

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval to exceed, temporarily, the ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables at the Hamilton casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 19 December 2017

Date of Decision: 14 February 2018

Date of Notification
of Decision: 19th February 2018

DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR APPROVAL TO EXCEED, TEMPORARILY, THE RATIO OF GAMING MACHINES TO GAMING TABLES AT THE HAMILTON CASINO

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("SCML") applied to the Commission, under condition 7 of SCML's operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, for approval to exceed the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables at the Hamilton casino.
2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Hamilton)

7. The ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables in the Gambling Area shall not exceed 15 to 1, except with the approval of the Commission.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) Under condition 7 of its operator's licence, the ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables in the Gambling Area shall not exceed 15:1, except with the approval of the Gambling Commission.



- (b) Hamilton casino is scheduled to re-carpet its Gambling Areas in early March 2018. This process will involve the temporary closure and storage of gaming machines and gaming tables at different times, to enable the work to be completed in stages. The temporary closure of gaming machines will not adversely impact the ratio, but it anticipates two of the stages will involve the temporary closure and removal of a number of gaming tables. This will result in the ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables being exceeded for short periods.
- (c) Detailed planning associated with this project is currently underway. It does not believe that condition 7 was designed to frustrate such operational contingencies and seeks Commission approval to exceed the ratio, where this proves necessary, over the course of the re-carpeting project.
- (d) It expects the project to be completed within a two week period. Over that time it anticipates two days where the gaming machine to gaming table ratio will not be satisfied. It will want to have the floor returned to full capacity following each stage, as soon as it is practicable.
- (e) The Secretary's Gambling Inspectors will be kept informed as the detail is developed around each specific stage of the project.

The Secretary's submissions

- 4. The Secretary had no regulatory concerns with the proposal, with the proviso that SCML provides his Casino Inspectors with detailed information on the project stages, prior to the commencement of the work.

Analysis

- 5. SCML wants to re-carpet its Gambling Areas at the Hamilton casino. This requires it to remove gaming tables at various stages, which in turn requires it to obtain Commission approval to exceed the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables.
- 6. This proposal raised no issues of regulatory concern as it is for a small period of time during the re-carpeting of the Gambling Areas.



Decision of the Commission

7. The Commission approved, under condition 7 of its operator's licence, SCML's application for approval to exceed, temporarily, the 15:1 ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables at the Hamilton casino.



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

19th February 2018

