

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND of an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of new floor plans and game mixes for the Queenstown casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 22 January 2009

Date of Decision: 20 March 2009

Date of Notification of Decision: 25 March 2009

DECISION
ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW FLOOR PLANS AND GAME MIXES
FOR THE QUEENSTOWN CASINO

Application

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission for approval:
 - (a) of two new floor plans, "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009" and "Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009", under condition 12 of its operator's licence for the Queenstown casino; and
 - (b) of two new game mixes, "B (Alternative)" and "D", under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Queenstown casino.

Licence conditions

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

SCML Operator's Licence (Queenstown)

9. The Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mixes 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.
12. The Licence Holder shall obtain the approval of the Commission for new floor plans prior to relocating or installing tables or machines in positions not specified in approved floor layout. When applying, the Licence Holder must submit fresh plans showing the floor layout for the Gambling Area and details of the proposed CCTV layout for the consideration of the Commission. Any changes must comply with the Surveillance Standard.

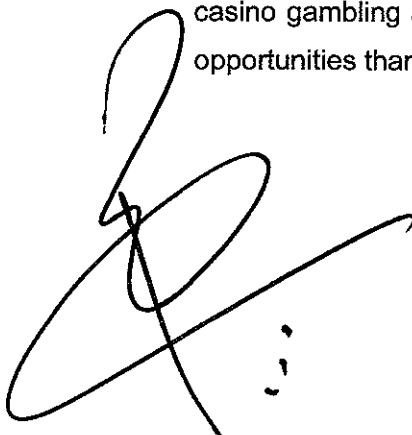
Submissions by SCML

Floor plans

3. SCML stated that:
- (a) It presently has two approved floor plans, "SKYCITY Queenstown Casino – Gambling Area Floor Layout – June 2008" and "SKYCITY Queenstown Casino – Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout – June 2008", which it wants to replace with two new plans, "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009" and "Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009".
 - (b) It will adopt plan "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009" as its standard plan, and will adopt "Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009" for Poker tournaments.
 - (c) There are no changes to the gaming machine locations for either plan.
4. SCML submitted that:
- (a) The proposed changes will have a neutral impact on harm prevention and minimisation;
 - (b) It will make any necessary adjustments to the CCTV layout to accommodate the proposed new floor configurations to ensure they satisfy the Surveillance Standard.
 - (a) It wants to transition to the new standard plan within 30 days of approval.

Game Mixes

5. SCML stated that it seeks approval for two new game mixes. The first new game mix, Game mix B (Alternative), would operate on the standard floor layout, and be in addition to the existing four game mixes, while Game mix D would replace the existing game mix D on the alternative floor layout.
6. SCML submitted that the proposed new game mixes would not increase opportunities for casino gambling as they have fewer player spaces and generate fewer overall gambling opportunities than game mix A, the Commission's regulatory benchmark as follows:

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Game Mix	A	B(Alt)	D
Player spaces	256	230	184
Rounds per hour	592	526	403
Overall opportunities	12842	10758	7037

Submissions by the Secretary

7. The Secretary had no objection to SCML's proposal, and agreed that the proposed game mixes would not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

Analysis

8. SCML sought approval for a standard floor plan and an alternative floor plan. Both plans involve the repositioning of gaming tables from their existing (approved) locations, all within the approved Gambling Area. These reconfigurations raise no issues of regulatory concern.
9. The Commission compared the two new game mixes with the game mix which provides the greatest level of opportunities for casino gambling (game mix A), and determined that neither game mix B (Alternative) or game mix D would increase opportunities for casino gambling.

