



MEDIA RELEASE
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Brandon St TAB to remain open

Customers have rallied in support of the TAB's branch at Brandon St, meaning the popular inner-city venue will remain open.

The Brandon St branch was scheduled to close on Thursday at the conclusion of lease arrangements but, as a result of feedback from customers, the TAB has struck a deal with the property's landlord to keep the doors open. The Brandon St branch will be open as usual from Saturday.

Chris Bayliss, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Racing Board, operator of the TAB, said the response of customers in reaction to the proposed closure had been remarkable.

"We listened closely to what they had to say. The feedback from customers was loud and clear – they wanted Brandon St to remain open and I'm delighted we've been able to work with the leasing agent to negotiate a longer lease.

"It's a fantastic result for our customers."

Mr Bayliss said the extended lease arrangement would give the TAB more opportunity to clearly assess its retail requirements in the Wellington CBD.

"It's obvious from a customer service viewpoint that Brandon St is important in making that assessment but there are a range of other options we'll continue to work through. We have a wide range TAB facilities already in place in the CBD but Brandon St is unique in that part of the city as a standalone, TAB-only site.

"We're working through a proposal to expand services at Trax Bar at the Wellington Railway Station but that's still only a proposal at this stage. Keeping Brandon St open in the interim gives us the chance to really nail down what it is we, and our customers, want from the TAB in central Wellington."

Brandon St branch manager Vanessa Manihera was thrilled with the decision.

“We’ve got customers who love the service they get here and I’m really pleased for them. One of our regulars picked up \$250,000 on a rugby league Multi a couple of weeks back, so he’ll be especially happy we’re staying open.”

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

John Mitchell

Manager – Media and Government Relations

New Zealand Racing Board

t +64 (0)4 576 6901

m +64 (0)27 294 0736

f +64 (0)4 576 6160

e john.mitchell@nzh racingboard.co.nz

w www.nzh racingboard.co.nz · www.tab.co.nz · www.theraces.co.nz

106-110 Jackson Street, Petone 5012, PO Box 38899, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045, New Zealand