



Submission



Clutha District 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 Clutha District 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 Chamber 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 Clutha District, and we thank Council for your open dialogue with us.

SUBMISSION

We acknowledge Council's input into a budget that has minimal rate rises and spending constraint as a core focus. We would also like to acknowledge the work that was done as part of last year's long term plan and the consultation and communication that has continued as part of the initiatives raised during that process in 2015.

The Chamber supports the region's economic development plan and the initiatives that have come out of that plan. We encourage the Council to continue on its quest to overcome some of the geographical issues it faces in particular around attracting employees and creating opportunities for future housing and accommodation. The focus the Council has of trying to support businesses, and the region, to attract employees is commendable. We also support the Council in its ongoing pursuit of trying to create new accommodation options to support such initiatives.

The Chamber supports the work that is being done on creating an integrated approach across the region to address these needs. The combined Balclutha and Milton Community Plans provide the region with a road map for future economic and employment solutions. We would be happy to continue to be part of the consultation and engagement across the region.

On the issue of dealing with dust, the Chamber supports the position of a voluntary targeted rate for semi-permanent seal on the roading.

On the issue of improving storm water drainage in the Taieri River Mouth, the Chamber supports the installation of a pumping station. We would encourage consultation and engagement with both the Dunedin City Council and the Otago Regional Council on this issue, so a fully integrated regional solution can also be considered.

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 Clutha 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 Clutha District.