

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003


AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** to introduce a new type of card shoe at the Auckland casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: G L Reeves (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
P J Stanley
L M Hansen

Date of Application: 26 June 2011

Date of Decision: 15 July 2011

Date of Notification
of Decision:  July 2011

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED
TO INTRODUCE A NEW TYPE OF CARD SHOE AT THE AUCKLAND CASINO**

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission, under condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Auckland casino, for approval to deploy the Angel Eye Ex card shoe on its Baccarat tables.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Auckland)

10. The approval of the Commission is required prior to the introduction in to the Gambling Area of any electronic version of game type specified in condition 9 above or electronic aids or enhancements or changes to table game rules which create new wagering opportunities.

SCML's submissions

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) On 27 June 2011, the Secretary approved the Angel Eye Ex for use in New Zealand casinos as a Baccarat shoe. The Angel Eye Ex is an "intelligent" card shoe which reads cards as they are withdrawn from the shoe and displays the value of those cards to casino staff.



- (b) Baccarat games may be dealt using one of three dealing styles. Midi Baccarat games at SKYCITY Auckland are primarily dealt in dealing style B, meaning that the cards are handled by the players. Any game where players handle the cards creates a risk of cheating as there is potential for the cards to be switched with a hidden card or cards held by the players. While this risk is relatively small, the sum of money at stake may be significant, so knowing the cards that have been dealt by Angel Eye Ex effectively prevents players from illegally introducing “new” cards into play.
- (c) Angel Eye Ex also identifies when a third card is drawn in error from the shoe.
- (d) Commission approval under condition 10 is required prior to the introduction into the Gambling Area of any electronic aid or enhancement. This condition was put in place to enable the Commission to determine whether the introduction of the aid or enhancement might have the effect of increasing casino gambling opportunities, contrary to section 11 of the Gambling Act 2003.
- (e) The deployment of Angel Eye Ex will have no impact on the rate of play for Baccarat games and will not increase casino gambling opportunities. Angel Eye Ex does not facilitate a more rapid dealing; rather it records and displays the value of cards that are withdrawn from the shoe.
- (f) Intelligent card shoes are widely deployed in casinos internationally and are designed to enhance the integrity of games on which they are used. SCML has ordered a number of these units and is awaiting their arrival. It wants to deploy them as soon as possible.

The Secretary’s submissions

- 4. The Secretary had no regulatory concerns with Angel Eye Ex and submitted that it will not increase opportunities for casino gambling.

Analysis

- 5. Licence condition 10 was attached to SCML’s operator’s licence to allow the Commission to consider whether the introduction of an electronic aid or enhancement could increase opportunities for casino gambling. An increase in opportunities is prohibited by section 11 of the Act.
- 6. Angel Eye Ex will not increase opportunities as it does not increase the speed with which cards are dealt – it simply increases the integrity of Baccarat games by preventing

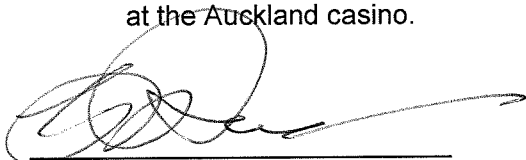


participants illegally introducing cards onto the table, or by notifying the dealer if too many cards have been dealt.

7. The introduction of Angel Eye Ex into the Auckland casino raises no other issues of regulatory concern.

Decision

8. The Commission approves, under condition 10 of SCML's operator's licence for the Auckland casino, the introduction of the Angel Eye Ex card shoe on to the Baccarat tables at the Auckland casino.



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

15th July 2011

