

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** to deploy new wagering options on the Roulette tables at the Auckland, Hamilton, Queenstown and Wharf casinos

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 6 January 2020

Date of Decision: 14 February 2020

Date of Notification
of Decision: 4 March 2020

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED
TO DEPLOY NEW WAGERING OPTIONS ON THE ROULETTE TABLES
AT THE AUCKLAND, HAMILTON, QUEENSTOWN AND WHARF CASINOS**

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission, pursuant to condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Auckland, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Queenstown casino, and condition 9 of its operator's licence for the Wharf casino, to deploy new wagering options on the Roulette tables at its four casinos. The new options are known as "Section Bet Roulette".

Licence conditions

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

SCML operator's licence (Auckland, Hamilton and Queenstown casinos)

10. The approval of the Commission is required prior to the use by the operator of any electronic version of the game types specified in condition 9 above or electronic aids or enhancements or changes to table game rules which create new wagering opportunities.

SCML operator's licence (Wharf casino)

9. The approval of the Commission is required prior to the use by the operator of any electronic version of the game types specified in condition 8 above or electronic aids or enhancements or changes to table game rules which create new wagering opportunities.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML submitted, in summary, that:
 - (a) In September 2019, the Secretary approved a variation to the Rules of Roulette which provides for optional additional wagers which may be made by players in accordance with those rules. The optional wagers are known as "Section Bet Roulette" and provide for wagers to be made on a defined set of numbers specified on the roulette layout, as set out in section 7 of the Roulette Rules and the appendices to those rules.
 - (b) Section Bet Roulette is a variation to other additional wagering options known as "Asian Racetrack" and "Racetrack", which the rules already provide for. As these additional wagering options may only be used in accordance with a specified layout set out in the appendices to the Rules (and the layouts only provide for one additional wagering option to be used at any one time), Section Bet Roulette could only be used in place of, rather than in conjunction with, Asian Racetrack, or Racetrack.
 - (c) In this sense there is no increase in casino gambling opportunities. One additional wagering option may be used in place of another and will have no bearing on the game's rate of play.

The Secretary's submissions

4. The Secretary submitted that he has no regulatory concerns with the deployment of Section Bet Roulette.

Analysis

5. SCML wants to deploy new wagering options on the Roulette tables at all four of its casinos. The new options are known as "Section Bet Roulette".
6. As the Commission has noted in previous decisions, approval of game rules is a matter for the Secretary (under section 367 of the Act), while the deployment of them is a matter for the Commission. This approach ensures that the Secretary can approve a game rule without having to be concerned about casino gambling opportunities as the Commission will consider this as part of an application to deploy the rule. This approach is enshrined in licence conditions.
7. As Section Bet Roulette was new to the Commission, its Executive Director attended a demonstration of its use on a Roulette table at a training room at the Auckland casino. The Executive Director relayed his findings to the Commission.

8. The Commission considered the information relayed to it by its Executive Director, together with the submissions made by SCML and the Secretary.
9. The Commission was satisfied that the introduction of Section Bet Roulette would not increase the speed of game play and that its introduction would not increase opportunities for casino gambling. In the Commission view, the effect of utilising the new wagering options would likely be a reduction in game speed which at least matched the additional opportunities to wager.

Decision of the Commission

10. The Commission approved SCML's application to deploy Section Bet Roulette on its Roulette tables at the Auckland, Hamilton, Queenstown and Wharf casinos, pursuant to condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Auckland casino, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Queenstown casino, and condition 9 of its operator's licence for the Wharf casino.

Right of appeal

11. 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.



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

4 March 2020