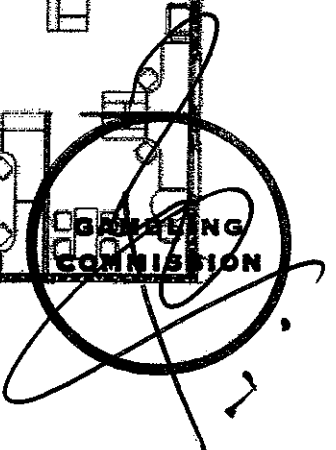
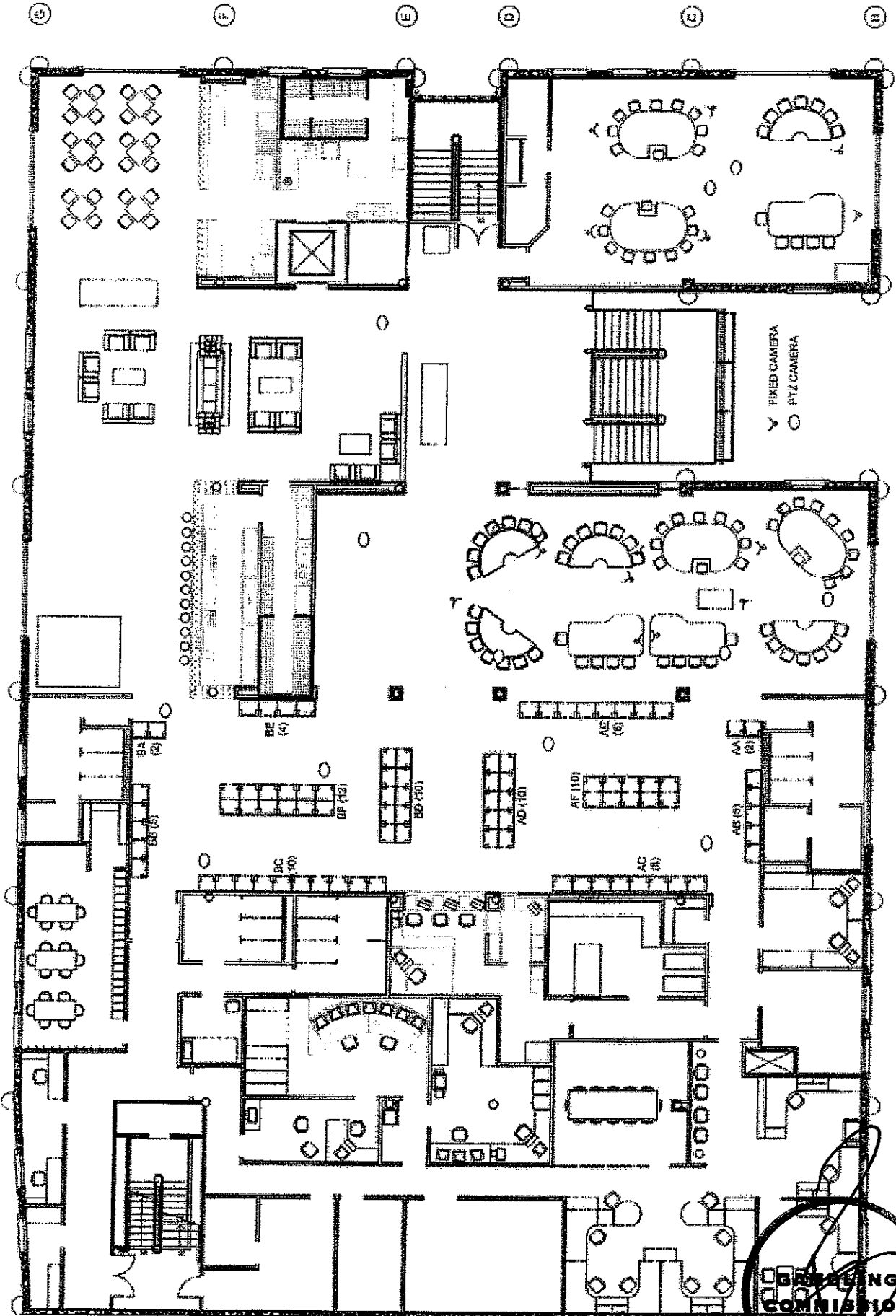
Decision of the Commission

10. The Commission decided to:
- (a) approve new floor plans "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009" and "Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009", under condition 12 of SCML's operator's licence for the Queenstown casino; and
 - (b) delete floor plans "SKYCITY Queenstown Casino – Gambling Area Floor Layout – June 2008" and "SKYCITY Queenstown Casino – Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout – June 2008" once SCML is fully reliant on "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009";
 - (c) approve game mix B (Alternative), which will be associated with plan "Standard Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009", and game mix D, which will be associated with plan "Alternative Gambling Area Floor Layout 2009", under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Queenstown casino.


GAMBLING COMMISSION
 Peter Chin
 Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
 Gambling Commission

 March 2009



Explanatory Notes

The licence holder may operate no more than 86 gaming machines and 12 table games in the configuration shown in the plan. The following table game mixes are approved for operation

Game Mix A

Blackjack	x5
Roulette	x3
Midi Baccarat	x3
Caribbean Stud Poker	x1

Game Mix B

Blackjack	x4
Roulette	x3
Midi Baccarat	x3
Caribbean Stud Poker	x1
Poker	x1

Game Mix B (Alternative)

