



Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce

Submission

Indoor Community Sports Centre

October 2008

Introduction

The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce has membership of 1,200 businesses in Wellington city and represents a regional hub of Chambers of Commerce with a further 4,500 businesses as members. While most of our members are in the SME category we also have as members 15 of the largest 20 companies in New Zealand. A large number of government departments and local government agencies/entities are also members of our chamber. The Chamber promotes policies that reflect the interests of the region's business community and the development of the Wellington economy.

Submission

Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce supports the construction of an indoor community sports centre.

A modern sports facility is critically important to the development of the Wellington economy and the attractiveness of the city as a place to live. It is also a major project funded by Wellington rate-payers of which the business community bears a significant proportion. Consequently this issue is of great importance to the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Our strong preference was for the sports centre to be built at the Harbour Quays site near Westpac Stadium but we have to accept the reasons given by the Council that this option was too expensive.

If new information were to come to light and the issue revisited, we would want to review our position. However, given that the Harbour Quays site is not an option at this point, we support the resource consent application for the Cobham Park site.

Wellington needs a modern indoor sports facility of the scale and type proposed. It is an important feature for the diverse go-ahead, sports-loving city that Wellington is.

The Indoor Community Sports Centre would provide benefits to the community as a whole, not just those who use it. The economic benefits of the project include the following:

- It would help attract national and international sports events to Wellington which would bring significant benefits by way of increased visitor numbers and a higher profile for Wellington.
- It would bring visiting teams and their supporters to the city providing an economic benefit in the form of increased visitor numbers.
- It would increase the attractiveness of Wellington as a place to live which would help underpin its population growth thus increasing the labour pool and customer base for businesses.
- It would improve the fitness of Wellingtonians with all of the health and wellbeing benefits that brings, including workplace productivity gains.
- Its construction would provide a timely boost to the construction sector as that sector undergoes an economic slowdown.

The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce would support the construction of the sports centre being funded through debt. Users of the sports centre and ratepayers generally should fund the repayment of the borrowings over the life of the asset. We would like to be involved further in discussions on this.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. We would like to be heard in support of it.