

**IN THE MATTER** of the Gambling Act 2003  
**AND** of an application by **SKYCITY HAMILTON LIMITED** for approval of a new floor plan, and to operate a flip-top table

**BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION**

Members: P Chin (Chief Gambling Commissioner)  
K M Ford  
M M Lythe  
P J Stanley  
G L Reeves

Date of Application: 10 September 2007

Date of Decision: 19 October 2007

Date of Notification of Decision: **29** October 2007

**DECISION**  
**ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY HAMILTON LIMITED FOR APPROVAL**  
**OF A NEW FLOOR PLAN, AND TO OPERATE A FLIP-TOP TABLE**

**Application**

1. SKYCITY Hamilton Limited ("**SHL**") applied to the Gambling Commission (the "**Commission**"), under condition 6.1 of its venue licence, for approval of a new floor plan, D3, and to operate a flip-top table to alternate between game mixes 3 and 4.

**Licence condition**

2. Licence condition 6.1 of SHL's venue licence provides as follows:

**6.1 Approval of specifications for security and surveillance installations**

Subject to paragraph 6.2, the Licence Holder shall submit to the Commission for approval all drawings and specifications relating to:

- (a) gaming area floor layouts showing gaming tables, gaming machines and closed circuit television cameras;
- (b) any viewing panels;
- (c) cashier cages, count rooms, security areas, and access thereto;
- (d) areas for Government inspectors and surveillance staff;
- (e) electrical installations, telephone installations, auxiliary power; and
- (f) the master key system or access control system.

## Submissions by SHL

### *Approval of floor plan*

3. SHL stated that it sought approval for a new floor plan, D3, which has a similar configuration to approved plan D2, but with 10 gaming machines relocated from the Exchange Room to an area in the middle of the casino.
4. SHL submitted, in summary, that:
  - (a) Proposed plan D3 will not increase opportunities for casino gambling as it involves the repositioning of 10 gaming machines;
  - (b) All machines and tables will continue to be positioned within the existing gambling area;
  - (c) The local Department of Internal Affairs Inspectorate will be notified of any changes to CCTV coverage associated with the revised configuration, with such changes complying with the Surveillance Standard;
  - (d) Proposed plan D3 will not create potential for increased harm.

### *Flip-top table*

5. SHL stated that it has five approved game mixes. Game mix 3 provides for the operation of three Midi Baccarat tables and two Poker tables, while game mix 4 provides for the operation of two Midi Baccarat tables and three Poker tables. In all other respects the two game mixes are identical. SHL submitted that it could "flip" between these game mixes using a flip-top table, without the need to provide five days prior notification of a change in game mix, as is presently required.
6. SHL submitted that:
  - (a) The flip-top table will provide it with greater flexibility when changing between two approved game mixes;
  - (b) There will be no implications for rate of play or increased potential for harm;
  - (c) The flip-top table will operate pursuant to Minimum Operating Standards (which it will submit to the Secretary for approval prior to using the table); and
  - (d) The Commission has allowed a similar arrangement at the SKYCITY Queenstown casino.

### Submissions by the Secretary

7. The Secretary had no objection to plan D3, or the proposed use of the flip-top table.

### Analysis

8. SHL presently has three approved floor plans and five approved game mixes, with the ability to operate any approved game mix on any approved floor plan. SHL sought approval for a further floor plan, D3, to allow it to have further flexibility still.
9. Compared with approved plan D2, plan D3 involves the relocation of 10 gaming machines from the Exchange Room to an area in the middle of the casino, adjacent to the gaming tables. The plan does not raise any issues of regulatory concern, and the Secretary is not opposed to its approval.
10. In relation to the flip-top table, approved game mixes 3 and 4 are almost identical, with the only difference being the number of Midi Baccarat and Poker tables. Alternating between game mixes 3 and 4, with the "flipping" being controlled by Minimum Operating Standards, raises no issues of regulatory concern, the Commission noting that it has previously approved a similar arrangement at the SKYCITY Queenstown casino.

### Decision of the Commission

11. The Commission decided that the proposal was consistent with the Act and approved floor plan D3, **attached** to this decision, subject to the following conditions and requirements:
- (a) The Licence Holder is permitted to change between plans A, D1, D2 and D3 subject to providing the Commission and Inspectorate with a minimum of 5 working days notice in writing of its intention to do so.
- (b) The Licence Holder is permitted to change between approved table game mixes subject to providing the Inspectorate with a minimum of 5 working days notice in writing of its intention to do so.
12. The Commission decided to approve the Licence Holder changing between game mix 3 and game mix 4, subject to the requirements specified by way of Minimum Operating

**GAMBLING  
COMMISSION**

Peter Chin  
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the  
Gambling Commission

29 October 2007



## ATTACHMENT TO FLOOR PLAN

The following game mixes may be operated by the licence holder on casino gaming tables featured on the Plan subject to the following conditions and requirements:

### Game Mix 1

Blackjack	up to 11 games
Roulette	up to 5 games
Midi Baccarat	up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat	1 game
CSP	up to 2 games
Tai Sai (single)	1 game

### Game Mix 2

Blackjack	up to 10 games
Roulette	up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat	up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat	1 game
CSP	1 games
Money Wheel (single)	1 game
Poker	up to 2 games
Rapid Roulette	1 game with up to 12 player spaces

### Game Mix 3

Blackjack	up to 11 games
Roulette	up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat	up to 3 games
CSP	1 games
Money Wheel (single)	1 game
Poker	up to 2 games
Rapid Roulette	1 game with up to 12 player spaces

### Game Mix 4

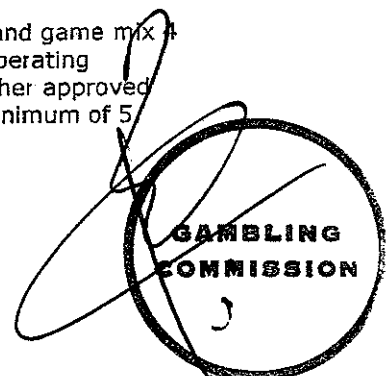
Blackjack	up to 11 games
Roulette	up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat	up to 2 games
CSP	1 games
Money Wheel (single)	1 game
Poker	up to 3 games
Rapid Roulette	1 game with up to 12 player spaces

### Game Mix 5

Blackjack	up to 12 games
Roulette	up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat	up to 2 games
CSP	1 games
Money Wheel (single)	1 game
Poker	up to 2 games
Rapid Roulette	1 game with up to 12 player spaces

### Notes

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between plans A, D1, D2 and D3 subject to providing the Commission and Inspectorate with a minimum of 5 working days notice in writing of its intention to do so
2. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between game mix 3 and game mix 4 subject only to any requirements specified by way of minimum operating standards. The licence holder is permitted to change between other approved table game mixes subject to providing the Inspectorate with a minimum of 5 working days notice in writing of its intention to do so.



- 3 The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Poker tables specified
- 4 The table game mixes refer (unless specified otherwise) to manual versions and does not extend to or permit the introduction of any electronic versions or new electronic aids or enhancements. If electronic versions, aids or enhancements are sought to be introduced, an application is required by the licence holder for approval of a revised floor layout and game mix.

