

**IN THE MATTER** of the Gambling Act 2003  
**AND** on an application by  
**QUEENSTOWN CASINOS LIMITED** for an amendment of a  
licence condition and approval of  
casino signage

**BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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

Date of Application: 18 September 2006

Date of Decision: 13 October 2006

Date of Notification  
of Decision: 20 October 2006

**DECISION**

**ON AN APPLICATION BY QUEENSTOWN CASINOS LIMITED FOR AN  
AMENDMENT OF A LICENCE CONDITION AND APPROVAL OF CASINO SIGNAGE**

**Introduction**

1. Queenstown Casinos Limited (the "**Applicant**") applied to the Gambling Commission (the "**Commission**"):
  - (a) to amend condition 1.1 of its venue licence (by substituting "Gambling Commission" for "Authority"); and
  - (b) for approval under condition 1.1 (as amended) for new casino signage.

**Gambling Act 2003 and licence condition 1.1**

2. The application to amend condition 1.1 is made under section 139 of the Gambling Act 2003 (the "**Act**").

3. Licence condition 1.1 provides as follows:

**Casino to be constructed, fitted out and operated in accordance with application**

Subject to the conditions of this licence, the licence holder shall ensure that the casino is designed, developed, constructed, fitted out, commissioned for operation and operated generally in accordance with the licence holder's application as submitted to the Authority, subject to such changes as the Authority may from time to time approve or require in writing.

**Submissions by the Applicant**

4. The Applicant submitted that the amendment to condition 1.1, to substitute the words "Gambling Commission" for the word "Authority" (where the word "Authority" is last stated in the condition) would place the Commission in a position to grant approval of the new casino signage.
5. The Applicant proposed removing 3 existing signs and installing 7 new signs, as follows:

Sign	Proposed signage	Replacing existing signage
1	Two signs extending from the second level balcony featuring the wording 'SKYCITY CASINO Restaurant and Bar'	Two existing signs in similar locations featuring the wording 'Sky City Casino' on one sign and 'Wild Thyme Bar and Restaurant' on the other
2	Verandah Face Signs - the front side featuring the wording 'Bar Restaurant CASINO Bar Restaurant'	Blue neon Verandah face signs with three sides each featuring the word 'CASINO' in illuminated block letters
3	Under Verandah Sign featuring the wording 'CASINO Bar Restaurant' on both sides	No existing signage
4	Arcade Directory Sign located outside the ground floor entrance on Beach Street	Existing sign in similar location
5	Stratton House Roof Sign with neon bar lengths running vertically between the first and second stories of the building with no wording	No existing signage
6	Sign over the escalator within Stratton House leading to the first floor featuring the word 'Casino' with bar lighting	Existing sign featuring the wording 'upstairs to'
7	Sign on the ceiling of the first floor within Stratton House featuring the wording 'Casino Bar Restaurant' on both sides	No existing signage

6. The Applicant submitted that the casino, which is located on the second floor of Stratton House, Beach Street, Queenstown, has always been difficult to locate by potential customers and that the new signage:

- (a) would provide enhanced visibility for the casino signs as trees on Beach Street have matured and obscured the existing signs;
- (b) would assist patrons locate the casino, particularly out of town patrons at night;
- (c) did not have any implications for harm minimisation as it was designed to enhance visibility of the casino facility;
- (d) was not targeted at local gamblers and did not encourage gambling at levels that may cause harm.

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

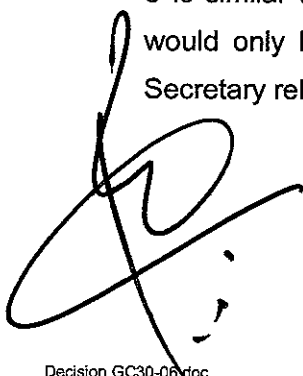
- 7. The Secretary had no objection to the proposed amendment to licence condition 1.1.
- 8. The Secretary submitted that the neon lighting used for sign 5 may interfere with the quality of surveillance coverage of the entrance to the casino/gambling area. The Applicant in response confirmed it would comply with the Surveillance Standard, including the requirement to have a CCTV system capable of monitoring public entrances and exits to the casino.

#### **Submissions by the Wakatipu Casino Liaison Community Group**

- 9. The Commission identified the Wakatipu Casino Liaison Community Group as a potentially interested party, and invited it to make submissions on the application for approval of new signage. The Group elected not to do so.

#### **Analysis**

- 10. The amendment of condition 1.1, to substitute "Gambling Commission" for "Authority" is consistent with changes made by the Commission to other casino licences to provide a continuation of the approval of powers formerly exercised by the Casino Control Authority.
- 11. The Commission noted the submissions of the Secretary, and concluded that the proposed new signage did not give rise to any issues of concern.
- 12. It noted that proposed signs 1 and 2 are slightly bigger than the signs that they will replace, while proposed sign 4 is slightly smaller. While signs 3, 5, 6 and 7 are new, sign 3 is similar to proposed sign 2, while signs 6 and 7 are within the casino building and would only be visible once patrons are inside. The possible concerns raised by the Secretary relating to sign 5 have been satisfactorily addressed by the Applicant.



**Decision**

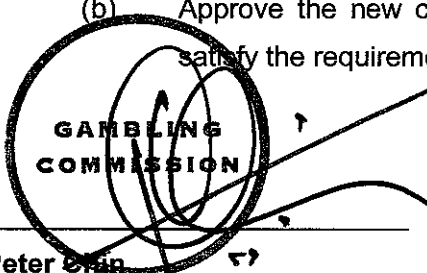
13. The Commission decided to:

(a) Approve the amendment to condition 1.1, to read as follows:

**Casino to be constructed, fitted out and operated in accordance with application**

Subject to the conditions of this licence, the licence holder shall ensure that the casino is designed, developed, constructed, fitted out, commissioned for operation and operated generally in accordance with the licence holder's application as submitted to the Authority, subject to such changes as the Authority may have approved or required, and subject further to such changes which the Gambling Commission may from time to time approve or require in writing.

(b) Approve the new casino signage, on condition that the Applicant continues to satisfy the requirements of the Surveillance Standard.



**GAMBLING  
COMMISSION**

**Peter Chan**  
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the  
Gambling Commission

20 October 2006