

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

Date of Application: 6 March 2015

Date of Decision: 13 March 2015

Date of Notification
of Decision: 18 March 2015

**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, under condition 9 of its operator's licence for the Queenstown casino, for approval of a new game mix for the main gaming floor ("**MGF**").

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Queenstown)

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 has an international group of up to 60 people travelling to the Queenstown casino on 22 March 2015, and it wants to amend its game mixes to satisfy the group's requirements.

- (b) It seeks approval of a new game mix for the MGF, game mix D2. It wants to deploy four Midi Baccarat tables in this location, with two of these tables being limited to 7-boxes. A new footnote, footnote 7, can be added to the game mix Annex to recognise this.
- (c) The proposed game mix is the same as an existing approved game mix, B2, except that two Black Jack tables are replaced with two 7-Box Midi Baccarat tables. This means that the proposal has no impact on player spaces. While the rate of play on the Baccarat games may be higher, assuming that dealing style A is deployed, the overall rate of play will not increase opportunities for casino gambling beyond those presently offered by the casino's regulatory benchmark, game mix A.
- (d) Attached to its application is a table of data which sets out the player spaces and casino gambling opportunities associated with each game mix. Game mix H1 generates the most player spaces and opportunities for the Horizon Room, while proposed game mix D2 generates the most player spaces and opportunities for the MGF. When combined, these game mixes generate less player spaces and opportunities than the casino's benchmark game mix, game mix A, as follows:

Game mix	A	Combined D2 and H1
Player spaces	256	250
Overall opportunities	8,165	7,848

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary submitted that, in the round, the new game mix will not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

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 mixes A-D are as follows:

	A	B	C	D
Midi Baccarat (9 Box, Style A)	3	1	0	2
Black Jack (manual shuffle)	3	0	0	0
Black Jack (automatic shuffler)	2	2	2	2
Roulette	3	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1
Poker	0	6	7	5

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	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 three game mixes, A2-C2, and seeks approval for a fourth game mix, D2. These game mixes are as follows:

	A2	B2	C2	D2
Midi Baccarat (9 Box, Style A)	1	2	0	2
Midi Baccarat (7 Box, Style A)	0	0	0	2
Black Jack	3	3	3	1
Roulette	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1
Poker	1	0	2	0

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. In making this comparison, the Commission had regard to its previous comments regarding the limited utility of the kind of arithmetical data put forward, noting that it compares a proposal with the benchmark and forms an in the round view on whether the proposal will increase opportunities for casino gambling.
9. The Commission was satisfied, in the round, that no combination of game mixes from the MGF (including proposed game mix D2) and the Horizon Room would generate more opportunities for casino gambling than game mix A. In reaching this decision, the Commission noted that game mix A has a high proportion of games with a very rapid rate of play (Black Jack and Midi Baccarat with dealing Style A) and a low proportion of slow games, including no Poker tables. Although game mix D2 also has a high number of Midi Baccarat tables with dealing Style A, two of these tables are limited to seven, rather than nine boxes. In the round, the Commission was satisfied that game mix D2 would not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

Decision

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

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

18 March 2015



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
Midi Baccarat	1	2	0	4
Black Jack	3	3	3	1
Roulette	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1
Poker	1	0	2	1
Total	8	8	8	8



Notes

1. For game mix A, the Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Caribbean Stud Poker and Baccarat tables, and on no more than 50% of open Black Jack tables.
2. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate an automatic shuffler on one Caribbean Stud Poker table and on all Black Jack tables in the 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 dealing style B, as set out in the rules of Baccarat.
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 gaming floor, at least two of the four Midi Baccarat games shall have no more than 7 boxes.

