



Submission



Otago Regional Council

2016/17 Annual Plan Consultation Document

The Otago Chamber of Commerce would like to speak to this submission

members | reputation | results

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INTRODUCTION

The Otago Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Otago Regional Council Draft Annual Plan 2016/17.

The business community generates the wealth on which our region 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 approximately 1000 Otago businesses that are our members.

The businesses that we represent are a broad cross-section of business demographics with regard to size, location and industry. Furthermore, these businesses are representative of the region's wealth generators as well as being owned, managed and staffed by the region's core residents. As such, the Chamber's members are large stakeholders in the economic, social and environmental future of the Otago Region.

The Chamber has submitted on and been involved in discussions on a number of issues relating to the Otago Regional Council, and we thank Council for your open dialogue with us.

SUBMISSION

An important role the Chamber plays is in the area of advocacy, as such we wish to focus our submission on the economic and business aspects and potential future budget allocations.

This includes looking at initiatives and funding that supports and encourages economic development, job creation and growth in local business increasing Gross Domestic Product and protecting our environmental resources.

The Chamber supports the \$100,000 funding from reserves to be allocated towards the development of a regional economic growth strategy. We believe that identifying and understanding the regional economic drivers and barriers will help regional economies to add value to businesses and the economy. Our regional centres have been buffered due to an increased diversity in recent years and a forward looking plan that looks to future proof and secure stability and growth for the regions is essential.

We also support the initiatives involving improving suburban water quality, creating and then implementing a Biodiversity Strategy, improving air quality and protecting environments from potential or future hazards. We also support the initiative to try and get more users of public transport systems.

We would also encourage and support work plans around potential district heating plans throughout the region and the ongoing current collaboration with community and regional stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

The Chamber submission is made in the positive spirit of developing a partnership with Council that supports and encourages business friendly innovation and growth for the benefit of all Otago residents. It is submitted on the bases that it provides feedback and the opportunity to further engage with the council on a number of issues.

We are committed to joining and working with the Council to achieve our shared objective of attracting and encouraging the development of business opportunities in the Otago Region.