

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
for approval of new game mixes for
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: 24 June 2016

Date of Decision: 5 August 2016

Date of Notification of Decision: 12 August 2016

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW GAME MIXES FOR THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("SCML") applied to the Commission, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino, for approval of six new game mixes and two amended game mixes. All eight game mixes are for deployment on the Main Gaming Floor ("MGF") and include a new game, Snake Eyes.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Auckland)

9. The Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mix(es) specified by the Commission in Annex A attached to this Licence. As an alternative to Annex A, the Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mix(es) specified by the Commission in any additional annex approved by the Commission and attached to this Licence. The Licence Holder must give the Inspectorate prior notification before it commences operation under a different annex. The game types and game mixes specified in an annex can only be changed by the Commission.

SCML's submissions

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:

- (a) It currently has approved game mixes as set out in Annexes A and B attached to the operator's licence for the Auckland casino. It seeks approval to revise Annex B to include six new game mixes, AZ-BE, and to amend two existing game mixes AX and AY. All of these game mixes will be deployed on the MGF and will include a new game, Snake Eyes.
- (b) Snake Eyes was the subject of a trial on 22 June 2016 to determine its approximate rate of play. DIA Inspectors attended the trial. Sixteen rounds were completed over a 15 minute period (i.e. 64 rounds per hour), although the DIA noted that the actual rate of play is likely to be a lot less than this.
- (c) The game rules do not specify the maximum number of persons that may play Snake Eyes, but based on table size and the nature of the game, its view is that the maximum capacity would be 11 players. This maximum is supported by the DIA.
- (d) The new and amended game mixes are as follows:

Game mix	AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE
Money Wheel (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Money Wheel (single side)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tai Sai (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (single side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pai Gow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4
Midi Baccarat	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Poker	11	11	11	11	10	10	10	10
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/ Electronic Tai Sai	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Mini Baccarat	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Roulette	18	19	18	19	20	21	20	21
Black Jack (7 Box)	21	20	22	21	21	20	22	21
Black Jack (5 Box)	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	2
3 Card Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ultimate Texas Hold'em	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lunar Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Snake Eyes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103

- (e) Attached to its application are tables of data for each game mix deployed in each Gambling Area. The data confirm that the new game mixes will not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

The Secretary's submissions

4. The Secretary submitted that he has no regulatory concerns with this proposal.

Analysis

5. SCML is seeking Commission approval to deploy six new game mixes and two amended game mixes. These game mixes all include a game which is new to the Auckland casino, Snake Eyes.
6. In order to assist the Commission with its analysis, SCML provided data which suggest that Snake Eyes will generate approximately 64 rounds per hour with a maximum of 11 players.
7. The Commission appreciates this assistance but reiterates comments that it has made in numerous previous decisions; namely that it makes its game mix assessments on a common sense, in the round basis, rather than by calculating opportunities based upon tables of data. Such data is of limited value to the Commission as it is based upon a range of assumptions without factual basis. For example, SCML submitted that no more than 11 players could realistically play Snake Eyes, given the size of the table and the nature of the game. However, the game rules for Snake Eyes do not specify a maximum number of permitted players so an unlimited number of players could play the game at any one time. The involvement of a large number of players will have a consequential effect on the speed of the game, but this just serves to emphasise the flaws in the data.
8. When considering the current application, the Commission compared SCML's proposal against the approved benchmark which provides the most opportunities for casino gambling at the Auckland casino, game mix A. In doing so, the Commission identified the game mix for each Gambling Area at the Auckland casino which offers the most opportunities, combined them, and compared the combination with game mix A. The Commission was satisfied, in the round, that SCML's proposal offered fewer overall opportunities than game mix A when regard was had to the player spaces, including the number of games with unlimited player spaces (such as Snake Eyes), and the relative speed of the games included.


Decision

9. The Commission approved the amended Annex B under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino. Annex B 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.



