

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new game mix for the Queenstown casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 3 September 2012

Date of Decision: 12 October 2012

Date of Notification
of Decision: 12 October 2012

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

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Queenstown casino, for approval of a new game mix Annex with one new game mix – game mix M.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML 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 that:
 - (a) It currently has approval for 12 game mixes, A-L, and seeks approval for one new game mix – game mix M.
 - (b) It has assessed the impact of the new game mix on player spaces and overall rate of play. For those games where the maximum number of player positions is



not fixed by game rules, it has applied the same theoretical maximum that it has applied in previous applications.

- (a) Game mix M will not increase opportunities beyond game mix A, the regulatory benchmark for the Queenstown casino, as follows:

Game mix	A	M
Player spaces	256	256
Overall opportunities	8,165	6,836

The Secretary's submissions

4. The Secretary submitted that SCML's calculations suggest that the new game mix has fewer opportunities than the benchmark game mix. He noted, however, that the opportunities associated with game mix M could vary depending upon whether the automatic shufflers for Black Jack are allocated to the five-box tables or the seven-box tables. SCML's calculations for game mix M are based upon one automatic shuffler being used on a seven-box table, and one being used on a five-box table. However if SCML deployed automatic shufflers on two seven-box tables, the overall opportunities would increase, but would still be beneath the regulatory benchmark. In reply, SCML accepted the Secretary's submission and agreed that the increase would have no overall effect.

Analysis

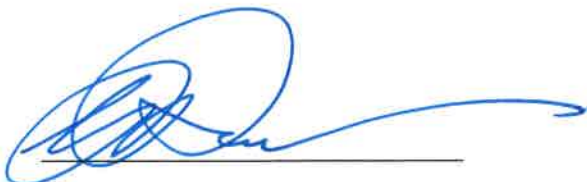
5. The Commission's approach when considering whether a proposal will increase opportunities for casino gambling is to compare what is proposed against the regulatory benchmark and form a view, in the round, on whether it will increase opportunities for casino gambling. The regulatory benchmark for the Queenstown casino is game mix A. A table comparing game mix A with proposed game mix M is as follows:

Game mix	A	M
Black Jack (7-box)	5	3
Black Jack (5-box)	0	1
Caribbean Stud Poker	1	1
Midi Baccarat – Style A – 9-box	3	2
Midi Baccarat – Style B – 9-box	0	2
Roulette	3	3

6. The Commission was satisfied that the proposed new game mix would not, in the round, increase opportunities for casino gambling compared with game mix A.
7. The Commission noted the submissions in relation to automatic shufflers, but agreed that the increase would not increase the opportunities for game mix M above those approved for game mix A.

Decision of the Commission

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



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

 October 2012



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 4 games
Roulette – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 1 game

Game Mix C

Black Jack – up to 4 games
Roulette – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games

Game Mix D

Black Jack – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 1 game
Tai Sai – up to 1 game

Game Mix E

Black Jack – up to 5 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 3 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 1 game

Game Mix F

Black Jack – up to 5 games
Roulette – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games

Game Mix G

Black Jack – up to 3 games
Roulette – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
Tai Sai – up to 1 game



Game Mix H

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 I

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 J

Black Jack – up to 3 games
 Roulette – up to 3 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 4 games
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Tai Sai – up to 1 game

Game Mix K

Black Jack – up to 4 games
 Roulette – up to 3 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
 Poker – up to 1 game
 Tai Sai – up to 1 game

Game Mix L

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

Game Mix M

Black Jack 7 box – up to 3 games
 Black Jack 5 box – up to 1 game
 Roulette – up to 3 games
 Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games Style B only
 Midi Baccarat – up to 2 games any style
 Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game

Notes

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between the game mixes specified subject to providing the Inspectorate with prior notice.
2. Any flip top tables forming part of a game mix must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Minimum Operating Standards.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on no more than 50% of open Black Jack games.
4. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate an automatic shuffler on one Caribbean Stud Poker game.

