

## **Submission regarding the Draft Upper Hutt City Unoccupied Commercial Premises Bylaw**

Submitter     Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce  
                  PO Box 30 653  
                  Lower Hutt  
                  Phone: 939 9821  
                  Email: ceo@hutt-chamber.org.nz

### **The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce**

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce represents businesses across the Hutt Valley and incorporates what was previously the Upper Hutt Chamber of Commerce. The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce has in excess of 700 member businesses.

### **Submission in support of the Proposed Bylaw**

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce supports the introduction of the Upper Hutt City Unoccupied Commercial Premises Bylaw as drafted and commends the Upper Hutt City Council on taking positive action to reduce the problem of unoccupied commercial premises in Upper Hutt. (In giving this support we note that the word “fulfills” in Clause 4.3.1 should probably be “fulfill”.)

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce agrees that unoccupied commercial premises that are not maintained and are allowed to fall into a bad state lead to negative perceptions of the city for both residential and business residents as well as visitors to the city. Premises that are not properly maintained can also encourage anti-social behavior such as graffiti, squatting and even arson.

Over the past few years the Chamber has received numerous comments from business owners within the city about the appalling state of specific individual commercial properties and how this is impacting negatively on the look and feel of the city. The Chamber agrees that the introduction of a Bylaw is likely to be the most effective way of preventing unoccupied commercial premises being allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

The Chamber thanks the Council for the opportunity to comment on this Proposed Bylaw and is happy to discuss the points in our submission further should Council desire further discussion or clarification.

David Kiddey  
Chief Executive  
Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce

10 December 2012