

**DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION
BY SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT TELEVISION
BROADCASTING FROM THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Date of Decision: 23 May 2018

1. On 22 May 2019, SKYCITY Auckland Limited (“SCAL”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 8 of its venue licence, for approval to conduct a television interview at a poker table and broadcast a television skit within the World Poker Tournament area at 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) Its poker tournament commences on Friday 24 May 2019 and it has secured some TV coverage.
- (b) On Thursday 23 May 2019, the television show "The Crowd Goes Wild" is proposing to do a piece which involves an interview with one of the players at one of the poker tables.
- (c) On Friday 24 May 2019, the television show "The Project" is proposing to do a light-hearted piece where the presenter is dressed as Zac from the Hangover and pretends to count cards within the WPT arena while the poker event is underway.
- (d) While it is not its intention that gambling activity be captured directly during the filming for both of these shows, it is possible that gambling activity could be captured in the background, and subsequently broadcast. To the extent that an approval is required to broadcast gambling activity in these circumstances, it seeks it.

Decision

4. SCAL's proposal, as outlined above, 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.


 Blair Cairncross
 Executive Director
 Gambling Commission
 23 May 2019