

# Wānaka Airport update

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is in the early stages of two separate but important workstreams relating to Wānaka Airport. This information sheet provides a summary of each piece of work and outlines at a high-level what airport users and the community can expect.

## 1. WĀNAKA AIRPORT OPERATIONAL SAFETY REVIEW

Wānaka Airport (the airport) has reached a threshold of activity which requires it to be managed under the authority of a Qualifying Aerodrome Operator Certificate. As a result, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a letter notifying QLDC that it requires the airport to achieve qualifying status under Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Rules. The agreed deadline to achieve qualifying status is 1 July 2027.

Importantly, not achieving qualifying status would mean a significant reduction in activity at the airport which QLDC does not support as an option as it would adversely affect airport business, users, and locals.

This will require changes to the way the airport operates, as outlined in the CAA rules Part 139, sub part G & H. Scan for more detail on the requirements.



As a first step, a mandatory operational and safety review has been completed. This outlines a range of improvements required to achieve qualifying status and improve safety for all users.

### KEY WORK INCLUDES:

Appointing suitable senior people to specific roles. This requires a change to the current Management Services Agreement (expected to take approx. 12-18 months).



Physical works to provide a safe operating environment e.g. tree removal, strip widening and new fencing to support safe access to the airstrip (expected to take approx. 2-3 years).



Prepare a Safety Management System that includes specific policies, procedures and documentation (10-12 months work).



### WHAT WILL IT COST?

Budget has been allocated in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 to complete agreed work required to achieve a qualifying aerodrome status. The LTP can be read in full at [www.qldc.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/ltp)

### WORKING WITH QUEENSTOWN AIRPORT CORPORATION (QAC)

QAC holds the current management services agreement for Wānaka Airport and has been assisting QLDC with specialised aeronautical expertise to develop a work programme to support achievement of the qualifying status.

### WORKING WITH YOU





It is essential we work closely with existing airport users as safety improvements and operational changes are implemented. QLDC and Wānaka Airport operational staff will communicate changes in advance and maintain an open-door policy to discuss any concerns you might have. We've also set up a web page to provide updates as the work progresses, visit [www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport-certification](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport-certification)



## 2. WĀNAKA AIRPORT FUTURE REVIEW

In July 2024 as part of LTP consultation, QLDC signalled its intent to begin a process to develop a long term plan for the Wānaka airport. The future of the airport is an important topic for the district and it's essential that the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community is part of shaping it.

While in the very early stages, there are many key questions to consider as the review progresses:

- What is the community and stakeholder vision for Wānaka Airport? 
- How can we ensure engagement with the community on this important topic is effective? 
- What are the potential scenarios and what could future management look like? 
- What technical analysis is required before we consider potential scenarios?  
Economic, Social, Commercial, Environmental, etc. 

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
QLDC will soon begin a procurement process to seek the independent delivery of the Wānaka Airport Future Review. The intended response being sought includes a mix of aeronautical, social, economic, legal and consultation/strategic communication expertise.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
This proposed process is intended to involve extensive engagement with key stakeholders, the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community and wider Queenstown Lakes District.

Confirmed details of the proposal will be shared in more detail subject to a workshop on 12 November 2024.

**WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION**  
We've set up a web page to share news and updates as the review progresses. Visit [www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport-future-review](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport-future-review)

