

15 October 2009

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CHAMBER BACKS CONVENTION CENTRE**

The Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce congratulates the Nelson City Council on its decision to proceed to consultation on plans for a purpose built Performing Arts and Convention Centre. In its submission on the recent LTCCPs the Chamber noted it had consistently supported a Performing Arts and Convention Centre and identified investment in a Convention Centre in particular as a key priority.

“A purpose built convention centre is a must for our region” said Dot Kettle, Chief Executive of the Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chamber strongly supports Council investment in the development of a Convention Centre. Having a Convention Centre will bring economic benefits to the region and it is a vital piece of infrastructure that needs completion as a priority if as a region we are to attract and retain an adequate share of the profitable conference market”.

“Conference delegates are the highest per day spenders of all visitors, spending an average of \$400 a day and usually in the off-season. Nelson is ideally placed to secure a share of that conference market due to our excellent winter weather, fantastic airport and great attractions for delegates partners. The lack of a purpose built convention centre means our region is missing out on that potential. Chamber members are well aware of conferences and events that our region misses out on because we do not have a suitable Convention Centre.

“The Chamber looks forward to seeing the detail of any proposal and to engaging with Council on the development” said Dot Kettle.

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