

**IN THE MATTER** of the Gambling Act 2003

**AND** on an application by **SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED** and **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval to construct cashiering facilities on level 7 of the Grand Hotel at the Auckland casino

**BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION**

Members: G L Reeves (Chief Gambling Commissioner)  
L M Hansen  
R D Bell  
D C Matahaere-Atariki  
W N Harvey

Date of Application: 15 December 2015

Date of Decision: 12 February 2016

Date of Notification of Decision: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED AND SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT CASHIERING FACILITIES ON LEVEL 7 OF THE GRAND HOTEL AT THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

**Introduction**

1. SKYCITY Auckland Limited (“**SCAL**”) and SKYCITY Casino Management Limited (“**SCML**”) (together referred to as the “**Applicants**”) applied to the Commission under conditions 12 and 13 of SCAL's venue licence and conditions 21 and 22 of SCML's operator's licence, for approval to construct a chip bank and cashiering facilities on level 7 of the Grand Hotel.

**Licence conditions**

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

**SCAL's venue licence**

12. (i) The Licence Holder shall maintain at least one principal cashiering facility on each level of the gaming floor which is clearly visible to patrons. Each such cashiering facility shall as a minimum requirement include the following:
  - (a) accommodation for general cashiers;
  - (b) storage facilities for cashiering inventory;

- (c) manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected directly to monitor rooms of the security and surveillance departments.
  - (ii) The Licence Holder may provide accommodation for chip bank cashiers in the principal cashiering facility which shall be physically separate from general cashiers unless the Commission approves otherwise.
  - (iii) Chips and plaques held in reserve and not used for active gaming shall be housed in a locked compartment within the chip bank.
13. The approval of the Commission is required for the construction and relocation of cashiering facilities additional to the principal facility in other parts of the Gambling Area or casino venue. Any such additional facilities must comply with the surveillance equipment requirements set out in the Surveillance Standard and be fitted with manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected to the surveillance department.

#### **SCML's operator's licence (Auckland)**

21. (i) The Licence Holder shall maintain at least one principal cashiering facility on each level of the gaming floor which is clearly visible to patrons. Each such cashiering facility shall as a minimum requirement include the following:
- (a) accommodation for general cashiers;
  - (b) storage facilities for cashiering inventory;
  - (c) manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected directly to monitor rooms of the surveillance department.
- (ii) The Licence Holder may provide accommodation for chip bank cashiers in the principal cashiering facility which shall be physically separate from general cashiers unless the Commission approves otherwise.
- (iii) Chips and plaques held in reserve and not used for active gaming shall be housed in a locked compartment within the chip bank.
22. The approval of the Commission is required for the construction and relocation of cashiering facilities additional to the principal facility in other parts of the Gambling Area or casino venue. Any such additional facilities must comply with the surveillance equipment requirements set out in the Surveillance Standard and be fitted with manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected to the surveillance department.

#### **The Applicants' submissions**

3. The Applicants submitted, in summary, as follows:
- (a) In decision GC21/15, the Commission confirmed the acceptability of the proposed changes to level 7 of the Grand Hotel, which will create new gambling salons in that part of the extended casino venue. The Commission also approved, for future use, an additional gambling area on level 7.
  - (b) Pursuant to licence conditions, the Licence Holder must maintain at least one principal cashiering facility on each level of the gaming floor which is clearly visible to patrons. The conditions set out the minimum requirements for such



facilities. Conditions also specify that the Commission's approval is required for the construction and relocation of cashiering facilities additional to the principal facility in other parts of the Gambling Area or casino venue. Any such additional facilities must comply with the surveillance equipment requirements set out in the Surveillance Standard.

- (c) They propose constructing a standalone chip bank with each salon having its own customised cashiering facility (which will be incorporated into the Pit Stand housed in each of the salons). Each of the cashiering facilities will consist of a computer monitor, keyboard and printer, a dedicated area for transactions, and lockable cash and chip drawers.
- (d) Transactions conducted from the cashiering facilities will primarily consist of deposits into, and drawdowns on, patrons' accounts, the exchange of commission play chips for non-negotiable chips used on commission programmes, programme settlements involving telegraphic transfers and the issue of cheques. There is no intention to equip the facilities with EFTPOS.
- (e) The standalone chip bank will be used for chip fills and credits as may be necessary from time to time on the tables housed in the salons.
- (f) Similar facilities were approved by the Commission in decision GC09/11.

#### **Submissions by the Secretary**

- 4. The Secretary submitted that the proposal raises no issues of regulatory concern.

#### **Analysis**

- 5. In decision GC21/15 the Commission approved the construction and design changes necessary to create three gaming salons on level 7 of the Grand Hotel. The Commission also designated the salons as "Gambling Area", with the Gambling Area taking effect after the Applicants have provided the Department and the Commission with the requisite notice. SKYCITY now seeks Commission approval to construct a standalone chip bank and cashiering facilities in each of the three salons.
- 6. The proposal raises no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission with the Applicants submitting that the new facilities will meet the requirements set out in licence conditions and the Surveillance Standard. The application also raised no issues of regulatory concern for the Secretary.



**Decision**

7. The Commission approved, under conditions 12 and 13 of SCAL's venue licence and conditions 21 and 22 of SCML's operator's licence, the construction of a chip bank and cashiering facilities, as proposed, on level 7 of the Grand Hotel.

**Right of appeal**

8. Pursuant to section 235 of the Act, a person affected by the decision recorded in paragraph 53 may appeal that decision to the High Court. An appeal must be made within 15 working days of the date of notice of the Commission's decision, or any longer period that the High Court may allow.



Graeme Reeves  
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the  
Gambling Commission

17 February 2016

