

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** to exceed the ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables at the Auckland casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 14 August 2008

Date of Decision: 19 September 2008

Date of Notification
of Decision: 23 September 2008

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY
SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED TO EXCEED THE RATIO OF GAMING
MACHINES TO GAMING TABLES AT THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission for approval, under condition 7 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino, to exceed the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables, while it transitions from its current operational floor plan to an approved temporary floor plan.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML operator's licence (Auckland)

7. The ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables in the Gambling Area shall not exceed 15 to 1, except with the approval of the Commission.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML stated that:
 - (a) it has previously sought Commission approval for a temporary floor plan ("October 2008") to accommodate an international Poker tournament at the Auckland casino in October 2008;



- (b) the preparation of the floor area for the tournament involves the removal of non-Poker tables and the installation of Poker tables. There may be a short period between the removal of the non-Poker tables and the installation of the Poker tables during which it is unable to satisfy the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables and, as a safeguard, seeks Commission approval to exceed the ratio during that time.
4. SCML submitted that it would notify the DIA and the Commission when it is not able to satisfy the 15:1 ratio and the new ratio applicable to the period in question.

Submissions by the Secretary

5. The Secretary submitted that he had no objection to SCML's proposal, noting that SCML would provide appropriate notification, but also suggested that SCML provide notification of when the 15:1 ratio is reinstated.

Analysis

6. SCML sought the Commission's approval to temporarily exceed the permitted 15:1 ratio of gaming tables to machines while it transitions from its current operational floor plan to plan "October 2008". The Commission was satisfied that the ground for the dispensation was reasonable and would be for a short period of time. As such, the proposal raised no issues of regulatory concern.

Decision

7. The Commission decided to approve the temporary dispensation of the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables, under condition 7 of SCML's operator's licence, to enable SCML to transition from its current operational floor plan to plan "October 2008".
8. SCML must notify the DIA and the Commission when the ratio will not be satisfied, the new ratio applicable to the period in question, and when the 15:1 ratio is reinstated.

A circular stamp with the text "GAMBLING COMMISSION" is overlaid on the signature. The signature is written in black ink and is partially obscured by the stamp and a diagonal line.
Peter Chin
 Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
 Gambling Commission

23 September 2008