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## **PLANNED CASINO REDEVELOPMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CITY REVITALISATION**

Canberra Business Chamber welcomes Aquis' ongoing commitment to developing a major new entertainment precinct in the heart of the city.

"Aquis recently submitted its revised development plan to the ACT Government," Canberra Business Chamber CEO, Robyn Hendry said. "This now has to be assessed, but we welcome the promised major investment in rejuvenation of the casino and surrounds and what it represents, in addition to the significant upgrade that has already occurred."

The refined bid proposes a \$307 million redevelopment to completely modernise and upscale Casino Canberra, as well as establishing a number of excellent restaurants, bars, retail boutiques, accommodation and entertainment options across City Walk in Canberra's CBD.

"The Chamber feels strongly about the need to revitalise the city centre," Ms Hendry said. "It is not something government can do alone and it is encouraging to see private sector investment aimed at this outcome."

In its ACT Budget submission, the Chamber argued development of a vibrant, modern CBD must be prioritised in the interest of demonstrating the city's identity. This is also a key foundation of its *Destination 2030: A Vision for Canberra*, which calls for designated entertainment precincts in the City and Town Centres in order to create a more livable Canberra.

"While Canberra has a highly educated population, a socially conscious community, and is a clean, green and tech savvy innovative city, this is not evident in the city centre – which requires some attention and investment," Ms Hendry said.

"Projects such as the casino redevelopment, will not only help breathe new life into the city, they will create local jobs during the construction phase and beyond.

"A world-class casino precinct, and high quality hospitality and accommodation precincts throughout the ACT, combined with direct international flights, will help attract visitors to our region and diversify our economy."

"Development of our city centre has to concentrate not only on spatial layout and large scale development, but also on enhancing the city's character.

"The integrated resort being proposed by Aquis will potentially do both these things. It will help improve the city aesthetically while bringing more activity to Civic by attracting people to visit, stay and socialise."

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