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UNICHEM WILKINSONS PHARMACY

WAKATIPU

1 Convention Centre

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

Yes

Convention Centre Comments

We believe the revised rating model is an improvement as it reduces the overall rates for the general ratepayer. However we also support Council pursuing alternative funding options in order to reduce the burden on both general and commercial ratepayers. As a business we believe there are many benefits for Queenstown in having a convention centre built at the Lakeview site: 1) Diversification of reasons to visit Queenstown. At the moment Queenstown is very reliant on tourism. A conference centre can attract visitors from within NZ and across from Australia even if there is a crisis in air travel/global tourism through health scares, terrorism or other crises. 2) Attracting a different type of visitor. Conference goers are generally in the 30-65 age bracket. This age group can help balance the many young people who come to Queenstown and can help to alter the activity/party image that Queenstown currently has. 3) There is a large demand for a convention centre in downtown Queenstown. This comes from conference organisers, companies wishing to hold conferences in Queenstown and individuals of course wishing they could come to Queenstown for conferences. Our own pharmacy organisation Green Cross Health who oversee the marketing of over 300 Unichem and Life pharmacies would love to hold conferences in Queenstown but at the moment we do not have anywhere large enough to accommodate our group. 4) The Lakeview site is probably the last site in central Queenstown where a conference centre can be built and where conference goers can both walk to their accommodation and walk to a host of activities, retail and restaurant options. While other developments have occurred in Frankton (Queenstown Events Centre and Alpine Aqualand) and which are generally used by locals, a conference centre in central Queenstown has synergies which provide us with an opportunity that should not be missed. It will also help to keep any increase in traffic numbers to a minimum as it will reduce the need to transport conference goers to and from a conference centre outside of central Queenstown.

3 Transport Planning

3A. Is the Council taking the right approach to address congestion issues in central Queenstown by planning to reduce future traffic movements by 20 percent?

Yes

3A. Transport Planning Comments

Yes - we support this strategy through developing a world class public transport system, improving walkways and improving cycleways to the periphery of the town centre. We do not support developing cycleways through the town centre if it involves the removal of "on street" car parks. We believe developing cycleways to the periphery of the town centre only but providing options to park bicycles throughout the town centre will help to encourage commuters in particular to leave their cars at home. While a 20% reduction in traffic movements into central Queenstown is targeted we believe that with the current increase in visitor numbers Queenstown is experiencing this target may be difficult to achieve. We believe there should be a backup plan to bring the Inner Links bypass project forward should traffic numbers deem it necessary. As a business we would also like to make it quite clear that the traffic congestion issues in central Queenstown are not brought about by traffic coming into the inner streets of the CBD. Traffic studies done by Council show that only 20-25% of traffic comes into the inner streets of the CBD while 75-80% of traffic is going around the CBD via Stanley and Shotover Streets. The inner streets of the CBD are not busy, are generally pedestrian friendly and traffic only comes to a standstill when vehicles are trying to access Stanley and Shotover Streets. This congestion could be alleviated if Hotops Rise (currently a "paper road") was opened up (as an "Exit Only" road) and a roundabout was introduced at the Copthorne/Millennium hotel intersection.

3B. Should Council increase parking charges and use any additional parking revenue to make public transport more affordable?

Yes

3B. Transport Parking Comments

Parking charges should be increased for all day parking in the town centre where currently the fees are extraordinarily low. However some of these all day car parks should be changed to “4 hour maximum” parking to give visitors a greater chance of accessing a car park. All day car parking should be encouraged to move to the Man Street car park. All permanently leased car parks in the Church Street car park should be terminated and encouraged to lease car parks in the Man Street car park - or preferably switch to public transport. Our business also employs staff who will not have access to convenient public transport and who will not choose to pay \$30 per week to park their car. We recognise that there must also be reasonably close and safe car parks for these people to access. Some of our staff work through until 10pm in the evening.