

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of two new game mixes 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: 20 July 2009

Date of Decision: 14 August 2009

Date of Notification
of Decision: 18 August 2009

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

Introduction

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

Licence condition

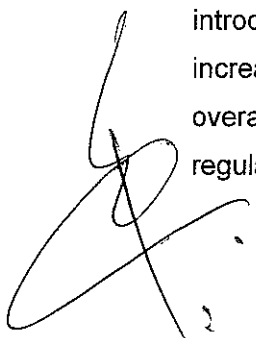
2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

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 it has four approved game mixes – A, B, C and D, and wants to introduce two new game mixes, E and F. It submitted that the new game mixes will not increase opportunities for casino gambling as they have fewer player spaces and fewer overall gambling opportunities than game mix A (which is used by the Commission as the regulatory benchmark for the Auckland casino) as follows:



Game mix	A	E	F
Player spaces	3909	3775	3789
Rounds per hour	5967	5751	5817
Overall opportunities	125,569	118,694	120,444

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary submitted, in summary, that:
- (a) He noted the Commission's comments in decision GC11/09 where it expressed dissatisfaction with the available evidence on gambling opportunities and emphasised that more reliable data is required to support applications to vary game mixes. To date, more reliable data has not been developed, so he cannot submit, based solely upon SCML's calculations, that the proposed game mixes would not increase opportunities for casino gambling. However, the Commission also observed in that decision that although the current information on wagering opportunities may not be determinative, it can be of assistance.
 - (b) Based upon the information supplied, there is a significant gap between game mix A and proposed game mixes E and F in terms of the opportunities they provide. Game mixes E and F will not, therefore, increase opportunities for casino gambling.

Analysis

5. The Commission's approach when determining whether a game mix will result in an increase in opportunities for casino gambling is to compare what is proposed against the approved game mix that provides the greatest level of opportunities for a casino gambling. Game mix A presently provides the greatest level of opportunities.
6. The Commission compared game mixes E and F with game mix A and considered that approving game mixes E and F would not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

Decision

7. The Commission decided to approve Annex A (**attached**), with game mixes E and F, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino.


 Peter Chin
 Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
 Gambling Commission


18 August 2009


 GAMBLING
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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:

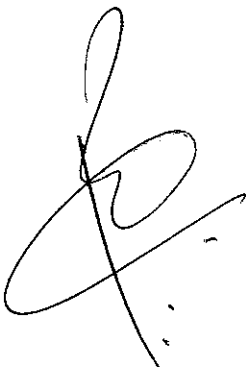
- A.
- Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 44 games
 - Roulette – up to 24 games
 - Electronic Roulette – 1 game with up to 14 player spaces and no manual table
 - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 10 games
 - Midi Baccarat – up to 17 games
 - Mini Baccarat – up to 7 games
 - Pai Gow – up to 4 games
 - Tai Sai (Double Side) – 1 game
 - Tai Sai (Single Side) – 1 game
 - Money Wheel (Double Side) – 1 game
- B.
- Black Jack/Pontoon ('7 Box') – up to 31 games
 - Roulette – up to 20 games
 - Electronic Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces and no manual table
 - 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.
- Black Jack/Pontoon ('7 Box') – up to 33 games
 - Roulette – up to 20 games
 - Electronic Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces and no manual table
 - 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
- D.
- Black Jack/Pontoon ('7 Box') – up to 32 games
 - Roulette – up to 20 games
 - Electronic Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces and no manual table
 - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 7 games
 - Midi Baccarat – up to 18 games
 - Mini Baccarat – up to 8 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

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- E.
- Black Jack/Pontoon ('7 Box') – up to 34 games
 - Roulette – up to 20 games
 - Electronic Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces and no manual table
 - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 7 games
 - Midi Baccarat – up to 18 games
 - Mini Baccarat – up to 6 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
- F.
- Black Jack/Pontoon ('7 Box') – up to 35 games
 - Roulette – up to 20 games
 - Electronic Roulette – up to 2 games with up to 21 player spaces and no manual table
 - Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 6 games
 - Midi Baccarat – up to 18 games
 - Mini Baccarat – up to 6 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, C, D, E and F 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, C, D, E and F; and
 - 50% of open Black Jack tables specified in Game Mix A;
 - all Black Jack tables specified in Game Mixes B, C, D, E and F;
 - 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 24 such shufflers are operated on Baccarat games;
 - the Casino War games specified in Game Mix B.

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