



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

\$1,085,000 TOTAL EVENTS BUDGET 2025-26	QLDC CHRISTMAS EVENTS STREET DECORATIONS, NEW YEAR'S, WAITANGI DAY AND MATARIKI EVENTS	\$138,000 \$450,000 \$25,000
	LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (UNDER \$5,000)	\$150,000
	CONTINGENCY	\$12,000
	SUSTAINABILITY	\$23,000
	AVAILABLE CONTESTABLE FUND 2025-26	\$287,000

The total amount applied for in the current events funding round 2025-26 is **\$865,972**

APPLICATIONS SUMMARY

TOTAL OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR 2025-26	APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING OVER \$30K	1
	APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING \$30K AND UNDER	17
	APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED DECLINE FUNDING	0
	REFERRED TO LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT	5
	APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN	4

RECOMMENDED FUNDING FOR NEW YEARS, CHRISTMAS, WAITANGI AND MATARIKI EVENTS

In the 2025-26 events funding round, QLDC will continue to support the two New Year's events, Christmas, community organised Waitangi and Matariki events held in the district. There has been an increase in event infrastructure and contractor costs for the New Year's events.

OTHER FUNDING

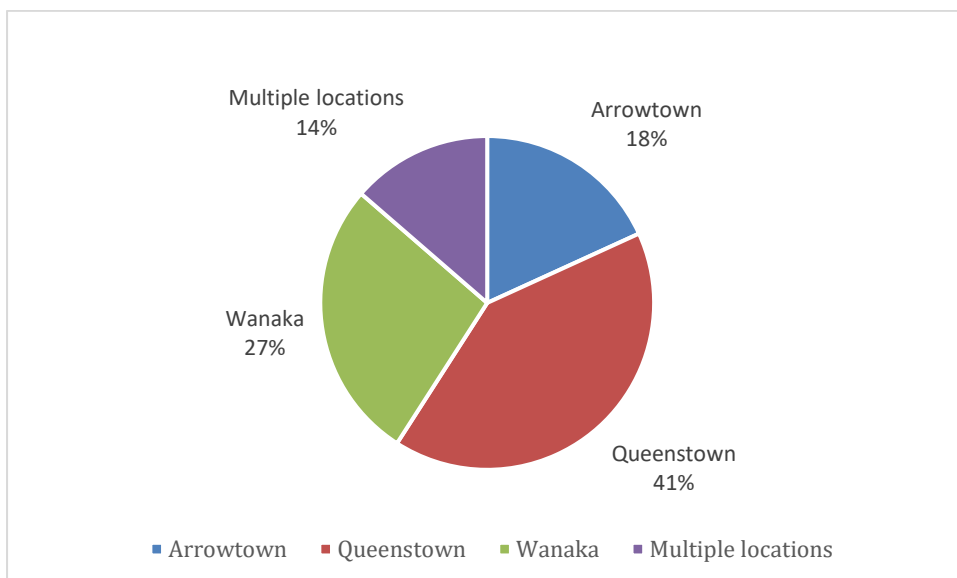
The Local Community Support budget will continue to cover the costs approved through this process. After a review, the cap on this funding will be increased to \$1,500 and will take the form of venue and infrastructure hires, sustainability initiatives and permit costs. So far over 146 events have been supported through this programme in 2024-25.

The following events from this funding round were referred to Local Community Support as they were approved for amounts up to \$5,000 that can be funded through this programme:

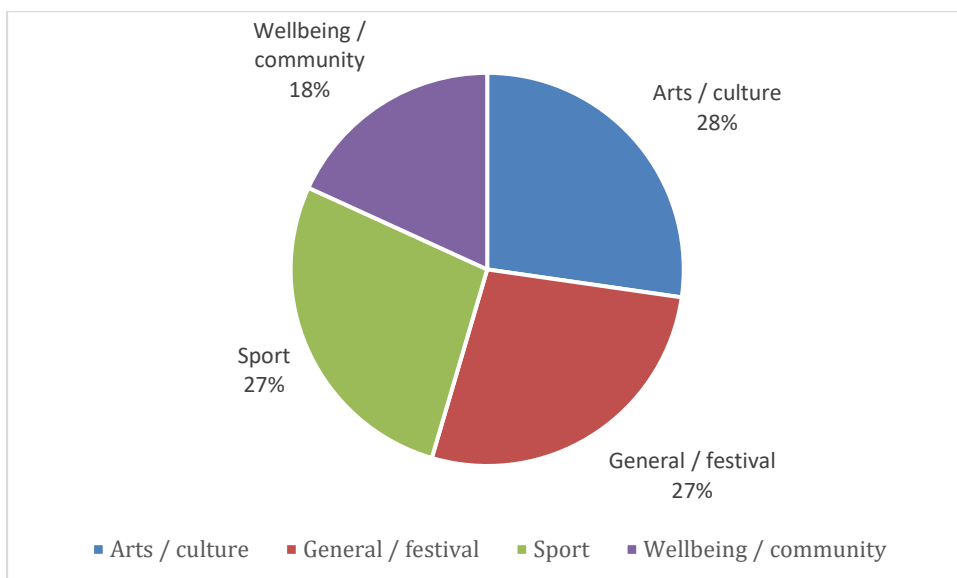
- Highlanders Super Rugby Preseason
- OUT&About Wānaka
- Queenstown Diwali
- Snow Machine
- Winter Pride

