 20

Losses remain heavily concentrated in a small number of LGAs, with Western and South-Western Sydney continuing to dominate.

Rank	LGA	Combined Loss	Daily losses	# EGMs	ppl/EGM	Losses per person	Comparison to 2025 Q2 (%)	Total H1 2026 losses	2026 Forecast Annual losses**
1	Canterbury-Bankstown	\$196,938,634	\$2,141,236	4,951	74.9	\$530.97	+2.1%	\$395,755,547	\$827.7m
2	Fairfield	\$187,269,396	\$2,035,537	3,824	54.5	\$898.28	+6.5%	\$373,339,552	\$786.9m
3	Cumberland	\$138,057,310	\$1,500,623	2,716	86.7	\$586.38	+6.7%	\$274,274,417	\$580.6m
4	Sydney	\$105,049,688	\$1,141,844	3,252	65.1	\$496.38	+3.0%	\$209,527,961	\$441.8m
5	Blacktown	\$104,167,215	\$1,133,144	2,836	139.9	\$262.74	+5.5%	\$208,128,824	\$438.4m
6	Parramatta	\$80,146,604	\$871,159	1,880	136.6	\$312.19	+7.9%	\$158,671,464	\$336.8m
7	Georges River	\$75,961,088	\$825,664	2,096	72.6	\$498.84	-1.0%	\$151,745,614	\$319.2m
8	Penrith	\$65,881,725	\$716,106	2,477	87.9	\$302.67	+5.4%	\$132,398,056	\$276.9m
9	Campbelltown	\$61,147,782	\$664,650	1,896	93.1	\$346.41	+3.9%	\$122,669,485	\$257.0m
10	Burwood–Strathfield*	\$60,546,404	\$658,113	923	93.0	\$705.58	+2.3%	\$121,339,910	\$254.5m
11	Liverpool	\$58,146,952	\$632,032	1,443	161.8	\$249.08	+8.9%	\$117,261,187	\$244.4m
12	Bayside	\$49,096,088	\$533,653	1,528	114.6	\$280.26	+2.4%	\$97,632,522	\$206.3m

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13	Hornsby–Ku-ring-gai–Willoughby*	\$47,556,961	\$519,329	1,731	203.1	\$135.5	+11.6%	\$92,297,614	\$196.4m
14	Inner West	\$43,457,200	\$472,361	1,725	106.0	\$237.71	+0.5%	\$86,087,073	\$182.6m
15	Ryde	\$43,150,694	\$467,943	1,200	107.9	\$333.40	+13.3%	\$85,672,948	\$180.9m
16	Northern Beaches	\$40,478,762	\$439,986	2,027	130.0	\$153.59	+4.9%	\$80,395,666	\$170.1m
17	Sutherland	\$37,093,030	\$403,185	1,933	119.1	\$161.13	+1.8%	\$73,557,245	\$155.9m
18	Camden	\$35,401,780	\$384,813	699	170.7	\$296.67	+15.1%	\$67,943,148	\$148.8m
19	The Hills	\$32,317,201	\$351,274	942	203.7	\$168.43	-0.5%	\$62,711,359	\$135.8m
20	Randwick	\$30,445,774	\$330,932	1,302	103.1	\$226.78	+5.8%	\$60,434,511	\$128.0m

* Individual LGAs are reported wherever comparable club and hotel data are available. Where NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming reporting groups overlap, neighbouring LGAs have been combined into the smallest common reporting area required to avoid double-counting or omission. Bundled entries are marked with an asterisk.

** The 2026 forecast applies the seasonal pattern observed in the equivalent 2025 reporting periods to actual Q1 and Q2 2026 losses. Forecasts are indicative and assume that recent loss patterns continue.

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Regional New South Wales – Top 10

The same pattern is reflected in regional NSW, with a small number of LGAs accounting for the majority of losses.

Rank	LGA	Combined Loss	Daily losses	# EGMs	ppl/EGM	Losses per person	Comparison to 2025 Q2 (%)	Total H1 2026 losses	Forecast 2026 annual losses**
1	Central Coast	\$87,954,223	\$957,676	4,477	77.4	\$252.61	+2.1%	\$178,617,437	\$367.8m
2	Wollongong	\$52,842,308	\$574,373	2,707	79.3	\$246.28	+3.8%	\$107,461,167	\$222.0m
3	Newcastle	\$52,738,838	\$573,248	2,665	63.4	\$312.29	+4.8%	\$104,821,830	\$221.6m
4	Lake Macquarie	\$44,181,193	\$480,230	2,485	86.1	\$206.61	+5.3%	\$87,974,319	\$185.6m
5	Tweed	\$29,675,433	\$322,559	1,930	50.5	\$304.70	-0.2%	\$59,979,709	\$124.7m
6	Shoalhaven	\$26,667,461	\$289,864	1,652	65.7	\$245.72	+12.1%	\$54,002,675	\$112.0m
7	Mid-Coast	\$22,800,785	\$247,835	1,367	70.7	\$236.08	-1.1%	\$47,251,886	\$95.8m
8	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$21,630,157	\$235,108	1,196	72.5	\$249.29	+3.3%	\$43,656,554	\$90.9m
9	Queanbeyan-Palerang	\$20,438,976	\$222,163	775	81.7	\$322.87	+7.6%	\$40,943,771	\$85.9m
10	Port Stephens	\$18,332,634	\$199,268	928	81.1	\$243.51	+0.4%	\$37,900,616	\$77.0m

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