



THE STAR

ASX AND MEDIA RELEASE

19 February 2024

COMMENCEMENT OF INQUIRY IN NSW

The Star Entertainment Group Limited (**The Star**) has today been advised by the NSW Independent Casino Commission (**NICC**) that the NICC has appointed Mr Adam Bell SC to preside over an inquiry under sections 143(1) and 143A of the *Casino Control Act 1992* (NSW) (**Inquiry**).

The NICC has informed The Star that the purpose of the Inquiry is to assist the NICC in forming a view as to what, if any, action the NICC should take in respect of The Star Sydney Pty Ltd (**The Star Sydney**) prior to the end of the manager's appointment on 30 June 2024.

The NICC has informed The Star that the Inquiry will investigate the suitability of The Star Sydney and its close associate, The Star, to be concerned in or associated with the management and operation of The Star Sydney casino. In conducting the Inquiry, Mr Bell SC will have the powers and authorities of a royal commissioner in NSW.

The Star has been advised that the NICC anticipates the Inquiry will take approximately 15 weeks (from 19 February 2024 to 31 May 2024) and will be held in-camera. The Star understands Mr Bell SC's findings are to be provided to the NICC by 31 May 2024.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry and the media release from the NICC are attached to this announcement.

Authorised by:

Board of Directors

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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NSW Independent Casino Commission

Inquiry Terms of Reference – The Star Pty Ltd

1. The suitability of The Star Pty Limited (**The Star**) and its close associate, The Star Entertainment Group Limited (**TSEG**) to be concerned in or associated with the management and operation of The Star Casino.
2. The inquiry will have regard to:
 - 2.1 the report and recommendations of the inquiry under the *Casino Control Act 1992* (NSW) by Adam Bell SC in 2022 into The Star and its close associates (the **Inquiry**), and
 - 2.2 the response of The Star and TSEG to the report and recommendations of the Inquiry.
3. The inquiry is to include consideration of:
 - 3.1 the culture of The Star and TSEG, including risk management culture;
 - 3.2 whether The Star has or is able to obtain financial resources that are both suitable and adequate for ensuring the financial viability of The Star Casino;
 - 3.3 The Star and TSEG's management and reporting lines;
 - 3.4 compliance by The Star with its internal control manuals numbered 3, 11 and 12.
4. Scope of the inquiry – the period following the date of the report of the Inquiry until the conclusion of this inquiry.

MEDIA RELEASE

SECOND STAR INQUIRY TO REVISIT BELL FINDINGS

The NSW Independent Casino Commission (NICC) has announced a second inquiry into The Star, to investigate the Sydney casino's suitability.

The NICC has appointed Adam Bell SC to conduct an inquiry, before the independent manager's term ends in June.

Chief Commissioner, Philip Crawford, said Mr Bell's 2022 report necessitated deep structural change that would address the casino's failings and prevent further misconduct.

"There was a substantial shift required and The Star has had 18 months to demonstrate that it has the capability and resources to regain its casino licence," Mr Crawford said.

When the manager was extended for the second time in December last year, the NICC was not satisfied The Star was progressing its remediation in a timely fashion.

"The NICC has had concerns about the extent that remediation is attributable to the manager's oversight and direction versus what is being driven by The Star's reform agenda."

"Bell Two will bring us back to the Bell Report and The Star's efforts to regain its casino licence in the shadow of that report."

Bell Two will run for approximately 15 weeks, from today, with the final report due to the NICC on 31 May 2024. Hearings will be held in camera and the report will be released publicly in due course.

"There is much at stake for The Star, so the NICC is giving the casino every chance it can to demonstrate whether it has the capacity and competence to achieve suitability," Mr Crawford said.

"This includes meeting its financial obligations under the casino licence and funding its remediation program sufficiently.

"The inquiry will provide the NICC with the information needed to make an important decision for The Star, its employees, its stakeholders and the wider community."

Further information, including the terms of reference, will be published to the [NICC website](#).

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