

**IN THE MATTER** of the Gambling Act 2003

**AND** on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new game mix for 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: 19 November 2008

Date of Decision: 5 December 2008

Date of Notification  
of Decision: 10 December 2008

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED  
FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW GAME MIX FOR THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

**Introduction**

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission for approval of a new Annex A, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino.

**Licence condition**

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

**SCML's operator's licence (Auckland)**

9. The Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mix(es) specified in Annex A attached to this licence. The Licence Holder shall obtain the prior approval of the Commission for any change to the game types and/or game mixes specified.

**Submissions by SCML**

3. SCML stated that:

- (a) The current Annex A to its operator's licence provides for the operation of six game mixes, A-F;

- (b) It wants to revise Annex A to remove redundant game mixes B, C, D and E and introduce a new game mix;
- (c) Existing game mix F will be relabelled game mix B and the new game mix will be labelled game mix C;
- (d) Game mix C is identical to game mix B except two 7 Box Black Jack games replace two Casino War games.

4. SCML submitted that:

- (a) new game mix C would not increase opportunities for casino gambling, compared to game mix A, the regulatory benchmark for the Auckland casino, as game mix C has fewer player numbers, fewer rounds per hour and fewer overall wagering opportunities, as follows:

	Game mix A	Game mix C
Player numbers	3909	3775
Rounds per hour	5967	5719
Wagering opportunities	125,569	118,022

- (b) It is replacing its two Casino War tables with Black Jack tables as Casino War has not been popular.

#### **Submissions by the Secretary**

- 5. The Secretary submitted that he had no regulatory concerns with the application and concurred with SCML's submission that the new game mix would not increase opportunities for casino gambling compared to game mix A.

#### **Analysis**

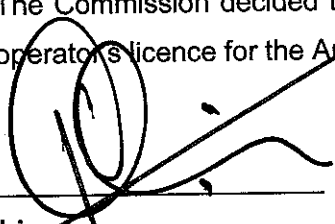
- 6. The Applicant presently has six approved game mixes, A-F. The Applicant wants to remove four redundant game mixes, and introduce one new game mix.
- 7. The Commission's approach when determining whether a new game mix may result in an increase in opportunities for casino gambling is to compare what is proposed against the approved game mix that represents the greatest level of opportunities for casino gambling. Game mix A presently provides the greatest level of opportunities to gamble.

- 8. The Commission compared proposed game mix C with game mix A, and considered that approving game mix C would not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

9. The removal of redundant game mixes B, C, D and E raises no issues of regulatory concern.

**Decision**

10. The Commission decided to approve Annex A (**attached**), under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino.

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**Peter Chin**  
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the  
Gambling Commission

10 December 2008

## ANNEX A

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- A
- Blackjack/Pontoon – up to 44 games
  - Roulette – up to 24 games
  - Touchbet Roulette – 1 game with up to 14 player spaces
  - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 10 games
  - Midi Baccarat- up to 17 games
  - Mini Baccarat – up to 7 games
  - Pai Gow – up to 4 games
  - Tai Sai (Double Side) – 1 game
  - Tai Sai (Single Side) – 1 game
  - Money Wheel (Double Side) – 1 game
- B
- Blackjack/Pontoon ('7 Box')- up to 31 games
  - Roulette – up to 20 games
  - Rapid Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces
  - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 7 games
  - Midi Baccarat- up to 18 games
  - Mini Baccarat – up to 7 games
  - Money Wheel (Double Side) – 1 game
  - Pai Gow – up to 3 games
  - Poker – up to 18 games with up to 10 player spaces
  - Tai Sai (Double Side) – 1 game
  - Casino War – 2 games
- C
- Blackjack/Pontoon ('7 Box')- up to 33 games
  - Roulette – up to 20 games
  - Rapid Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces
  - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 7 games
  - Midi Baccarat- up to 18 games
  - Mini Baccarat – up to 7 games
  - Money Wheel (Double Side) – 1 game
  - Pai Gow – up to 3 games
  - Poker – up to 18 games with up to 10 player spaces
  - Tai Sai (Double Side) – 1 game

### Notes

- 1 The Licence Holder is permitted to change between the game mixes specified in A, B and C subject to providing the Commission and the Inspectorate with a minimum of 5 working days notice in writing of its intention to do so
- 2 The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on:
  - the Poker tables specified in Game Mixes B and C; and
  - 50% of open Blackjack tables specified in Game Mix A;
  - all Blackjack tables specified in Game Mixes B and C;
  - CSP and Baccarat tables specified in each of the game mixes, provided that no more than 10 such shufflers are operated on CSP games and no more than 5 such shufflers are operated on Baccarat games
  - the Casino War games specified in Game Mix B

