

Christchurch Casino Venue Licence Submission

Submitted by: New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club Inc. (Addington)

Addington is very supportive of the renewal of the venue licence for the Christchurch Casino. Both organisations operate in a city that remains in recovery mode post the 2010-11 earthquakes and is in desperate need of high quality entertainment options for locals and visitors to our city.

- To be a city that tourists want to visit and stay in, we must provide a wide variety of entertainment options that suit a range of ages. The Casino stands out as a key tourism destination that provides a modern and safe environment for all visitors.
- In our view the Christchurch Casino is a best-practice operator in terms of host responsibility and an exemplar to the hospitality industry in Christchurch. They set very high standards in this area and invest in training their people to ensure a consistent approach is applied.
- The Christchurch Casino is a caring employer, providing opportunities for many young people. These people are well looked after and trained to high standards. This sets them up well for future career prospects, whether that is in the hospitality industry or elsewhere.
- We share a common interest as entertainment venues that include the opportunity to for people to gamble. The Casino take their obligations around responsible gambling very seriously and they provide a safe, and very well monitored environment for those who choose to participate.
- We are aware that the Casino sponsors many charitable organisations in Christchurch and support events such as the lantern festival that are so important in bringing people back into the city centre. It is notable that this support runs across a wide variety of local organisations; much of this support goes under the radar and generates little, or no publicity, but is very beneficial for those organisations and for the wider community.
- At Addington, we are fortunate to have ongoing support from the Christchurch Casino as the sponsor of the New Zealand Trotting Cup, Australasia's leading harness race. This race is the feature of New Zealand Cup Day when we attract 23,000 people to the racecourse. This is now an iconic day in the Canterbury social calendar as part of NZ Cup & Show week, which attracts many visitors to our city and pumps close to \$30m into the local economy.

I would like to attend the public hearing.

Peter Jensen

Chief Executive – New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club

03 August 2018