

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by
CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED for approval to introduce a new wagering option on its Ultimate Texas Hold'em games

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 26 July 2022

Date of Decision: 9 September 2022

Date of Notification
of Decision: 15 September 2022

**DECISION ON
AN APPLICATION BY CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL TO INTRODUCE A NEW WAGERING OPTION ON
ITS ULTIMATE TEXAS HOLD'EM GAMES**

Application

1. Christchurch Casinos Limited ("**CCL**") applied to the Commission, under to condition 10 of its operator's licence, for approval to introduce a new wagering option on its Ultimate Texas Hold'em ("**UTH**") games – a progressive jackpot wager.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

CCL's venue licence

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.

Submissions by CCL

3. CCL submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) It wants to deploy a new wagering option, called a progressive jackpot, on its UTH tables.

- (b) The progressive jackpot is similar to the jackpot wager that it offers on its Caribbean Stud Poker tables.
- (c) The introduction of the new option will increase the wagering options available on the game of UTH, but it will decrease the speed of the game because of the time it will take for a dealer to process the bets made on the new option.

Submissions by the Secretary

- 4. The Secretary submitted that he had no regulatory concerns with CCL's application.

Analysis

- 5. CCL sought Commission approval to introduce a new wagering option onto its UTH games, pursuant to condition 10 of its operator's licence.
- 6. The Commission has previously considered applications to introduce new wagering options and whether doing so would increase opportunities for casino gambling in the casino in which it would be deployed – see decisions GC17/05, GC37/11, GC15/13, and GC20/18. In GC20/18, the Commission approved an application by SkyCity Auckland to introduce the same progressive jackpot wager as now sought by CCL.
- 7. On each of the above applications, a Commission representative attended a demonstration of the proposed new wagering option in operation prior to its approval. In relation to the current application, the Gambling Commission's Executive Director attended a demonstration of the progressive jackpot wagering option in practice at the Auckland Casino.
- 8. The Commission considered whether the introduction of the progressive jackpot wagering option onto the UTH games at the Christchurch Casino would increase opportunities for casino gambling. The Commission was satisfied that it would not. In the Commission's view, the effect of utilising the new option would likely be a reduction in game speed which at least matched the additional opportunity to wager. The Commission reached its decision by undertaking a common-sense, in the round, assessment.
- 9. The introduction of the progressive jackpot wager to CCL's UTH games raised no other issues of regulatory concern for the Commission or the Secretary.

Decision

- 10. The Commission approved, pursuant to condition 10 of CCL's operator's licence, the introduction of the progressive jackpot wager on the Ultimate Texas Hold'em games at the Christchurch 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.



Lisa Hansen
Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

15 September 2022

