

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
for approval of a new game mix
Annex for the Hamilton 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 Applications: 12 March 2015

Date of Decision: 10 April 2015

Date of Notification
of Decision: 16 April 2015

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

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, for approval of one new game mix.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Hamilton)

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, that:
 - (a) It currently has 18 approved game mixes and seeks approval for one new game mix, game mix 19.

- (b) Game mix 19 is the same as game mix 18 but includes one Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker table at the expense of a Black Jack table. Game mixes 18 and 19 are as follows:

	Game mix 18	Game mix 19
Black Jack	8	7
Roulette	4	4
Midi Baccarat (Style A)	3	3
Midi Baccarat (Style B)	3	3
Mini Baccarat (Style A)	0	0
Caribbean Stud Poker	2	2
Tai Sai (single-side)	0	0
Electronic Roulette (12 player)	1	1
Money Wheel (single-side)	1	1
3 Card poker	1	1
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker	0	1

- (c) Ultimate Texas Hold'em has fewer player spaces than Black Jack, and a slower rate of play.
- (d) The new game mix will not increase opportunities for casino gambling when compared to the benchmark game mix for the Hamilton casino, game mix 1, as follows:

Game Mix	Player Spaces	Overall gambling opportunities
1	464	14,165
19	445	11,827

The Secretary's submissions

4. The Secretary agreed that the new game mix would not increase opportunities for casino gambling, but noted that the Notes at the end of the proposed game mix Annex differ from those approved by the Commission in decision GC02/15. In reply, SCML submitted a revised Annex with amended Notes.

Analysis

5. SCML sought Commission approval to amend its game mix Annex to incorporate one new game mix, game mix 19.
6. While, in concept, the Commission's task in assessing applications of this nature is to compare the proposed new game mix with the currently approved game mix which offers the most casino gambling opportunities in order to decide, in the round, whether the proposal would increase opportunities for casino gambling above those already allowed but, in this case, the more practical approach was to compare proposed game mix 19 with the already approved game mix 18, in the light of the similarities between them. The

Commission had previously assessed game mix 18 as having fewer opportunities for casino gambling than the approved mix which allowed for the most opportunities, game mix 1.

- 7. The only difference between these game mixes is that game mix 19 includes one game of Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker, instead of one game of Black Jack. Ultimate Texas Hold'em has a very slow rate of play compared to Black Jack (which has a very fast rate of play) and is subject to game rules which allow fewer patrons to participate than for Black Jack. Accordingly, the Commission was satisfied that approving game mix 19 would not increase opportunities for casino gambling and that it was appropriate to approve it for deployment.

Decision of the Commission

- 8. The Commission approved the new game mix under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Hamilton casino. The new Annex A is **attached**.



Lisa Hansen
Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

16 April 2015



ANNEX A

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables in accordance with approved floor plans subject to the following conditions and requirements:

1. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 11 games
Roulette – up to 5 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Tai Sai (single sided) – up to 1 game
2. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 10 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Electronic Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game
3. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 12 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
4. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 10 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
5. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Electronic Roulette (up to 30 players) – up to 1 game
6. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 10 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Electronic Roulette (30 players) – up to 1 game



7. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 4 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
 Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 2 games
 Electronic Roulette (30 players) – up to 1 game

8. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 6 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 5 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 2 games
 Electronic Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game

9. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 5 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 5 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
 Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 2 games
 Electronic Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game

10. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 6 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 5 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 2 games
 Electronic Roulette (up to 30 players) – up to 1 game

11. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 5 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 5 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
 Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Money Wheel (single sided) – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 2 games
 Electronic Roulette (up to 30 players) – up to 1 game

12. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 7 games
 Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 1 game
 Roulette – up to 4 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
 3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
 Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game
 Rapid Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game



13. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 6 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 30 players) – up to 1 game
14. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game
15. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 7 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (restricted options) – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 5 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 30 players) – up to 1 game
16. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 22 players) – up to 1 game
17. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Lunar Poker – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 23 players) – up to 1 game
18. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 12 players) – up to 1 game



19. Black Jack/Pontoon – up to 7 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 6 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Rapid Roulette (up to 12 players) – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker – up to 1 game

Notes

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between game mixes 8 and 9, and 10 and 11 subject only to any requirements specified by way of Minimum Operating Standards. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between other approved table game mixes subject to providing the Inspectorate with prior notice.
2. For game mix 1, the Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Caribbean Stud Poker and Baccarat tables, and on no more than 50% of the Black Jack games specified.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Caribbean Stud Poker, Poker, Baccarat tables and Black Jack tables in all other game mixes.
4. The Licence Holder is permitted to conduct two alternative Poker games – Hold'em and Omaha.
5. Where Black Jack/Pontoon are subject to restricted wagering options, the Licence Holder shall permit up to 2 players only to wager on any 1 box and the layout shall be inscribed to this effect.
6. The Electronic Roulette table in game mixes 2-19 comprises up to the number of terminals specified in each game mix and no manual table.
7. At least 50% of the total number of Midi Baccarat games in game mixes 2-19 shall be conducted in accordance with dealing style B, as set out in the rules of Baccarat.