Blackjack	x4
Roulette	x3
Midi Baccarat	x2
Caribbean Stud Poker	x1
Poker	x2

Game Mix C

Blackjack	x5
Midi Baccarat	x3
Roulette	x2
Caribbean Stud Poker	x1
Poker	x1

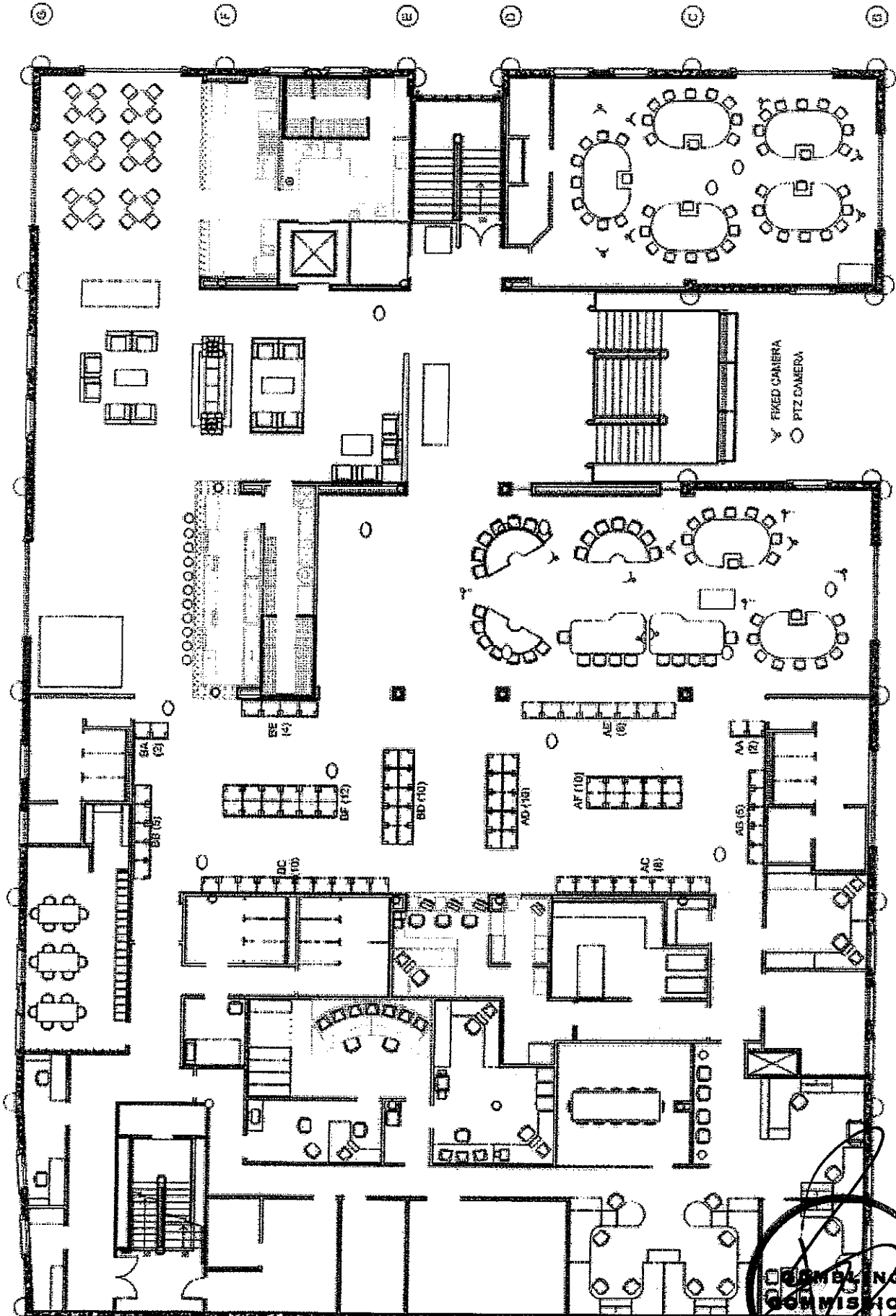
Game Mix C (Alternative)

Blackjack	x5
Roulette	x2
Midi Baccarat	x2
Caribbean Stud Poker	x1
Poker	x2

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, unless a shorter notice period is agreed with the Inspectorate on a case-by-case basis.
2. The licence holder is permitted to change between the game mixes specified in B and B (Alternative) and C and C (Alternative) subject to the requirements specified by way of minimum operating standards.





GAMBLING COMMISSION

Explanatory Note

The licence holder may operate no more than 86 gaming machines and 12 table games in the configuration shown in the plan. The following game mix is approved for operation with this plan.

Game Mix D

Blackjack	x 2
Poker	x 6
Roulette	x 2
Midi Baccarat	x 1
Caribbean Stud Poker	x 1

Note:

The licence holder is permitted to change between the Standard Plan and this Alternative Plan subject to providing the Commission and Inspectorate with a minimum of five working days notice in writing of its intention to do so, unless a shorter notice period is agreed with the inspectorate on a case by case basis.