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

LOCATIONS	
Arrowtown	4
Queenstown	9
Wānaka	6
Multiple locations	3



EVENT CATEGORY	
Arts / culture	6
General / festival	6
Sport	6
Wellbeing / community	4



STRATEGIC BACKGROUND

The draft QLDC Events Policy sets out the objectives and principles of Council's events vision, and will be presented to Council for approval in June 2025. As this new policy is yet to be

implemented, this year's Event Fund was guided by the existing QLDC Events Strategy (2018-2021).

QLDC WELLBEING OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Wellbeing Outcomes form part of the QLDC Strategic Framework, outlining how the community's aspirations and wellbeing drive everything we do.

Event Fund applicants were presented with the Wellbeing Outcomes; People, Place and Community, and were asked to select which of these outcomes are supported by their event. Applicants also provided commentary on how they contribute to the selected outcome. This response was considered as part of the overall assessment of the application.

ASSESSING EVENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

SCORING OF EVENT APPLICATIONS

Each event application is assessed against a range of criteria, which are scored and weighted. The event funding criteria are:

- Environmental sustainability
- Economic impact
- Community benefit
- Event diversity
- Financial sustainability

Environmental sustainability was given a 25% higher weighting than the other criteria.

The scoring process is aligned with the principles of the Events Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

For the 2025-2026 events funding round, we have again prioritised the development and support of events' sustainability measures, to help mitigate negative the environmental impacts that events may cause including generation of waste and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Environmental sustainability is a weighted assessment criterion, and applicants have been directed to include sustainability items in their budget for QLDC funding.

All applicants were required to provide both an Event Waste Minimisation and Management Plan and a Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction plan to demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability in our district. These plans were reviewed by the QLDC Senior Sustainability Advisor and Resilience and Climate Action Advisor.

EVENTS PANEL

The Events Panel met to consider applications to the Events Fund on Monday 26 May 2025. This panel is chaired by Councillor Ferguson, and is made up of three other elected members; Councillor Bruce, Councillor Smith and Councillor Wong. The Events Panel may approve funding amounts less than \$30,000. The panel were provided with information on each application including the score for each funding criteria, event financial information and key reasons for recommended support.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

QUEENSTOWN MARATHON

Ironman own and deliver a major marathon event in Queenstown, supported by QLDC since 2014 by way of investment funding, event facilitation, infrastructure and services.

An agreement is currently in place to provide the Queenstown Marathon with QLDC venues, reserves and event infrastructure at no cost for five years. This agreement will expire in November 2025.

Total funding from the 2025-26 Events Fund allocation to cover these costs totals \$35,000.

EVENTS PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER \$30,000

Arrowtown Autumn Festival	\$25,000
Challenge Wānaka Festival	\$25,000
RIPE - Wānaka Wine & Food Festival	\$25,000
Warbirds Over Wānaka	\$25,000
Motatapu	\$20,000
Wānaka A&P Show	\$20,000
Global Games	\$16,000
Lake Hayes A&P Show	\$15,000
Michael Hill International Violin	\$12,000
Central Lakes Polyfest	\$11,000
Aspiring Conversations	\$10,000
Natural Selection Bike Aotearoa	\$10,000
NZ Open	\$10,000
Queenstown Multicultural Festival	\$8,000
Gin Festival Arrowtown	\$8,000
NZ Mountain Film Festival	\$7,000
Wao Summit	\$5,000
Winter Pride	\$5,000 – Local Community Support
OUT&About Wānaka	\$5,000 – Local Community Support
Snow Machine	\$5,000 – Local Community Support
Highlanders Super Rugby Preseason	\$5,000 – Local Community Support
Queenstown Diwali	\$5,000 – Local Community Support