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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber disappointed at government lack of progress on R&D incentives

The Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce today called on the government to focus on changes to the tax scheme that will deliver real benefit for businesses. Dot Kettle, Chief Executive said today “Businesses are the wealth creators and critical to New Zealand’s economic recovery. The consistent call has been for better incentives for investment in R&D. The Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce urges the government to focus on delivering those incentives rather than wasting time and resources on reviews that deliver unpalatable and unworkable pie in the sky recommendations.”

“The Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce is disappointed at the lack of progress on delivering R&D incentives. In its submission to the Government Jobs Summit in February 2009 the Chamber identified this as the second highest economic priority but little progress has been made” Dot Kettle said.

“Chamber members recognise the need for more research and development. Our region, and New Zealanders in general, are great at good ideas and we need the support to turn those into commercial realities. Investment in research and research commercialization will also help lift productivity which leads to job creation.

“The Chamber repeats its call for R&D tax breaks and believes a significant investment in the funding available for R&D would be of huge benefit to our region”.

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