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NGĀI TAHU TOURISM

WAKATIPU

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Convention Centre

Convention Centre Comments

Ngāi Tahu Tourism Ltd submission to QLDC 10 year plan Re: The proposed rating model for the Queenstown Convention Centre Ngāi Tahu Tourism support the building of an international standard convention centre at the Lakeview site in downtown Queenstown. This support is based on the understanding that the economic benefits to the community will be as outlined in the economic impact reports by CBRE (July, 2013) and Insight Economics (Nov, 2014). This support for the current proposed rating model is given on the basis that the council's contribution is permanently capped at \$32.5m and that Council will actively investigate all alternative methods of funding before 2018 and advise on the progress of these funding methods. Ngāi Tahu Tourism understand that there will be at least three Annual Plan and one 10 Year Plan processes before any rating model will be implemented and therefore the opportunity to make further submissions on this issue will be available. Ngāi Tahu Tourism believe the opportunity to construct and operate a Convention Centre in the central city site at Lakeview is a compelling proposal that will have long term social and economic benefits for commercial and residential ratepayers and residents of the Queenstown Lakes District. The seasonality issues that Queenstown has faced throughout its entire tourism history, will be mitigated by the establishment of a world class facility, which will have many downstream benefits including better security of employment for residents and increased visitor yield. Ngāi Tahu Tourism knows from its extensive tourism experience throughout New Zealand, that conference organisers' primary concern in the consideration stage of destination selection are logistical elements that relate to the running of the conference e.g. availability and proximity of a range of accommodation, proximity of subsidiary venues, coach transfer cost and coach transfer time. The proposed premier location in central Queenstown is vital to the success of such a strategic community asset. Ngāi Tahu Tourism encourage the QLDC to seek alternative funding options in order to reduce the burden on ratepayers.