

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND of an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new game mix Annex for the Queenstown casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: Lisa Hansen (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
S C L Pearson
S Hughes KC
W A Acton
S T Shaw

Date of Application: 1 May 2023

Date of Decision: 9 June 2023

Date of Notification
of Decision: 12 June 2023

**DECISION ON AN
APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW GAME MIX ANNEX FOR THE QUEENSTOWN CASINO**

Application

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited (“**SCML**”) applied to the Commission for approval of a new game mix Annex, under condition 9 of its operator’s licence for the Queenstown casino.

Licence conditions

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

SCML’s operator’s licence (Queenstown)

7. The ratio of gaming machines to gaming tables in the Gambling Area, excluding the tables permitted by condition 6A and 6AA, shall not exceed 15 to 1, except with the approval of the Commission.
9. The Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mixes specified in Annex A attached to this Licence. The Licence Holder shall obtain the prior approval of the Commission for any change to the game types and/or game mixes specified.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:

- (a) It wants to add two new game mixes to its Annex, game mixes K2 and L2, which will be deployed on the Main Gaming Floor, if approved.
- (b) Game mix K2 adds a second Midi Baccarat game, with one electronic table game being removed.
- (c) Game mix L2 adds an electronic table game with manual wagers. To accommodate the increase in opportunities associated with this game mix, it will deploy seven gaming tables on the MGF, rather than the usual eight. Deploying seven tables will still comply with the 15:1 ratio of EGMs to gaming tables required by licence conditions; there are currently 86 EGMs deployed.
- (d) It is satisfied that the new game mixes will not increase opportunities for casino gambling. Game mix K2 has fewer player spaces and gambling opportunities than other game mixes which have already been approved for the MGF.
- (e) Game mix L2 has more opportunities than other game mixes on the MGF, but when it is combined with the game mix which offers the most casino gambling opportunities in Horizon Room, the combined total is below the overall regulatory benchmark for the Queenstown casino, game mix A.
- (f) Supporting data are as follows:

Game mix A

		Player spaces	Opportunities
Black Jack/Pontoon	up to 5 games	21	3,428
Roulette	up to 3 games	21	1,008
Midi Baccarat	up to 3 games	27	3,645
Caribbean Stud Poker	up to 1 game	7	84
Total player spaces/opportunities		256	8,165

Game mixes for MGF

	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2	I2	J2	K2	L2
Midi Baccarat	1	2	0	4	3	2	4	1	1	2	2	2
Black Jack	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
Roulette	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poker	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Roulette/Tai Sai/Baccarat – one may also accept manual wagers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	2	2
Total	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7
Total player spaces	149	166	132	166	172	166	168	133	147	153	169	169
Total opportunities	4,226	5,328	3,123	5,790	5,829	5,559	5,880	4,107	4,737	5,238	5,807	6,080

Game mixes for Horizon Room

	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1
Midi Baccarat	2	2	3	3	4	1	0	1
Black Jack	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Roulette	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Total	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total player spaces	84	84	84	84	84	84	40	84
Total opportunities	1,638	1,260	1,218	1,596	1,176	1,680	450	2,058

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary had no regulatory concerns with SCML's application.

Analysis

5. SCML is permitted to operate location specific game mixes at the Queenstown casino, as well as a number of game mixes which are not location specific. It has four existing game mixes which are not location specific, A-D. Game mix A is the casino's benchmark game mix, while game mixes B-D are operational game mixes. Game mix A is as follows:

	A
Midi Baccarat (9 Box, Style A)	3
Black Jack (manual shuffle)	3
Black Jack (automatic shuffler)	2
Roulette	3
Caribbean Stud Poker	1

6. SCML has approval to operate location specific game mixes in two areas at the Queenstown casino; the MGF and the Horizon Room. SCML has approval to operate game mixes A1-H1 in the casino's Horizon Room, as follows:

	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1
Midi Baccarat (7 Box, Style B)	2	2	3	3	4	1	0	1
Black Jack (auto shuffler)	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Roulette	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

7. On the MGF, SCML has approval to operate nine game mixes, A2-J2, and seeks approval of two more game mixes, K2 and L2. These game mixes are as follows:

	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2	I2	J2	K2	L2
Midi Baccarat	1	2	0	4	3	2	4	1	1	2	2	2
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Jack (auto shuffler)	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
Roulette	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poker	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Roulette/Tai Sai/Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0
Electronic Roulette/Tai Sai/ Baccarat with manual wagers on Roulette layout	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2

8. The Commission considered the game mixes for the MGF and the game mixes for the Horizon Room, and compared them with game mix A. The Commission was satisfied, in the round, that no combination of game mixes from the MGF (including proposed game mixes K2 and L2) and the Horizon Room would generate more opportunities for casino gambling than game mix A. The Commission made this assessment on a common sense basis, in the round, rather than by calculating opportunities based upon tables of data or upon a formula.

Decision

9. The Commission approved the new game mix Annex, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Queenstown casino. The new Annex is **attached**.

Right of appeal

10. Pursuant to section 235 of the Act, a person affected by this decision 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.

Lisa Hansen

Lisa Hansen
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

12 June 2023



ANNEX A

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables subject to the following conditions and requirements:

Game Mix A

Black Jack – up to 5 games
Roulette – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game

Game Mix B

Black Jack – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 6 games

Game Mix C

Black Jack – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 7 games

Game Mix D

Black Jack – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 5 games

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE GAME MIXES

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables in the locations specified, subject to the following conditions and requirements noted:

In the area designated as the Horizon Room, any one of the following 4 table game mixes:

	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1
Midi Baccarat	2	2	3	3	4	1	0	1
Black Jack	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Roulette	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Total	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

together with

In the Gambling Area on the main floor, any one of the following 8 table game mixes:

	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2	I2	J2	K2	L2
Midi Baccarat	1	2	0	4	3	2	4	1	1	2	2	2
Black Jack	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
Roulette	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poker	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Roulette/Tai Sai/Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0
Electronic Roulette/Tai Sai/ Baccarat with manual wagers on Roulette layout	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Total	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7

Notes

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on 50% of open Blackjack tables and all Caribbean Stud Poker and Baccarat tables set out in Game Mix A.
2. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate an automatic shuffler on one Caribbean Stud Poker game and on all Baccarat, Poker and Black Jack games set out in all other game mixes.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between the game mixes specified subject to providing the Inspectorate with prior notice.
4. Any flip top tables forming part of a game mix must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the relevant minimum operating standards.
5. All Midi Baccarat games specified in the further alternative game mixes and operating in the Horizon Room shall be conducted in accordance with either dealing style B or (where permitted by the Baccarat rules) dealing style D.
6. All Midi Baccarat games specified in the further alternative game mixes and operating in the Horizon Room shall have no more than 7 boxes.
7. When game mix D2 is deployed in the gambling area on the main floor, at least two of the four Midi Baccarat games shall have no more than 7 boxes.
8. When game mix G2 is deployed in the gambling area on the main floor, the four Midi Baccarat games will be comprised of two games with no more than six boxes and two games with no more than eight boxes.
9. U-Spin devices approved by the Department of Internal Affairs may be used on any Roulette games.
10. When game mixes H2-L2 are deployed, up to 15 player terminals may be used interchangeably across Electronic Baccarat, Electronic Tai Sai and Electronic Roulette. This means that the terminals may be used on one of the electronic games, or on a combination of the three electronic games. The Roulette table attached to the Electronic Roulette game may also be used to accept manual wagers.