

NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Our ref: DF24/024924

Ms Isabel Garrido
Aristocrat Technologies Australia

17 January 2025

Dear Ms Garrido

Application No.	01-A2479 & 01-A2480
Applicant	Aristocrat Technologies Australia
Applications for	New gaming machine games
Application date	19 December 2023
Decision date	20 November 2024
Proposed new gaming machine games	Pelican Treasures & Pompeii Treasures
Legislation	Sections 3, 62A, 64, and 65 of the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i>

Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Applications for new gaming machine games: Pelican Treasures & Pompeii Treasures

We first considered these applications at the meeting of 17 July 2024 and, following consideration of further information, decided on 20 November 2024 to **refuse** the applications. In exercising our functions under Part 5 Division 2 of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* (the Act), we must have due regard to the gaming harm minimisation and related matters listed in section 62A of the Act and the overarching objects of the Act listed in section 3 of the Act. As we were concerned of the harm that may result if the applications were approved, we refused the applications in line with our legislative obligations, particularly the need for gambling harm minimisation.

Statement of reasons

We are concerned that the overall impact of approving the applications may be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community.

Pelican and Pompeii Treasures are typical spinning reel gaming machine games that apply prize multipliers to in-symbol/cash-on-reel prizes. The games utilise reel overlays to display prizes directly over the reels and coins in the reels to apply multipliers to the overlay prize values.

We consider that the use of multipliers to potentially award prizes that exceed the in-symbol prize limit increases the risk profile of the games. This could appeal to problematic gamblers and expose players to harmful gambling behaviours.

At our meeting on 17 July 2024, we were considering refusing the applications on the basis that it was not in the public interest to approve the games, having regard to requirements of section 62A(1) and the overarching statutory objects in section 3 of the Act.

On 1 August 2024, we issued a notice under section 65(1) of the Act, giving the applicant an opportunity to provide a written submission on why the applications should not be refused.

We considered the submission received from the applicant at our meeting on 20 November 2024.

The applicant submitted that limiting an in-symbol prize to \$2,500 is inconsistent with the Gaming Machine National Standards (GMNS) and ultimately unjustified. Further, the GMNS and the NSW Prohibited Features Register contain measures for minimising the potential for harm related to large prize values which allow for game designs that award prizes over \$2,500 (but remain within the \$10,000 limit) in various other ways and with relative frequency.

The applicant suggested that the \$10,000 limit on prizes is appropriate and there are no clear reasons why in-symbol prizes represent greater potential for harm to warrant a lower limit.

The applicant's submission did not satisfy us that the applications should not be refused. Due to the high prize features of the games which could expose players to harmful gambling behaviours, we were concerned that approving the applications would be inconsistent with the requirements of section 62A(1) and section 3 of the Act, particularly the requirement that we have due regard to the need for gambling harm minimisation. Accordingly, we proceeded with the proposed action in the notice and refused the applications.

The material we considered

We considered the following material when making our decision:

- the application material
- GMTF evaluation report for Aristocrat game 'Pelican Treasures'
- *Literature review of the impact of EGM characteristics on gambling harm (2019)* prepared by Schottler Consulting
- Gaming Technologies Association submission, dated 7 November 2024 (citing extract from applicant's response to the notice we issued on 1 August 2024 under section 65 of the Act)
- the applicant's submission dated 13 September 2024 (in response to the notice we issued on 1 August 2024 under section 65 of the Act).

This decision will be published on the ILGA website.

If you have any questions

Please contact the case manager, Daniel Hopper, at Liquor & Gaming NSW if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Honey', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Chris Honey

Deputy Chairperson

Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority