

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

Date of Decision: **June 2019**

1. On 30 May 2019 SKYCITY Auckland Limited (“**SCAL**”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes to levels 5 and 6 of the casino.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 SCAL’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 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.

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 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.

7. The Licence Holder must notify the Executive Director of any proposed changes to the construction or design of Levels 1, 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:
 - (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. SCAL submitted as follows:

- (a) It wants to make construction and design changes to levels 5 and 6 of the casino premises, as follows:

H5 – Lobby Area

The key changes to the lobby on H5 are as follows:

- Relocation and enlargement of reception desk
- Addition of coat storage and general storage cupboard
- Backlit wall behind reception
- Addition of new water feature
- Cosmetic refurbishment to carpets, ceilings, curtains, wall finishes
- Replacement of lounge furniture
- Extension of two lifts from L5 to L6

The proposed changes have no impact on the matters set out in condition 7.

H5 – Eight

The key changes to Eight are as follows:

- Removal of half of the bathrooms which connect to salon 81
- Relocation of bar back into the vacated bathroom space
- Removal of internal staircase
- Cosmetic refurbishment to bar front, cashier front, carpet, ceilings, curtains, wall finishes, pit stands
- Replacement of lounge furniture
- Removal of solid wall between the corridor and salon 81 to be replaced with fritted glass and curtain
- General upgrade of TVs and related audio/visuals

The proposed changes have no impact on the matters set out in condition 7.

An indicative revised floor plan is attached to its application which reflects the proposed design changes and provides for one additional table and the deployment of 18 terminals associated with an automatic table game. A final

revised floor plan will be submitted for the Commission's consideration following approval and completion of the design changes.

H5 – VIP Salons and hotel suites

The proposed changes to the VIP salons involve cosmetic upgrades to the furniture and fittings, revisions to the configuration of tables and the installation of an additional table in the southern most suite. The hotel suites will also undergo a refurbishment but these are not subject to approval under condition 6. An indicative floor plan of the proposed changes to the salons is attached to its application. A final revised floor plan will be submitted for the Commission's consideration following approval and completion of the design changes.

The proposed design changes have no impact on the matters set out in condition 7.

H6 VIP Black/Ultra

H6 currently consists of an enclosed bar/buffet and seating area and a significant outdoor space which has been used for functions from time to time. These areas are designated gambling areas. It is intended to re-develop H6 into two VIP gaming machine areas – one servicing VIP Black members (who currently use dedicated facilities on Level 1 of the casino venue) and the other to service a new VIP gaming machine membership tier (Ultra). The proposed developments involve:

General

- Creating a new lift lobby to meet the extension of the lifts from H5
- Extending the eastern side of the casino venue on H6 to create a suitable arrival experience for persons entering the new VIP areas
- Enclosing a large portion of the current exterior space
- Installing a new cashiering facility

VIP Black

- Creating a dedicated outdoor smoking area with water feature and exterior fireplace
- Creating storage facilities and reception desk in the new entry area
- Making cosmetic upgrades to the existing bar and seating areas
- New flooring – carpet and tile
- New ceilings

- New wall coverings
- New lighting

Ultra

- Installing two dedicated bathrooms
 - Developing two private gaming salons with attached outdoor gambling/smoking terraces
 - Creating an outdoor gambling/smoking area
 - Creating a "pod style" gaming configuration featuring fridges, TVs, audio and phone charging facilities
 - Installing a buffet unit for general food service
 - New flooring – carpet and tile
 - New ceilings
 - New wall coverings
 - New lighting
 - New curtains
 - Installing secure entry doors
- (b) Indicative plans are attached to its application. The plans show the indicative placement of gaming machines in the new areas, but it is intended that final plans will be submitted to the Commission for consideration closer to the time of completion.
- (c) The design changes do not require any amendments to the existing gambling area on H6. The add-on to the eastern side of the building does not need to be designated as a gambling area. There is precedent for developing add-ons to the existing casino complex as reflected in GC25/10 where the Commission approved the construction of a new level 6 which was within the defined boundaries of the casino venue as set out in the casino venue licence. The proposed add-on to level 6 in this case is again within the defined boundaries of the casino venue.
- (d) SKYCITY's Group Host Responsibility Manager has reviewed the design changes including the indicative plans for the deployment of gaming machines and tables and has confirmed that they are conducive to the provision of a safe environment and will not have an adverse impact on SKYCITY's host responsibility measures.
- (e) Additional cameras will be installed to monitor the deployment of gambling equipment in the affected areas in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Surveillance Policy.

- (f) At all times the number of gaming machines and tables will not exceed the permitted numbers and the design changes do not increase casino gambling opportunities.
- (g) While the start date for the proposed design changes has yet to be finalised, it expects works to begin in July 2019.

Decision

4. 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 SCAL's venue licence. The construction and design changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.



Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

11 June 2019

