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

Date of Decision: 14 **August 2013**

1. On 7 August 2013, SKYCITY Auckland Limited ("**SCAL**") applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of a series of construction and design changes to the Auckland casino.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 provide as follows:

> 6. The Licence Holder must obtain the approval of the Commission prior to:
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> (a) construction or design changes to Levels 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);
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> (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;
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> (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.
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> The process by which the Licence Holder may obtain approval for construction or design changes to Levels 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.
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> 7. The Licence Holder must notify the Executive Director of any proposed changes to the construction or design of Levels 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:
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> (a) the integrity and faimess of games;
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> (b) the effectiveness of security and surveillance;
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> (c) harm prevention, harm minimisation and responsible gambling;
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> (d) potential access to the Gambling Area by persons under 20 years of age; and
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> (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.

Relocation of Jade Dragon – Stage 1

3. It wants to relocate the Jade Dragon restaurant from its current location to the area currently occupied by the Blend Café on level 3. The Blend Café has already been closed in preparation for this work.

VIP Black Room

4. The Jade Dragon in its current location on level 1 will close on or around 11 August 2013, allowing the work to commence soon thereafter on the conversion of that area into a VIP gambling area. The Commission has previously approved the area in question as an alternative gambling area, and SCAL now seeks approval for construction and design changes to enable the area to be fitted out as a VIP gambling area.

5. The area will be fitted out with carpet and marble floor coverings, marble and stone finishes on the bar and buffet surfaces, tile, fabric and wallpaper wall coverings, high end ceiling tiles and chandeliers. It will also feature an external smoking/outdoor gambling area which is the subject of a separate application to the .Commission

6. It also wants to fit out the new area with a cashiering facility in accordance with the requirements of condition 12 of its venue licence. SCML has made separate applications to the Commission to construct a new cashiering facility and to install an EFTPOS terminal in the new location.

7. Construction on the new area is set to commence on 19 August and expected to open on 8 November 2013.

New Baccarat Room

8. On or around 15 August 2013, the Poker tables currently housed in the Nations Clubrooms will be relocated to the MGF (subject to approval of floor plans already lodged with the Commission). It is intended to relocate the Baccarat Room to the Nations Clubrooms. This will entail construction and design changes involving the general refurbishment of the floor/ceilings/wall treatment, removal of the western bar, in-filling the southern wall/sliding doors and the creation of new double door access from the eastern corridor. It has made a separate application to the Commission to relocate the cashiering facility in the existing Baccarat Room to its new home. It also wants to install escalators from the MGF to the Baccarat Room. Subject to the Commission's approval, it is expected that they would be installed towards the end of 2013.

Relocation of Jade Dragon – Stage 2

9. The relocation of the Baccarat Room from its current location to the Nations Clubrooms will enable the old location to be redeveloped and become part of the new Jade Dragon dining experience. The area in question is currently designated as Gambling Area and will be the subject of a separate application to the Commission to remove this designation so that there are no restrictions on who may dine at the restaurant. The restaurant is expected to open in its new location on 23 October 2013.

10. SCAL's proposed construction and design changes raise no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission. Accordingly the construction and design changes are approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 SCAL's venue licence. The construction and design changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.

Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

16 August 2013

GAMBLING COMMISSION