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

12 August 2016



ANNEX B

GAME MIX A

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mix may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables, subject to the following conditions noted:

Black Jack/Pontoon (Manual Shuffle)	31 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (Auto Shuffle)	30 games
Caribbean Stud Poker (Auto Shuffle)	13 games
Midi Baccarat (Auto Shuffle)	23 games
Mini Baccarat (Auto Shuffle)	9 games
Money Wheel (Double Side)	3 games
Pai Gow	5 games
Roulette	31 games
Electronic Roulette	3 games
Tai Sai (double side)	1 game
Tai Sai (single side)	1 game

Notes for Game Mix A

1. The Electronic Roulette tables comprise up to 14 player spaces and no manual table.
2. Where table games provide for the use of automatic shufflers, the use of those shufflers shall be discretionary.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate alternative game mixes of up to 150 tables as specified in the Annex.

GAME MIX A.1

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mix may also be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables, subject to the following conditions noted:

Black Jack/Pontoon (Auto Shuffle)	3 games
Caribbean Stud Poker (Auto Shuffle)	2 games
Midi Baccarat (Auto Shuffle)	2 games
Mini Baccarat (Auto Shuffle)	2 games
Pai Gow	1 game
Roulette	1 game
Tai Sai (double side)	1 game

Notes for Game Mix A.1

1. Where table games provide for the use of automatic shufflers, the use of those shufflers shall be discretionary.
2. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate alternative game mixes of up to 12 tables as specified in the Annex.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to substitute each table in Game Mix A.1 for up to 20 Automated Table Game terminals.
4. The Licence Holder may not substitute tables between Game Mix A and Game Mix A.1.



ALTERNATIVE GAME MIXES (GAME MIX A)

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 gaming salon 82 to the south of the elevators on level 5, any one of the following two table game mixes:

	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1	I1	J1	K1	L1
Midi Baccarat	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black Jack	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Three Card Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

together with

In gaming salon 86 to the south of the elevators on level 5, any one of the following two table game mixes:

	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2	I2	J2	K2	L2
Midi Baccarat	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black Jack	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Three Card Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2



together with

In gaming salon 88 to the south of the elevators on level 5, any one of the following six table game mixes:

	A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3	G3	H3	I3	J3	K3	L3	M3	N3	O3	P3	Q3	R3	S3	T3	U3	V3	W3	X3
Midi Baccarat	6	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	2
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	2
Black Jack	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	2
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Card Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Total	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

In the gaming salon 81 to the north of the elevators on level 5, any one of the following four table game mixes:

	A4	B4	C4	D4	E4	F4	G4	H4	I4	J4	K4	L4	M4	N4	O4	P4	Q4	R4	S4	T4	U4	V4	W4	X4
Midi Baccarat	6	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	2
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	2	0	2	2
Black Jack	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	4	2	2	2	2
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Card Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Total	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

together with



Decision GC10-16

In the area designated as Eight to the north of the elevators on level 5, any one of the following 22 table game mixes:

	A5	B5	C5	D5	E5
Midi Baccarat (9 box)	10	10	10	10	10
Midi Baccarat (7 box)	4	4	4	3	4
Roulette	4	4	4	4	3
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/ Electronic Tai Sai	0	0	0	1	1
Black Jack (7 Box)	3	4	3	3	3
Pai Gow	1	0	0	1	1
Caribbean Stud Poker	0	0	1	0	0
Total	22	22	22	22	22

together with

In the gaming salon Grand Horizon 1 on level 7 of the Grand Hotel, any one of the following four table game mixes:

	A6	B6	C6	D6	E6	F6	G6	H6	I6	J6	K6	L6	M6	N6	O6	P6	Q6	R6	S6	T6
Midi Baccarat	4	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	0	0	0
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	2
Black Jack	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	2
Mini Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Card Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

together with



In the gaming salon Grand Horizon 2 on level 7 of the Grand Hotel, any one of the following three table game mixes:

	A7	B7	C7	D7	E7	F7	G7	H7	I7	J7	K7
Midi	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Baccarat	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	3	0
Roulette	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	0	0
Black Jack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

together with

In the gaming salon Grand Horizon 3 on level 7 of the Grand Hotel, any one of the following three table game mixes:

