

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new game mix Annex for the Wharf 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 APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW GAME MIX ANNEX FOR THE WHARF CASINO

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casinos Management Limited ("SCML") applied to the Commission, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Wharf casino, for approval of three new game mixes, K, L and M.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML operator's licence – Wharf casino

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.

SCML's submissions

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) It has an approved game mix Annex for the Wharf casino which contains 10 game mixes, A-J. It seeks approval for three new game mixes; K, L and M. Game mixes K, L and M are as follows:

	Game mix K	Game mix L	Game mix M
Black Jack (automatic shuffler)	Up to 3 games	Up to 2 games	Up to 3 games
Roulette	Up to 2 games	Up to 2 games	Up to 2 games
Poker/Mid/ Baccarat	Up to 1 game	Up to 1 game	-
3 Card Poker	-	Up to 1 game	Up to 1 game

- (b) The proposed game mixes have fewer player spaces and opportunities than the regulatory benchmark, game mix A, as follows:

Game mix	Player spaces	Overall opportunities
A	126	4,226
K	123	3,624
L	109	2,994
M	112	2,898

The Secretary's submissions

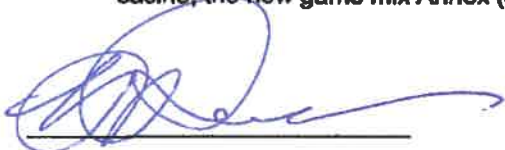
4. The Secretary submitted that, in the round, the proposed new game mixes will not increase opportunities for casino gambling, and he has no other regulatory concerns with the proposal

Analysis

5. SCML presently has 10 approved game mixes, and has sought approval to add a further three. The Commission's approach with applications of this nature is to compare the proposed game mixes with the approved game mix which provides the most opportunities for casino gambling and form a view, in the round, on whether the proposal will increase opportunities for casino gambling.
6. Game mix A is the approved game mix that provides the most opportunities for casino gambling at the Wharf casino. The Commission compared proposed game mixes K, L and M with game mix A and was satisfied that, in the round, they would not increase opportunities for casino gambling. 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 of the Commission

7. The Commission approved, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Wharf casino, the new game mix Annex (attached).



**Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner**

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

// August 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 conditions and requirements noted:

- A. Black Jack (manual) – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 1 game
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 2 games
- B. Black Jack (manual) – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 1 game
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Poker/Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game
- C. Poker – up to 4 games
Poker/Black Jack – up to 1 game
Poker/Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game
- D. Black Jack – up to 2 games
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 1 game
- E. Black Jack – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 1 game
- F. Black Jack – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
- G. Black Jack – up to 2 games
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
- H. Black Jack (manual) – up to 1 game
Black Jack – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 1 game
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Poker/Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game
- I. Black Jack – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Lunar Poker – up to 1 game
- J. Black Jack – up to 2 games
Black Jack/Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 2 games
Lunar Poker – up to 1 game
- K. Black Jack – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Poker/Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game



- L. Black Jack – up to 2 games
 Roulette – up to 2 games
 Poker/Midi Baccarat – up to 1 game
 3 Card Poker – up to 1 game

- M. Black Jack – up to 3 games
 Roulette – up to 2 games
 3 Card Poker – up to 1 game

Notes

- (a) The Licence Holder is permitted to change between game mixes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L and M subject to providing the Inspectorate with a minimum of five working days notice in writing of its intention to do so, unless a shorter notice period is agreed with the Inspectorate on a case-by-case basis.

- (b) The Licence Holder must comply with the notification and other requirements specified in the Casino's Minimum Operating Standards for Flip Top Tables when flipping tables.

- (c) The number of player spaces at the Midi Baccarat table may not exceed 18, with no more than two players per player wagering area (even if game rules provide for more spaces).

- (d) The Licence Holder is permitted to operate an automatic shuffler on the Caribbean Stud Poker table, Lunar Poker table and any Black Jack table, unless otherwise expressed above.

- (e) Where the Licence Holder has the option between two game types in any one mix, eg Black Jack/Mini Baccarat, the player spaces and opportunities have been calculated on the game with the highest rate of play and player spaces available.

