

**DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION
BY SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED FOR APPROVAL TO BROADCAST GAMBLING
ACTIVITY FROM THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Date of Decision: 12 March 2018

1. On 7 March 2018, SKYCITY Auckland Limited ("**SCAL**") applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 8 of its venue licence, for approval to broadcast gambling activity from the Auckland casino.

2. Conditions 6 and 8 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;
- (d) the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on any building, road or structure within the Original Casino Site or the NZICCA Additional Site, including, walkways between any of the Original Casino Site and the NZICCA Additional Site;
- (e) the broadcasting of gambling activity by or on behalf of the Licence Holder via any communication medium or channel.

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 Original Casino Site, and Level 7 of the Grand Hotel on the NZICCA Additional Site, including the Gambling Area (paragraphs (a) and (b) above) is set out in condition 7. The Commission will determine any application for approval under 6(c). The Executive Director may approve the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on any building, road or structure within the Original Casino Site or the NZICCA Additional Site (paragraph (d) above) and the broadcasting of gambling activity by or on behalf of the Licence Holder via any communication medium or channel (paragraph (e) above) if satisfied that the proposed initiative(s) will have no potentially adverse effects. The proposed initiative(s) must otherwise be referred to the Commission for a decision on approval.

7. ...

8. The Licence Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) gambling activity is not visible from outside the Casino Venue unless approved by the Commission pursuant to condition 6(e); and

- (b) there is provision for generation of emergency power to maintain in situations of an interruption to mains power:
 - (i) minimum services to the Gambling Area; and
 - (ii) lighting in highly sensitive areas such as count rooms, surveillance suite, cashiering locations and gambling equipment storerooms.


Submissions

3. SCAL submitted as follows:

- (a) In GC05/18, the Commission amended conditions 6 and 8 of SCAL's venue licence to permit the broadcasting of gambling activity by or on behalf of the licence holder via any communication medium or channel with the prior approval of the Commission. The Executive Director can approve the broadcasting if satisfied that the proposed initiative(s) will have no potentially adverse effects.
- (b) The catalyst for this application is an international poker event that it is staging from 25 May to 4 June 2018, known as the WPT New Zealand. The tournament is expected to attract a number of poker players from overseas as the WPT events are part of an international circuit. Events of this nature, and the marketing attached to them, attract valuable publicity for the host casino, both internationally and locally.
- (c) While the poker tournament itself and in particular the final table is expected to be the focus of any broadcast, the broadcast is also expected to provide opportunities to promote other facets of the associated facilities including restaurants, hotels and the wider Auckland region.
- (d) The communication medium for broadcasting the event and the wider property package will be a combination of Sky TV and social media via a WPT New Zealand Facebook page. For the purposes of condition 6, it is seeking the Commission's approval to film and live stream the final poker event on 4 June and, over the course of the 11 day event, highlights of the qualifying events leading up to the final.
- (e) Live streaming has a built in 30 minute delay to ensure the game is not compromised in any way. Any associated broadcasts will not show any casino gambling activity but will encompass interviews with players, possible sponsors and as mentioned earlier other property features.

Decision

4. SCAL's proposal will have no potentially adverse effects and is approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to conditions 6 and 8 of SCAL's venue licence on the following conditions:
- (i) The permitted broadcast activity is limited to Sky TV broadcasts of WPT New Zealand play and the live streaming of play in the final day of play on the WPT New Zealand Facebook page.
 - (ii) The broadcasts may show no New Zealand casino gambling activity, other than WPT play at the WPT New Zealand event in 2018.
 - (iii) The permitted period of broadcast is limited to the period of the WPT New Zealand, namely 25 May to 4 June 2018.
 - (iv) The broadcast of WPT New Zealand play is limited to the final on 4 June 2018 and highlights only of play from the qualifying events on the other days of the WPT New Zealand.


Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission



12 March 2018