

# **LRQA Independent Assurance Statement**

Relating to Sands Corp Environmental, Social and Governance Report for Calendar Year 2023

This Assurance Statement has been prepared for Sands China Limited (SCL) in accordance with our contract but is intended for the readers of this Report.

## **Terms of Engagement**

LRQA was commissioned by Las Vegas Sands Corp (Sands) to provide independent assurance on its 2023 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report (the Report) related to SCL, a subsidiary of Sands, to a limited level of assurance and materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier using LRQA's verification procedure. LRQA's verification procedure is based on current best practice, is in accordance with ISAE 3000 and ISAE 3410 and uses the following principles of - inclusivity, materiality, responsiveness and reliability of performance data.

Our assurance engagement covered SCL operations in Macao and specifically the following requirements:

- Verifying conformance with:
  - HKEX Appendix 27 Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide;
  - o GRI 1 Foundation 2021 Reporting principles.
- Evaluating the accuracy and reliability of data and information contained in the Report.

Our assurance engagement excluded the data and information of suppliers, contractors and any third parties mentioned in the Report.

LRQA's responsibility is only to Sands. LRQA disclaims any liability or responsibility to others as explained in the end footnote. Sands' responsibility is for collecting, aggregating, analysing and presenting all the data and information within the Report and for maintaining effective internal controls over the systems from which the Report is derived. Ultimately, the Report has been approved by, and remains the responsibility of Sands.

LRQA's corresponding Environmental data Assurance Statement should be referred to in conjunction with this Assurance Statement.

## **LRQA's Opinion**

Based on LRQA's approach nothing has come to our attention that would cause us to believe that Sands China Limited has not, in all material respects:

- Met the requirements above;
- Disclosed accurate and reliable performance data and information as no errors or omissions were detected; and
- Covered all the issues that are important to the stakeholders and readers of this report.

The opinion expressed is formed on the basis of a limited level of assurance<sup>1</sup> and at the materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier.

#### LRQA's Approach

LRQA's assurance engagements are carried out in accordance with our verification procedure. The following tasks though were undertaken as part of the evidence gathering process for this assurance engagement:

- Assessing SCL's approach to stakeholder engagement to confirm that issues raised by stakeholders were captured
  correctly. We did this through interviews with senior management and a review of procedures and processes in place to
  manage stakeholder engagement;
- Reviewing SCL's process for identifying and determining material issues to confirm that the right issues were included in
  their Report. We did this by independently reviewing SCL's internal materiality process, benchmarking reports written by
  SCL and its peers to ensure that sector specific issues were included for comparability, referencing the HKEX ESG Reporting
  Guide and the GRI Universal Standard;

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<sup>1.</sup> The extent of evidence-gathering for a limited assurance engagement is less than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Limited assurance engagements focus on aggregated data rather than physically checking source data at sites. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.



- Auditing SCL's data management systems to confirm that there were no significant errors, omissions or mis-statements in the Report. We did this by:
  - sampling specific source and aggregated data points referenced in the Report;
  - speaking with key people responsible for compiling the data and drafting the Report;
  - reviewing LRQA Assurance 2023 of SCL ESG metrics of GHGs, energy, waste and water; and
  - reviewing Sands internal Audit Service Group (financial auditors) audit of the ESG report.
- Interviewing members of the management team, and various other roles within the company by virtual meetings.

#### **Observations**

Further observations and findings, made during the assurance engagement, are:

- Stakeholder inclusivity:
- We are not aware of any stakeholder groups that have been excluded from the stakeholder engagement process which
  began in 2011. The process has matured over time and includes formal internal and external engagements alternating each
  year. External stakeholder perspectives were evaluated in 2020 and 2021. A full materiality assessment was completed in
  2023, the double materiality assessment was inclusive of outward impacts, inward impacts and stakeholder relevance,
  informing the 2023 ESG and 2021-2025 SCL ESG Strategy.
- Materiality:
  - We are not aware of any material issues concerning SCL's sustainability performance that have been excluded from the Report. The Report covers a range of ESG performance. The published annual PDF report provides highlights of key accomplishments and initiatives. The addition of the Appendix includes environmental data spanning the last five years. SCL 2023 ESG is relevant to the context of the gaming/hotel industry and regions in which it operates.
- Responsiveness:
- SCL engages regularly with internal and external stakeholders. Sands considers input from stakeholders on an evergreen basis. Specific examples of an emerging issue included in the new commitment to source 100% cage free eggs by 2028.
- Reliability:
  - We believe that the criteria applied are appropriate and sufficient to produce consistent, unbiased, understandable content for the end user.

# LRQA's Standards, Competence and Independence

LRQA ensures the selection of appropriately qualified individuals based on their qualifications, training and experience. The outcome of all verification and certification assessments is then internally reviewed by senior management to ensure that the approach applied is rigorous and transparent.

The verification assessment along with GHG and environmental metric verification is the only work undertaken by LRQA for SCL and as such does not compromise our independence or impartiality.

Signed Dated: March 5, 2024

William Tsui LROA Lead Verifier

On behalf of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance, Inc. 1330 Enclave Pkwy, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 88077

LRQA reference: UQA00000516

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