

Better for business in the south

Bringing together the OSEA and the OCC

Background information

The Otago Chamber of Commerce (OCC) was incorporated in 1861. It delivers local advocacy, education and training, events, networking, export document services and employment initiatives and manages the Regional Business Partner Network in the region.

The OCC leads the southern regional hub of the four chambers that make up the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (NZCC). Within Otago and Southland, the NZCC network also includes the Southland Chamber of Commerce, Queenstown Chamber of Commerce and Wanaka Chamber of Commerce. No changes to these existing relationships are expected as a result of this proposal.

The Otago Southland Employers' Association (OSEA) was founded in 1890. It provides employer advisory services, training programmes, events, legal, employment relations and health & safety advice and national-reaching advocacy through its membership of Business New Zealand (BusinessNZ).

The OSEA is a founding partner and shareholder in the BusinessNZ network, along with New Zealand's three other regional business associations: the EMA, Business Central and the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (the latter two being both employer associations and chambers).

BusinessNZ provides national advocacy at central government and gives OSEA access to policy experts in legal, employment relations, economics, energy, education and immigration areas. It also provides access to ExportNZ; Manufacturing NZ; the Energy Council; the Sustainable Business Council; and Buy New Zealand Made.

The OSEA has more than 1000 members across Otago and Southland which includes national members (large organisations which have membership across BusinessNZ's national network), and major companies group members.

The OCC has just under 1000 members across Otago.

Approximately a quarter of the total membership of both organisations belongs to both organisations.