

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 27 October 2022 at 4.00pm  
57 Kilmore Street, Christchurch



## 1 Welcome to Guests

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, from Paul Deavoll, Chamber President to distinguished guests, Chamber life members, fellow Board members, 2022 Board candidates, Chamber staff and most importantly our members.

Chamber Life Members Peter Townsend and Allan Williams were welcomed.

The Chamber's long-standing Principal Partner Westpac and Major Partners Orion and Enable were acknowledged along with local Ford dealers Avon City Ford and Team Hutchinson Ford for supporting us with the AGM.

## 2 Apologies

15 apologies were received for the AGM and are appended to the minutes.

## 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

The minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on 21 October 2021, having been made available to the members present, were taken as read and signed as a true and correct record.

Moved: **Peter Townsend**  
Seconded: **Allan Williams**  
**Carried**

There were no matters arising.

## 4 President Comments – Paul Deavoll

- Over the past year, we have seen a monumental shift in the way we do business in Canterbury, from widespread disruption and uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions and their many iterations, to where we are today, where most restrictions are gone, and our borders are open once again. The first cruise ship in three years returned to Lyttleton just last week, as the economy starts to gear back up to speed.
- The previous year has reinforced the resilience and adaptability of Canterbury businesses. Our regional economy has held in good stead and consistently outperformed other regions in terms of economic performance. Although many measures of business activity have improved, the economy will likely remain subdued for the year ahead which poses continued challenges for our business community.
- The Chamber has continued its pivotal role supporting Canterbury businesses, and remains focused on preparing businesses for the future challenges that lay ahead - Labour market constraints, supply chain disruptions, and legislation such as Fair Pay Agreements, to name a few.
- We are proud of the role that the Chamber has played to ensure that the business community has remained informed in an environment that has consistently changed. When businesses needed help, we were there. The Chambers' COVID-19 Business Helpline had over 12,000 interactions with businesses, guiding them through unique challenges, providing clear explanations on what rules and regulations applied to which settings, and help navigate options to access financial support.
- The Chamber also played a significant role in ensuring that decision-makers, both central and local, considered the consequences of their actions on the business community. We advocated for rational policies which facilitate an environment that supports business growth. We were instrumental in shaping the financial support that was made available, pushing for the border to reopen, access to vaccines, their rollout, and the continued changes to immigration settings.
- We also raised the voice of Canterbury business in opposition to potentially damaging policies such as Fair Pay Agreements and the NZ Income Insurance Scheme. We pushed for clarity around policies which at times were confusing or ill-considered regarding the business community – such as the introduction of a minimum wage increase with just seven weeks' notice.
- Locally, The Chamber pushed heavily for the decision to be made to progress with Te Kaha, the Multi-Use Arena which will be a fantastic asset for our region. Hospitality businesses will be pleased with the revenue.

- The Chamber remains in a strong financial position. We are investing heavily in the future to ensure that our business services will continue to be delivered at the highest possible standard. We are transforming and adapting to better respond to our members' needs both now, in this period of rapid change, and, well into the future.
- The President acknowledged the work that Leeann Watson, the Chief Executive of The Chamber, had progressed throughout the year. Not only reinforcing The Chamber as the leading business support agency in Canterbury, but also to ensure that the needs of Canterbury and our business community are considered by the Government. We are the second largest city in New Zealand, after all.
- Leeann and The Chamber team have worked tirelessly to create a connected and thriving business community.
- The President acknowledged and thanked Craig Latimer, Jo Pennycuick, and Matthew Mark who have stepped down from their roles on the Board, and acknowledged the continuing Board members who volunteer their time and expertise.
- Finally, thanks to all our members who choose to be a part of The Chamber. Together, we are helping to create and maintain a thriving business environment in Canterbury.

## 5 Adoption of Annual Report and Financial Statements

The motion to adopt the 2021/22 annual report and statement of accounts was carried without dissent.

Moved: **Andrew Dallison**  
 Seconded: **John Vale**  
 Carried

## 6 Appointment of the Auditors

The President thanked BDO for the 2021/22 audit.

The motion for the appointment of the auditors to be delegated to the incoming 2022/23 Board was carried without dissent.

Moved: **Benjamin Badger**  
 Seconded: **Peter Townsend**  
 Carried

## 7 Chief Executive Comments – Leeann Watson

Key comments from Leeann's update included:

- Thanks for joining us at this busy time. The AGM provides us with an opportunity to share with members some reflections on our achievements over the past 12 months, and to outline what to expect to see in the coming year.
- The last 12 months have been challenging for Canterbury businesses with both ongoing lingering challenges as a result of COVID impact and restrictions.
- Through it all, The Chamber has continued to deliver our services and facilitate successful outcomes for our members, helping them navigate the changing business landscape.
- We are very proud of the work we have done, including our advocacy, which has never been more important, to ensure that our members, and our community, can remain buoyant.
- Throughout the turbulence and uncertainty, we have helped businesses stay afloat, and continue to adapt to the circumstances they find themselves in.
- We know that through our Quarterly Canterbury Business Survey – that not many businesses are feeling optimistic about the year ahead, which remains a challenging position to be in.
- Our economy continues to do well compared to the other major cities in New Zealand and comparable cities abroad.
- Regional economic activity has gone up, not down.
- There remains continuing challenges – the usual suspects like inflation on-going labour market constraints, and other issues such as consumer confidence and some potentially damaging legislation on the horizon.
- Fair Pay Agreements was passed last night, and The Chamber remains firmly focused on delivering as much support and resources to our members as possible to respond to any agreements that are put in place.
- We must not lose sight of just how far we have come throughout the last twelve months. The Chamber has not been immune to the challenges that many of you have also been facing. It has been a period of change for us as well, and we have navigated these challenges whilst also helping our members navigate their own.
- We continue to invest in refining the way in which we operate, the services we provide and how you can engage and connect to those services, to better respond to your needs. The world is changing, business is changing, and we must change too. One of the areas that we have focused on throughout the last year is advocacy.

