

[DATE]

[ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME]

### **Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Casino Games – Three Card Poker**

The Secretary for Internal Affairs (the Secretary), subject to appropriate consultation, is able to make, amend or revoke rules under section 367 of the Gambling Act 2003 (the Act). This letter is to initiate consultation on three proposed amendments to the rules for casino games in respect of Three Card Poker. The first amendment is to further clarify the definition of Pairs Plus Wager. The second amendment relates to the ranking of hands, and the third amendment is the introduction of an alternative pay table relating to the “Pairs Plus Wager”. An amended version of the rules are enclosed for your convenience.

#### ***Amendment to the definition of “Pairs Plus Wager”***

The proposed amendment to the definition of “Pairs Plus Wager” in section 1.2 of the rules for Three Card Poker is to add the following phrase to the end of the current definition: *“otherwise this wager will be treated as a non-qualifying wager and taken as a losing bet”*. The applicant has stated that the additional words should further clarify the definition and the correct action to be taken. The full amended definition would read:

*“Pairs Plus Wager” means an optional wager made pursuant to subparagraph (a) of rule 5.1 which is paid if the player gets 1 pair or higher regardless of whether he or she beats the Dealer, otherwise this wager will be treated as a non-qualifying wager and taken as a losing bet”*

#### ***Amendment to section 4.3 – ranking of cards***

Regarding the amendment to the ranking of hands, it has been proposed that the ranking order of hands in section 4.3 is incorrect, and should be amended to match the payout odds of section 5.7. Section 4.3 currently reads:



### ***Introduction of alternate pay table for the Pairs Plus Wager***

An alternate pay table for the Pairs Plus Wager has been proposed. This would allow the payment odds in respect of straight to be either 6:1 or 5:1. The effect of this amendment would be to increase the house advantage. The alternate and current pay tables are set out below:

<b>PAIR PLUS WAGER PAYOUT ODDS</b>		
<b>Hand</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Pair	1 to 1	1 to 1
Flush	4 to 1	4 to 1
Straight	<b>6 to 1</b>	<b>5 to 1</b>
3 of a Kind	30 to 1	30 to 1
Straight Flush	40 to 1	40 to 1

These amendments will need to be assessed to ensure they do not derogate from any purposes of the Gambling Act. The purposes of the Gambling Act include:

- ensuring the integrity and fairness of games
- preventing and minimising the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling.

You are invited to make submissions by 8 November 2010

If the amendments are made, they will also be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Please address your submissions to:

Hilary Montgomery  
Policy Advisor, Operational Policy  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
PO Box 805  
Wellington 6140

Alternatively, please send your submissions or queries to:  
[hilary.montgomery@dia.govt.nz](mailto:hilary.montgomery@dia.govt.nz)

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Yours sincerely

Lee Patton  
Acting National Manager, Operational Policy  
Gambling Compliance Group