

1 Convention Centre

Do you support the revised rating model for the proposed convention centre?

Yes

Convention Centre Comments

I am the President of the Physiological Society of New Zealand (PSNZ: <http://www.physoc.org.nz/>). PSNZ holds its annual meeting at Queenstown Research Week (QRW: <http://www.queenstownresearchweek.org/>), which brings several hundred visitors to Queenstown each year. With other stakeholders, PSNZ are continually working to expand QRW but the current facilities in Queenstown have reached capacity. Without the convention centre, it is likely that QRW will have to relocate to Auckland or (when the rebuild is complete) Christchurch. I am also organising a small international conference in Queenstown in 2015 (<http://wcnh.otago.ac.nz/>), which will bring 100-150 high-value international visitors to the region. Without the convention centre, we will not be able to compete to host large international conferences, such as the International union of Physiological Sciences (<http://www.iups.org/>) which was held in Christchurch in 2001 or the International Congress on Neuroendocrinology (<http://www.neuroendocrinology2014.org/>) which was held in Sydney in 2014. There is a window of opportunity for Queenstown to establish itself as the New Zealand Convention Centre before the Christchurch rebuild is completed. My international friends and colleagues want to experience New Zealand. Queenstown is everyone's vision of New Zealand. They do not want to travel half way around the world to spend their time in another characterless big city, or in an industrial estate near a beautiful venue; they want to be in Queenstown but we can only bring them here if the convention centre is built. While I am not a QLDC ratepayer, it appears to me that it is fair that the largest burden of rates increase should fall on commercial and accommodation providers in the CBD, who are most likely to benefit directly from the convention centre.