- We have seen an increase in legislation and regulations from both central and local government, most of which has not been welcomed by many of the business community.
- We have continued to advocate on a wide range of issues such as labour market shortages, supply chain constraints, immigration settings, opposing fair pay agreements and the NZ Income Insurance Scheme and improving access to capital to enable an environment for our members to grow, and for our members to thrive.
- We have also set forth very clear expectations for the next term of local government to ensure that the right levers are pulled to facilitate economic growth, whilst also futureproofing and repositioning our city, and removing the barriers and red tape for business.
- We have been able to effectively leverage our role as one of the founding members of the BusinessNZ Network to use the full strength of our advocacy group throughout New Zealand.
- Due to our strong voice, politicians and industry leaders chose The Chamber as a platform to engage with the business community which was reflected in our hosting and engagement over the 12 months with Grant Robertson, Adrian Orr, Stuart Nash, Chris Hipkins, Christopher Luxon, David Seymour and many of our regional mayors. They know we understand the needs of businesses and that collectively, we have the expertise, tools and the thought leadership to create better outcomes for our businesses.
- These sustained relationships provided members direct access to key decision-makers leading pieces of public policy work that may impact business.
- Here at The Chamber, we have also continued to invest in our team and their growth to respond to the changing needs of the business community.
- We have firmly focused our efforts toward helping our members find solutions to labour market shortages, supply chain issues, and other lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are also focusing on new and emerging areas such as sustainability, innovation, building capabilities of business, and the future of work. Our transformation programme continues to progress at pace as we redesign our services to meet the needs of businesses both now and into the future. We have been working over the last year to better understand your needs. Thank you to those that have participated in that process. This has helped inform our future thinking and shaped some of our changes you have seen recently including - Streamlining our onboarding experience and the introduction of a new member savings app with just under six hundred active users; Utilising new technology to increase efficiencies and make it easier for our membership to engage with us; We are also trialling new ways of working which includes online community platform and increased our focus groups to provide further opportunities for our members to engage and provide their input into our advocacy and the co-creation of future services.
- Over the coming months you will hear more from us about some testing we will be undertaking on a revised member value proposition, and membership model which will enable you to choose how you wish to engage with us and what services are most relevant for your business.
- Our aim is to roll this out along with a range of new services alongside a refreshed look and feel for the Chamber next year.
- We have a strong focus on investing in our long-term sustainability and setting the organisation up for the future, and we can't do this without your ongoing support, commitment and investment in our organisation.
- The Chamber could also not deliver the wide range of services and impact without the support of many people including our partners, who help enable us to deliver high-quality programmes and services for our members and increase our capabilities. In particular, our Principal Partner Westpac and Major Partners, Enable and Orion. In the past year, we have welcomed the addition of Boma, Raise, Code Blue and Anderson Lloyd to our distinguished list of partners.
- Finally, Leeann acknowledged and thanked her Chamber team. They are without doubt, the backbone of the organisation and they care deeply about our purpose and our members and work tirelessly to get the very best outcomes for our members. They are embracing our own changes while helping our members navigate their own.
- We are excited with the opportunities that the next year presents and look forward to continuing to create the best possible outcomes for our members to grow and prosper.
- Finally, thank you to our members for your ongoing investment and commitment that you make by choosing to be a member of the Canterbury Chamber.

Thanks to the team at the Chamber for their work in putting the video together and to Chris Lynch for his videography.

## **8 Election of the Board of Directors 2022/23**

Leeann Watson announced and congratulated the six elected Board members as follows:

Starting with our existing Board Directors that have been re-elected:

- Mark Allan, Eliot Sinclair & Partners Ltd
- Erin Black, Connect Consultancy
- Jenni Callaghan, EY
- Andrew Logie, Andrew Logie Ltd

They will be joined by two new Board Directors:

- Glenn Hansen, Vortex Engineering
- Grant Walker, 2BConnected

They join incumbent Board Directors:

- Benjamin Badger, of Benjamin Badger
- Paul Deavoll, Orion New Zealand Ltd
- Oliver Hunt, Medsalv
- Andrew Dallison, Consultant
- Charlotte Sullivan, Auburn Marketing

Leeann thanked Board members for their support and looked forward to working with them on the exciting journey ahead.

## **9 General Business**

### **9.1 Chamber Board Governance Review**

The Chamber continues to evolve so we can deliver what members require. In September, the Board agreed to review the current governance structure to ensure that we have the right skills and experience to support the future direction of the organisation. The review will start in early 2023 and if any changes are required to our constitution as a result, these will be put forward at either a special general meeting or at our AGM in 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.29pm.

**Read and confirmed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **AGM Apologies**

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#### **Apologies for 27 October 2022 AGM**

1. Erin Black, Connect Consultancy
2. Jo Pennycuick, Redesign
3. Andrew Logie, Logie Associates
4. Jenni Callaghan, EY
5. Mayor Phil Mauger, Christchurch City Council
6. Councillor Sam McDonald, Christchurch City Council
7. Mary Richardson, Christchurch City Council
8. Georgina Jardine, Health & Awareness Centre
9. Richard Ballantyne
10. Robb Stevens, Fonterra
11. Stephen Esposito, Ravensdown
12. Michael Greene
13. Colin Mansbridge, Crusaders
14. Talei Howell-Price, Maia Health Foundation
15. David Halstead

DRAFT