	A8	B8	C8	D8	E8	F8	G8	H8	I8	J8	K8	L8
Midi	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Baccarat	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Roulette	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Black Jack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baccarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Pai Gow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
3 Card	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Poker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2



In all Gambling Areas other than the four gaming salons and VIP area known as 'Eight' on level 5, and the three VIP gaming salons on level 7 of the Grand Hotel, any one of the following 103 table game mixes:

	A9	B9	C9	D9	E9	F9	G9	H9	I9	J9	K9
Money Wheel (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (single side)	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pai Gow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3
Midi Baccarat	14	14	14	16	14	14	16	16	16	14	14
Poker	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	11	11	13	17
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/Electronic Tai Sai	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mini Baccarat	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	8	8	8
Roulette	18	18	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	18	18
Black Jack (7 Box)	32	32	33	30	32	32	30	31	32	32	28
Black Jack (5 Box)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
3 Card Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ultimate Texas Hold'em	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lunar Poker	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Total	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103



	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
Money Wheel (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Money Wheel (single side)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tai Sai (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (single side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pai Gow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3
Midi Baccarat	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	20	20	22	22	22	22	22
Poker	13	13	13	13	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	17
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/Electronic Tai Sai	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mini Baccarat	6	4	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	6	4	6
Roulette	18	18	18	18	18	20	18	18	20	18	18	18	18	18
Black Jack (7 Box)	24	26	23	25	22	20	23	27	24	22	24	21	23	22
Black Jack (5 Box)	2	2	2	2	6	6	3	1	4	6	6	7	7	0
3 Card Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ultimate Texas Hold'em	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3
Lunar Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Total	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103



	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL
Money Wheel (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Money Wheel (single side)	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (single side)	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pai Gow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3
Midi Baccarat	22	22	22	22	22	20	20	22	22	22	22	22	22
Poker	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	12	12
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/Electronic Tai Sai	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mini Baccarat	4	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	4	6	4	6	4
Roulette	18	18	18	20	18	18	20	18	18	18	18	18	18
Black Jack (7 Box)	24	21	23	20	20	22	22	22	24	22	24	23	25
Black Jack (5 Box)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
3 Card Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ultimate Texas Hold'em	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3
Lunar Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103



Game mix	AM	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW	AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE
Money Wheel (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Money Wheel (single side)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tai Sai (double side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Sai (single side)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pai Gow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Midi Baccarat	22	22	22	23	24	22	22	22	23	24	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Poker	11	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	10	10	10	10
Electronic Roulette/Electronic Baccarat/Electronic Tai Sai	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Mini Baccarat	7	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Roulette	18	20	20	20	20	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	18	19	20	21	20	21
Black Jack (7 Box)	20	19	22	20	20	19	21	24	22	22	20	21	20	22	21	21	20	22	21
Black Jack (5 Box)	6	7	4	6	6	8	7	4	6	6	6	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	2
3 Card Poker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ultimate Texas Hold'em	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lunar Poker	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Snake Eyes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103

Notes for the alternative game mixes:

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to change game mixes subject to providing the Inspectorate with prior notification including notification of the electronic table type(s) associated with that game mix.
 2. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on each of the Black Jack, Caribbean Stud Poker, Baccarat, Poker, 3-Card Poker, Ultimate Texas Hold'em, Casino War and Lunar Poker tables.
 3. At least 50% of the total number of Midi Baccarat games shall be conducted in accordance with dealing style B, as set out in the rules of Baccarat.
 4. All Midi Baccarat games in salons 81, 82, 86 and 88 shall have 7 boxes only.
 5. Electronic Roulette, electronic Baccarat and electronic Tai Sai tables comprise up to 30 player tables and no manual table. The games may be used interchangeably.
- The number of player spaces at Poker tables (other than Caribbean Stud Poker and 3-Card Poker) may not exceed 10, even if game rules provide for more.

