

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

Date of Decision: 16 December 2021

1. On 10 December 2021, SKYCITY Hamilton Limited (“**SHL**”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes at the Hamilton casino. SHL wants to be able to position hoardings within the Hamilton casino during periods of COVID restrictions.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 of SHL’s venue licence for the Hamilton casino provide as follows:

6. The Licence Holder must obtain the approval of the Commission prior to:
- (a) construction or design changes to Levels B1 and 1 of the Casino Venue, including the Gambling Area;
 - (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 the exterior of the Casino Venue or on or around the building within which it is located.

The process by which the Licence Holder may obtain approval for construction or design changes to Levels B1 and 1 of the Casino Venue (6(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 the exterior of the Casino Venue or on or around the building within which it is located (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 B1 and 1 of the Casino Venue. 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. SHL submitted as follows:

- (a) The Commission has previously approved construction and design changes to facilitate the creation of two zones and two entrances during COVID Alert level 2. Since the Alert Level changes, and move to the COVID “traffic light system”, the zone plan has been updated.
- (b) In anticipation of the Christmas holiday period and various agencies being closed it seeks re-approval for the associated construction and design changes in the event that the Hamilton Casino, currently under Orange restrictions, moves to Red restrictions over the holiday period.
- (c) To implement the zones, it wants to install two temporary hoardings to maintain separation between the two zones, with each zone having its own entry/exit points.
- (d) It does not believe this area of the gambling floor will require its own dedicated cashiering facility. Customers will not be inconvenienced because of the availability of cash redemption terminals in that area (at which tickets can be redeemed) and in the case of customers issued with hand pays, those hand pays can be redeemed by staff members on behalf of the customer.
- (e) Nonetheless out of an abundance of caution, in the new year it will seek approval for an extension of the temporary cashiering facility for this area for use in times of strict COVID restrictions.
- (f) To the extent that any cameras need to be adjusted to ensure coverage is not adversely impacted by the hoardings, those adjustments will be undertaken. There will be no associated changes required to the approved gaming product layout.
- (g) The installation of the hoardings will have no adverse effect on the matters set out in condition 7 of its venue licence.

Decision

8. The Commission was satisfied that the proposed construction and design changes 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 SHL's venue licence. The construction and design changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.



Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

16 December 2021

