

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED** for approval of a temporary cashiering facility at the Auckland casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: G L Reeves (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
L M Hansen
W N Harvey
S C L Pearson

Date of Application: 1 July 2019

Date of Decision: 2 August 2019

Date of Notification
of Decision: 7 August 2019

DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY AUCKLAND LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF A TEMPORARY CASHIERING FACILITY AT THE AUCKLAND CASINO

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Auckland Limited ("**SCAL**") applied to the Commission for approval, under conditions 12 and 13 of SCAL's venue licence, of a temporary cashiering facility in the Poker Room at the Auckland casino.

Licence conditions

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

SCAL's venue licence

12. (i) The Licence Holder shall maintain at least one principal cashiering facility on each level of the gaming floor which is clearly visible to patrons. Each such cashiering facility shall as a minimum requirement include the following:
 - (a) accommodation for general cashiers;
 - (b) storage facilities for cashiering inventory;
 - (c) manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected directly to monitor rooms of the security and surveillance departments.
- (ii) The Licence Holder may provide accommodation for chip bank cashiers in the principal cashiering facility which shall be physically separate from general cashiers unless the Commission approves otherwise.
- (iii) Chips and plaques held in reserve and not used for active gaming shall be housed in a locked compartment within the chip bank.
13. The approval of the Commission is required for the construction and relocation of cashiering facilities additional to the principal facility in other parts of the Gambling Area or casino venue. Any such additional facilities must comply with the surveillance equipment requirements set out in the Surveillance Standard

and be fitted with manually triggered and automatic silent alarm systems connected to the surveillance department.

SCAL submissions

6. SCAL submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) In decision GC14/19, the Commission approved a number of construction and design changes to levels 5 and 6 of the Auckland casino. Work is expected to commence on level 5 (in the area known as "Eight") on 1 August 2019 and it wants to relocate, temporarily, a number of tables from that area to the vacant Poker Room on level 3. Relocating tables to this area will also mean establishing a temporary cashiering facility in it.
 - (b) Pursuant to condition 12 of the conditions attached to its venue licence, the Licence Holder shall maintain at least one principal cashiering facility on each level of the gaming floor which is clearly visible to patrons. There are two cashiering facilities on level 3; one in the Baccarat Room and the other in the Platinum Room. Neither facility would be visible to persons wagering in the Poker Room. Accordingly, it will need to construct a further cashiering facility in the Poker Room additional to the principal facility. Additional facilities are subject to the Commission's approval, pursuant to condition 13 of the casino venue licence.
 - (c) It seeks Commission approval for a temporary cashiering facility in the Poker Room. The new facility will comply with the Surveillance Standard and be fitted with alarms in accordance with the licence condition. It will house one cashier.

The Secretary's submissions

7. The Secretary submitted that he had no regulatory concerns with this proposal but noted that the changes will result in more patrons accessing level 3. The alleyway outside the Poker Room is not designated as Gambling Area so SCAL should ensure that underage patrons do not access the Poker Room.
8. In response, SCAL submitted that it will ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to prevent underage persons accessing the Poker Room. It also noted that it will provide plans for the new cashiering facility when it seeks approval of the construction and design changes.

Analysis

9. By decision GC14/19, the Commission approved an application by SKYCITY to relocate, temporarily, 21 gaming tables from the area known as "Eight" to the Poker Room on level 3, while construction and design changes take place on levels 5 and 6 at the Auckland casino.

10. Following on from that approval, SCAL now seeks approval of a temporary cashiering facility within the Poker room, to service the customers who play those 21 tables.
11. The creation of a temporary cashiering facility raised no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission, or the Secretary. Ideally, SCAL would have submitted plans for the new facility and sought Commission approval of construction and design changes at the same time as it sought approval for the new cashiering facility. That it did not do so is not problematic because the Commission will still need to consider an application for construction and design changes before the new facility can be built, but it will consider that separately from the current application. The Commission's preference with related applications is to view them together so that it can assess a proposal in its entirety.
12. Once the construction and design changes on levels 5 and 6 have been completed, the gaming tables temporarily relocated to the Poker Room will be restored to their original location. Once this takes place (scheduled to be before 1 May 2020), the approval for the temporary cashiering facility will expire.

Decision

13. The Commission approved, under conditions 12 and 13 of SCAL's venue licence, SCAL's application for approval of a temporary cashiering facility in the Poker Room on level 3 at the Auckland casino.
14. This approval will expire on 1 May 2020.

Right of appeal

15. 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

7 August 2019

