

**DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION  
BY SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF  
CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN CHANGES AT THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Date of Decision: 29 April 2020

1. On 24 April 2020 SKYCITY Auckland Limited ("**SCAL**") applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes to level 2 of the casino.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 SCAL's venue licence provide as follows:

6. The Licence Holder must obtain the approval of the Commission prior to:

- (a) construction or design changes to Levels 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the casino venue, including the Gambling Area but excluding the SKYCITY Theatre and foyer area, restaurant and bar areas outside the Gambling Area, hotel rooms and the back of house areas used by staff (unless construction or design changes to any of these excluded areas may impact on matters set out in condition 7 in which case prior approval must be sought);
- (b) the construction or relocation outside the Gambling Area and within the Casino Venue of bank facilities available to the public excluding ATMs, EFTPOS and like devices;
- (c) the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on any building, road or structure within the block of land bounded by Hobson Street, Wellesley Street West, Federal Street and Victoria Street West, including the Casino Venue, Sky Tower, car park, bus terminal and walkways between the casino and the Sky Tower and the convention centre.

The process by which the Licence Holder may obtain approval for construction or design changes to Levels 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the casino venue, including the Gambling Area (paragraph (a) above) is set out in condition 7. The Commission will determine any application for approval under 6(b). The Executive Director may approve the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on any building, road or structure within the casino block (paragraph (c) above) if he/she is satisfied the proposed changes will have no potentially adverse effects. If he/she is not so satisfied, the proposed changes must be referred to the Commission for a decision on approval.

7. The Licence Holder must notify the Executive Director of any proposed changes to the construction or design of Levels 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the casino venue, including the Gambling Area but excluding SKYCITY Theatre and foyer area, restaurant and bar areas outside the Gambling Area, hotel rooms and the back of house areas used by staff. Notification must be accompanied by relevant drawings and an assessment of any impacts the alterations may have on:

- (a) the integrity and fairness of games;
- (b) the effectiveness of security and surveillance;
- (c) harm prevention, harm minimisation and responsible gambling;
- (d) potential access to the Gambling Area by persons under 20 years of age; and

- (e) compliance by any person with the Act, including section 11.

The Executive Director may approve the proposed changes to the construction or design if he or she is satisfied that there are no adverse impacts in relation to the matters specified in (a)-(e) above. If the Executive Director is not satisfied, he or she will refer the proposal to the Commission for determination.

### *Submissions*

#### 3. SCAL submitted as follows:

- (a) It wants to convert the area on the MGF known as Aces, The Deli and Hot Wok into a bar, lounge and stage area. The proposed works will be undertaken in two phases, as follows:
- Phase 1 is refurbishment of the Aces bar only;
  - Phase 2 will involve the refurbishment of The Deli and Hot Wok and the construction of a lounge area in the area currently used for EGMs.
- (b) Phase 1 construction is anticipated to commence in mid-May 2020 and is expected to take around four months. However, should the design changes be approved in time, it hopes to start removal of the existing Aces bar the week commencing 4 May 2020.
- (c) Phase 2 construction is anticipated to commence following the completion of the Food Court (previously approved by the Commission in delegated approval 923 dated 5 March 2019) and following the completion of Phase 1 construction.
- (d) The Phase 1 proposed changes are as follows:
- Removal of existing bar area and installation of new bar, including the removal of an end wall.
  - Installation of new flooring, new light fittings and new seating areas.
  - Delineation between the gaming floor and the lounge and bar areas will be achieved by the placement of furniture and low level walls. However, the redeveloped area will remain part of the Gambling Area.
  - The current kitchen area will largely remain and its footprint will not change.
  - The current dishwash area will be made smaller and a current storage area removed to make room for the wraparound bar.

- During construction, a full height hoarding will be installed around the affected area.
- (e) The Phase 2 proposed changes are as follows:
- Removal of the current Hot Work and The Deli outlets.
  - Installation of a new bar area in the area vacated by the Hot Work and The Deli area.
  - Installation of stage and entertainment area.
  - Seating areas will be created as indicated in the plans submitted to the Commission, however final placement of the tables and chairs may differ slightly.
  - Delineation between the gaming floor and the lounge and bar areas will be achieved by way of furniture placement and low level walls. However, the redeveloped area will remain part of the Gambling Area.
  - During construction, a full height hoarding will be installed around the affected area.
- (f) Both affected areas will remain part of the Gambling Area.
- (g) The proposed changes will reduce the area that is currently utilised for housing EGMs and it anticipates the gaming product placement to be affected by the construction works during, and after completion of, Phase 2 only.
- (h) Appropriate plans for the movement of gaming product will be submitted to the Commission for approval closer to the time.

*Decision*

4. The Commission was satisfied that the proposal would not adversely impact upon any of the matters set out in condition 7. The construction and design changes proposed are approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of SCAL's venue licence. The construction and design changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.



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**Blair Cairncross**  
Executive Director  
Gambling Commission

29 April 2020

