

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

**AND** on an application by **SKYCITY CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new floor plan for the Auckland Casino

**BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION**

Members: S W Hughes KC (Chief Gambling Commissioner)  
S C L Pearson  
W A Acton  
S T Shaw  
C M Risk

Date of Application: 20 August 2025

Date of Decision: 10 October 2025

Date of Notification of Decision: 17 October 2025

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW FLOOR PLAN FOR THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

**Introduction**

1. SKYCITY Casinos Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission for approval of a new floor plan, "2025 L3 002", pursuant to condition 11 of its operator's licence for the Auckland casino.
2. The application followed earlier applications by SCML, which concerned approval of construction and design changes and re-designation of the casino's Gambling Area in the area covered by the proposed floor plan. The earlier applications were granted by the Commission in decision GC06/25, on the express basis that they did not guarantee the outcome of the present application and that questions of possible amendment to the casino's HRP, including changes to breaks in play, consequent upon authorisation to gamble in the new area, would be deferred for consideration either in the course of the present application or during the next HRP review.
3. As a consequence, the Commission invited submissions on the application from all 10 parties who had been invited to make submissions on the earlier applications.<sup>1</sup> The invitations to make submissions included the 6 parties who made submissions on the

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary for Internal Affairs, PGF Group, Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health, Asian Family Services, Mapu Maia, Auckland City Council, Hāpai Te Hauora, Cancer Society, Whare Tiaki Hauora and ASH (Action for Smokefree 2025)

earlier applications. However, as it transpired, submissions were only received from the Secretary for Internal Affairs.

#### **Relevant licence condition**

4. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

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

11. The Licence Holder shall operate in accordance with approved floor layouts showing the position of gaming tables and gaming machines. The Licence Holder shall obtain approval for new floor plans prior to relocating or installing tables or machines in positions not specified in approved floor layouts. 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 consideration. Any change must comply with the Surveillance Standard. The Executive Director and a single Gambling Commissioner may approve the new floor plans if they are satisfied that the floor layout has no potentially adverse effects. If they are not so satisfied, the proposed floor plan must be referred to the Commission for a decision on approval.

#### **Submissions by SCML**

5. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:

- (a) Pursuant to decision GC06/25, the Commission approved the construction and enlargement of an outdoor balcony on level 3 of the Auckland casino. Decision GC06/25 also approved the redesignation of the casino's Gambling Area to encompass the new balcony, once constructed.
- (b) As part of the applications leading to decision GC06/25, SCAL submitted an indicative floor plan showing the possible placement of gambling products on the enlarged balcony. The placement of gambling products has now been finalised and it seeks the Commission's approval of floor plan "2025 L3 002", ahead of the balcony construction work commencing.
- (c) If the new floor plan is approved, it intends to deploy it in February 2026, following construction of the outdoor balcony.
- (d) At all times, the number of EGMs and gaming tables will comply with licence conditions, as will the mix of games deployed.
- (e) Changes to the CCTV layout will be implemented to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Standard.
- (f) In decision GC06/25, the Commission noted that it would need to consider a number of factors, including host responsibility matters, as part of a floor plan approval. No changes are needed in respect of the proposed floor plan. Its harm reduction strategies will remain in place for patrons in all areas of the

casino as part of its HRP and PGIP. Those measures already take into account that, in some areas of the casino, patrons are able to smoke or vape as well as gamble. As the proposed floor plan involves the replacement of an existing smoking deck with a larger smoking deck, the number of outdoor areas to monitor will remain the same as currently. The proposal will take nothing away from the need for compliance with the HRP.

### **Secretary's submissions**

6. The Secretary had no regulatory concerns with the application.

### **Analysis**

#### *Background*

7. SCML's application followed the earlier decision of the Commission, decision GC06/25. SCML did not submit a floor plan for approval as part of the applications dealt with in that decision; rather it included an indicative plan only, showing a possible layout of gambling products on the enlarged balcony, on the basis that floor plan approval would be sought subsequently.
8. In decision GC06/25, the Commission indicated that changes to the HRP for the Auckland casino could be considered as part of a future floor plan application, and that the question of breaks in play for patrons in smoking areas was expected to be considered, in any event, as part of Auckland's next HRP review.

#### *Application for new floor plan*

9. SCML settled upon a layout of gambling products for the new balcony and sought Commission approval of a floor plan to deploy that layout. As with the earlier applications, the Commission consulted widely on the application. The Commission received a single submission in response; from the Secretary.
10. The proposed floor plan did not raise any issues of regulatory concern for the Commission in terms of condition 11 of SCML's operator's licence, or otherwise. SCML's gambling products will be deployed in exactly the same manner as they are elsewhere in the casino. It received no submissions on the need for any new or additional host responsibility obligations as a consequence.
11. The number of EGMs and table games deployed across the casino will remain within the limits set by licence conditions, as will the mix of games that are ultimately deployed.

12. In approving the floor plan, the Commission noted that the Secretary, whose Inspectors oversee the deployment of gambling products at the Auckland casino, was unconcerned by the proposal and did not suggest any additional host responsibility measures.
13. As noted in GC06/25, the Commission expects to consider whether to amend the current host responsibility requirements, including for gambling patrons who smoke, as part of the next HRP review for the Auckland casino. Such a consideration will likely involve input from an external expert, as well as consultation with interested parties.

### **Decision**

14. The Commission approved new floor plan, "2025 L3 002" (**attached**), pursuant to condition 11 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino.

### **Appeal**

15. Pursuant to section 235 of the Act, a person affected by this decision may appeal that decision to the High Court. An appeal must be made within 15 working days of the date of notice of the Commission's decision, or any longer period that the High Court may allow.



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Susan Hughes KC  
Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the  
Gambling Commission

17 October 2025

