



11 May 2018

To Universal Developments

Ignite Wanaka Chamber of Commerce supports the Wanaka business community and serves its membership by being their voice around the future opportunities as well as how we are going to deal with issues that we are facing.

The recurring issue from our recent membership survey is that the number one problem facing the Upper Clutha business community is the difficulty in obtaining and retaining staff due to the high cost of living here, and in particular the high cost of housing.

This is twofold. Firstly, businesses have identified a critical shortage of both long and short-term rentals. With a simple demand and supply imbalance the prices of what is available has risen significantly faster than wages. This situation has brought about major concern around whether our workforce is able to afford to stay and live a healthy life here in the Wanaka community. Secondly there is a critically limited opportunity for permanent staff to enter the housing market due to prices being unachievable and unrealistic. Our business community believes that moves towards solving this issue will be the key to helping them obtain and retain staff and therefore capability.

What we firmly believe is that we need to focus on improving the lives for our people, employers and employees. To do this we need to look for sustainable solutions and finding affordable housing so that our workforces can meet their basic human needs and our businesses can continue to operate successfully into the future.

As the Chamber we will support any development project with plans that fit into the affordable bracket, is aligned with excellent environmental practices and community values, and that is going to help solve the most significant issue our business community faces.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Legnavsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bridget Legnavsky

On behalf of Ignite Wanaka Chamber of Commerce