

Otago Chamber of Commerce Submission on **ACC: Shape your Levy**

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INTRODUCTION

The Otago Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the ACC: **Shape your Levy**.

The business community generates the wealth on which our city and its residents depend. It is for this reason that we make this submission. The Otago Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to present this submission on behalf of the 1050 Otago businesses that are our members.

The businesses which we represent have a broad cross-section with regards to size, location and industry. Furthermore, they are representative of the region's wealth generators as well as being owned, managed and staffed by the region's core residents. Our members employ almost 50% of the 50,393 FTE's employed in Dunedin and we estimate our members contribute significantly more than half of Dunedin city's \$4.84 billion GDP. As such, the Chamber's members are large stakeholders in the economic, social and environmental future of the Otago Region.

HOW YOUR BUSINESS ACTIVITY SETS YOUR WORK LEVY

We believe there has been some good work undertaken in reclassifying certain industries, but there is considerable work to be done. There is no consideration for those who adopt best practice. Why not consider the businesses history of accidents and reward safe practice? Like the no claims bonus many insurance companies offer. We understand non-reporting may be an issue with such a scheme, but should not be an obstacle to implementation.

INJURY PREVENTION

We agree targeting injury prevention strategies and intervention/education in a supportive collaboration, will provide the best results. We do not believe punishment/penalties are the best means of reducing injury, rather an increased awareness and accessibility to the right training for individuals, families, communities and business is vital.

LOWER LEVIES, INCREASED STABILITY

We agree with capping large levy increases, but would like to see this at a lower rate than 15%. We would also support the reduction of only \$0.03 as a more fiscally prudent model to reduce future rises by front ending the future costs associated post 2018, while still retaining some benefits for business now. A more predictable smoother model to manage funding for business is preferable than a highly variable year on year change. We prefer a long term view on meeting the costs required rather than short term savings.

CONCLUSION

The Chamber submission is made in the positive spirit of developing a partnership with Central Government which supports and encourages business friendly innovation and growth for the benefit of all Otago residents.

