DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION BY OTAGO CASINOS LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN CHANGES TO THE WHARF CASINO

Date of Decision: 18 **October 2013**

1. On 14 October 2013, Otago Casinos Limited ("**OCL**") applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes to the Wharf casino.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 of OCL'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 the Casino Venue, but excluding the back of house area used by staff (unless construction or design changes to this excluded area 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 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 the Casino Venue (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 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.
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> 7. The Licence Holder must notify the Executive Director of any proposed changes to the construction or design 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 of the Act.
>
> 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.

3. OCL submits that the proposed design changes are relatively minor and will have no adverse impact on condition 7. The changes proposed are as follows:

- remove the existing carpet;
- install new cabling, complete any floor repairs and install new carpet;
- paint the walls in the casino;
- install new ceiling tiles;
- replace some wood panels with glass panels at the casino entrance;
- modernise the casino bar.

4. The application will not impact adversely on the matters specified in condition 7 of OCL's venue licence. Accordingly the application is approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority, pursuant to condition 7 of OCL's venue licence.

Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

GAMBLING COMMISSION

8 October 2013