

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)
R D Bell
D C Matahaere-Atariki
W N Harvey

Date of Application: 2 July 2015

Date of Decision: 7 August 2015

Date of Notification of Decision: 11 August 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 seeks approval of a new game mix for the MGF, game mix E2. Game mix E2 is as follows:

Midi Baccarat – Style A – 9-box	3
Black Jack (no shuffler restriction)	2
Roulette	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1
	8

- (b) Attached to its application is a table of data which sets out the player spaces and casino gambling opportunities associated with each game mix. It has combined the game mix from the MGF which generates the most player spaces and gambling opportunities, with the game mix from the Horizon Room which generates the most player spaces and gambling opportunities. This combined game mix will not increase opportunities for casino gambling beyond those presently offered by the regulatory benchmark, game mix A, as follows:

Game mix	A	Combined E2 and H1
Player spaces	256	256
Overall opportunities	8,165	7,887

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary submitted that, in the round, new game mix E2 will not increase opportunities for casino gambling, and he has no other regulatory concerns with the proposal.

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 (auto shuffler)	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 four game mixes, A2-D2, and seeks approval for a fifth game mix, E2. These game mixes are as follows:

	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2
Midi Baccarat (9 Box, Style A)	1	2	0	2	3
Midi Baccarat (7 Box, Style A)	0	0	0	2	0
Black Jack (auto shuffler)	3	3	3	1	2
Roulette	2	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1	1
Poker	1	0	2	0	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. The Commission was satisfied, in the round, that no combination of game mixes from the MGF (including proposed game mix E2) and the Horizon Room would generate more opportunities for casino gambling than game mix A. The Commission made this assessment on a common sense basis, in the round, rather than by calculating opportunities based upon tables of data or upon a formula.

Decision

9. 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

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

// August 2015  GAMBLING COMMISSION

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	E2
Midi Baccarat	1	2	0	4	3
Black Jack	3	3	3	1	2
Roulette	2	2	2	2	2
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1	1	1	1
Poker	1	0	2	1	0
Total	8	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.

