



7 August 2018

The Gambling Commission  
Level 1  
41 Bath Street  
Parnell  
**AUCKLAND**

**Email: [info@gamblingcom.govt.nz](mailto:info@gamblingcom.govt.nz)**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission on application by Christchurch Casinos Limited for Renewal of Casino Venue Licence under section 134 of the Gambling Act 2003**

The Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) is writing in support of the application by Christchurch Casinos Limited for the renewal of its Casino Venue Licence.

The Chamber is a not-for-profit membership-based service organisation that has been the home and voice of business in the Canterbury region since 1859. Comprised of over 2900 members representing over 60,000 employees, The Chamber actively provides advisory and consultancy support in employment relations, human resources and health and safety, and training and development in many areas including employment relations.

The Chamber has had a long-standing relationship with Christchurch Casino, who are an active member and supporter of The Chamber. We are also close neighbours, with The Chamber located approximately 50 metres from the Casino on Kilmore Street.

Christchurch Casino is an important part of the Canterbury economy. The Casino Impact Report, submitted as part of the Casino's application for licence renewal, identifies a net economic contribution of 104 full-time equivalent jobs and \$26 million to the Canterbury region. The negative impact on the region should the licence not be renewed are therefore significant; Real Gross Disposable Income would decrease on a national level by in excess of \$70 million.

The financial impact only tells part of the story however. Christchurch Casino is a vital part of the community, supporting numerous organisations, including community groups, charities, sports clubs and schools. The Casino worked hard to reopen as quickly as possible after the series of earthquakes in Christchurch in 2010-11 and offered wide support to organisations struggling at that time. They play a strong role in the overall regeneration of the central city by being an important component of Christchurch's visitor infrastructure, which still faces some challenges attracting visitors into the central city in the post-earthquake environment. The Casino is also widely acknowledged as an excellent employer, with a genuine focus on employee well-being.



Christchurch Casino also has a strong compliance record, and we note the report from the Department of Internal Affairs expressing their satisfaction with the Casino's record, and their view there is nothing of concern that should be brought to the Gambling Commission's attention.

As neighbours of the Christchurch Casino, we can also comment on their impact in the local area. We are pleased to report that they are exemplary neighbours, who play a positive part in the local Victoria Street area and we have had no issues whatsoever around our premises associated with the Casino.

The Christchurch Casino is an important part of the Canterbury economy, both from a financial and employment perspective and from a community support angle. It is the strong view of The Chamber that the impact on Canterbury should the Casino's licence renewal application not be granted would be significant and negative. We therefore wish to express our support for the renewal of Christchurch Casinos Limited's Casino Venue Licence.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leeann Watson".

**Leeann Watson**  
CEO

Two lines of contact information (likely phone and email) that have been redacted with black bars.