

Wanaka Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 80
Wanaka

26 November 2013

Wanaka Community Board
Wanaka

Dear Board

PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTRE FOR QUEENSTOWN AND OTHER ISSUES

The Wanaka Chamber of Commerce has read with concern some of the statements that have been made in the media by various members of the Wanaka Community Board regarding opposition to the proposed convention centre in Queenstown, and Wanaka's relationship with the Queenstown Lakes District Council, and with Queenstown generally. The Chamber would like to express its' views to the Community Board, as the Chamber represents a large segment of the Wanaka business community.

The Chamber supports the proposed convention centre in principle. The Chamber considers the convention centre would bring considerable benefits to businesses in Wanaka, and therefore the community generally. At the present time, and in the near future, the main source of income for businesses and Wanaka generally is from tourism, and any increase in tourism to Queenstown generated by the convention centre will inevitably lead to increased tourist numbers coming to the Southern Lakes Region.

The Chamber is also concerned about comments made regarding the relationship of Wanaka on the one hand, and Queenstown and the Queenstown Lakes District Council on the other hand. The Chamber has for a number of years enjoyed good relationships with both the Queenstown Chamber of Commerce and with the Council, and does not share individual community board member's views that there is any division between the Wanaka community generally (and the business community specifically) and the Council or the Queenstown community.

A related concern is that the media has not made it clear that the views expressed by individual members of the community board are not necessarily the views of the community board as a whole. We request that individual board members make it clear when dealing with the media when comments expressed are their own personal views, and when they are the views of the Community Board as a whole.

Yours faithfully,



Alistair King
Chairman
Wanaka Chamber of Commerce

