



**NEW SOUTH WALES
CASINO CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**MEDIA RELEASE
29 May 2003**

The Casino Control Authority Chairperson Mr Neville Allen today announced that the Authority had given its approval for National Mutual Trustees Limited to distribute to Leighton Holdings Limited certain interests in the management of Sydney Star City Casino held in trust for Leighton Properties Pty Limited. Before giving that approval, pursuant to section 35 of the Casino Control Act 1992, the Authority needed to be satisfied that each of Leighton Holdings, Leighton Properties and Messrs Wallace King and Vyril Vella were suitable persons to be associated with the management of the Sydney Star City casino.

The Authority is so satisfied after conducting an extensive examination during the past 18 months and having regard to all of the circumstances known to it. Those circumstances include the period of time which has elapsed since the events the subject of the 1994 inquiry referred to below and the fact that the Leighton companies under scrutiny and Messrs King and Vella, have shown themselves to be committed to appropriate standards of ethical behaviour. In reaching its conclusion the Authority has taken account of the findings of the Cole Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry and events both domestic and international.

The suitability of the Leighton companies and personnel was previously considered by the Authority following inquiries in 1994 and 1999.

In 1994, the Authority concluded that it could not be satisfied that Leighton Holdings, Leighton Properties and Messrs King and Vella were suitable persons to be associated with the management of the Sydney casino. This was because of the involvement of Messrs King and Vella in the payment of special fees, the payment and receipt of unsuccessful tenderers' fees and the practice of false invoicing exposed by the Gyles Royal Commission into Productivity in the Building Industry. Prior to the issue of the casino licence certain shares and the management interests referred to above were placed in trust. This resulted in the Leighton companies and personnel not being close associates of the casino licensee.

In 1999, a request that the Authority gives its approval for the distribution to Leighton Properties of the shares and management interests held in trust was unsuccessful.

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