

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // JUNE / JULY 2025 // ISSUE 167

THE
HIGHEST
VOTE
2025



Help us achieve 'The Highest Vote'

We're setting our sights high for the forthcoming local body elections with the launch of our official promotional campaign. Get ready to cast your votes at the highest elevation voting boxes in the country, while aiming to top the charts for voter turnout.

Find out more on page 6

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TIPS



Tell us if you want to save paper and read Let's Talk Kōrero Mai online. See page 9 for details.



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Your Council

Ever wondered how to contact your elected representatives for a chat about what's happening in your community? We've listed your Councillors and the areas they represent, along with their email addresses so you can get in touch.

There are also opportunities to pop along and see them in person at 'share with us' sessions:

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

Lunchtime drop-in sessions every two months will begin again after October's local body elections.

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

Monthly drop-in sessions at Arrowtown Library will begin again after October's local body elections.

All welcome!



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT MAYOR GLYN LEWERS
Glyn.Lewers@qldc.govt.nz

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

Arrowtown, Gibbston, Shotover Country, Lake Hayes Estate, Dalefield and Arthurs Point.



Councillor Craig 'Ferg' Ferguson
Craig.Ferguson@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Lisa Guy
Lisa.Guy@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Melissa White
Melissa.White@qldc.govt.nz

QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm, Kingston, Frankton, Quail Rise, Kelvin Peninsula, Glenorchy, central Queenstown and Fernhill.



Councillor Gavin Bartlett
Gavin.Bartlett@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Niki Gladding
Niki.Gladding@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Esther Whitehead
Esther.Whitehead@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Matt Wong
Matt.Wong@qldc.govt.nz

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

From the top of the Crown Range and all of the Upper Clutha area including Lake Hāwea up to just beyond Makarora and including part of the Matukituki Valley in Mt Aspiring National Park.



Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith
Quentin.Smith@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Barry Bruce
Barry.Bruce@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Lyal Cocks
Lyal.Cocks@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Cody Tucker
Cody.Tucker@qldc.govt.nz

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA COMMUNITY BOARD



Simon Telfer (Chairperson)
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Chris Hadfield
Chris.Hadfield@qldc.govt.nz



Linda Joll
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John Wellington
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Councillor Bruce

Councillor Cocks

Councillor Tucker



Taking action for the Upper Clutha.

Back in December 2023, the Local Government Commission published its decision not to undertake an investigation into creating a separate Wānaka-Upper Clutha district.

It did however recommend that QLDC undertake additional work with the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) as well as the key initiators of the reorganisation initiative and Ngāi Tahu, and develop an action plan for presentation to the Commission by May last year.

We presented 29-points all based on free and frank discussions with these key stakeholders. This was accepted by the Commission which then requested a progress report by the end of May this year. This latest stage in what has been a very positive, productive process has also been completed on schedule.

So, what have we achieved?

One of the most significant outcomes has been the new guidelines for the Wānaka Asset Sales Reserve. Whilst this has always been ringfenced for local projects, the new guidelines give the community a greater ability to influence how this money is spent.

To further improve local engagement, a new policy on Council meetings confirms our commitment to hold at least three Full Council meetings in the ward, along with at least three committee meetings, per year.

And you may have noticed that a localised, four-page summary of this newsletter is now included in the Wānaka Sun, with a Whakatipu-focused version in Mountain Scene.

We've also made it easier to see exactly how capital investment is allocated via our Long Term Plan with an interactive tool on our website (34% of this investment is tagged to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha ward in direct proportion to its resident population).

It's important to remember that Council has always represented the specific interests of the Upper Clutha. A good example is public transport (or rather the lack of it!) managed by Otago Regional Council (ORC). QLDC financially supported two shuttle bus trials and, more recently, we submitted on ORC's draft ten-year Regional Public Transport Plan. This helped reverse ORC's earlier decision to scrap a business case for the Upper Clutha in its annual plan.

Our work to promote good practice as a local authority and build trust with our community doesn't stop.

I encourage everyone with an interest in the future governance of the Upper Clutha as an integral part of the whole district to talk to your elected members and read the various reports on the Local Government Commission website.

Mayor Glyn Lewers



OUR WATER DONE WELL

How would you like your water services delivered in the future?

There are only a few days left to share feedback on our proposed model for future delivery of water services in the Queenstown Lakes District, as part of central government's Local Water Done Well legislation and its plan to address Aotearoa New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges.

We've identified the following potential future delivery models for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services:

1

Establish a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) owned by QLDC to deliver water services (our proposal)

OR

2

Continue to deliver water services in-house

WHAT'S A WSCCO?

A WSCCO is a Council Controlled Organisation specifically established to manage and deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services. Under the new water legislation, this organisation will have a tailored set of oversight and accountability requirements, which reflects the intention of central government reforms to provide more transparent information about delivery planning and financing for water services.

The proposed WSCCO would be fully owned by QLDC but the organisation would be governed by its own independent specialist board and management. QLDC would be the only shareholder and would appoint board members based on the skills and experience needed for proper governance of the new organisation.

Developing legislation will prevent a WSCCO from being privatised which means that the WSCCO will remain wholly owned by QLDC on behalf of the community.

WHY WE'RE PROPOSING A WSCCO?

A WSCCO offers an approach that introduces independent expert governance to exclusively prioritise and deliver water services in the best interests of the Queenstown Lakes District and free from political influence, and all while meeting regulatory requirements.

Minimising the cost to households for water services in the long term has been an essential part of QLDC's assessment of the different models available, given costs are already projected to increase significantly as outlined in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. Other considerations included a solution's ability to attract and retain the best staff, adapt to changing requirements without disruption, provide for effective and efficient management and delivery of water services, maximise public value and minimise waste, and enable community interests and priorities.

Shotover WWTP update

A reminder that our website features regular updates about the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) focusing on:

- > Stage 3 upgrades that will provide for future growth through to 2048.
- > The long-term solution including improvements to the quality of the treated discharge before the end of this year.
- > The short-term approach for managing wastewater discharge covering the emergency works provisions from March this year.

For full details please visit

qldc.govt.nz/shotoverwwtp



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WSSCOs have different borrowing requirements from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA), which would require higher water charges initially to deliver the same services and capital projects QLDC currently has planned. This does mean the WSSCO would generate more revenue in the short-term, repaying debt faster and leaving the WSSCO with an estimated \$37 million less debt than the in-house model by 2034.

With less debt and less costs associated with interest on borrowing, household water charges with a WSSCO are estimated to be, on average, 5.2% higher in the medium-term (2024-2034) compared with an in-house model, but 10.1% lower on average in the long-term (2034-2044) compared with that same in-house model.

ENSURE OUR WATER'S DONE WELL AND HAVE YOUR SAY

We would like to know if you support our proposal, or if you would prefer we retain water services in-house.

Please carefully read the detailed consultation document (statement of proposal) available online and have your say now at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz or scan the QR code below.



FEEDBACK
CLOSES
29 JUNE

NEXT STEPS

The Council intends to make decisions about the proposal at its meeting on 31 July which will be open to the public. We'll then need to prepare and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by 3 September. This will describe the current state of our water assets and services as well as the future arrangements for delivery of water services.

Continued from cover

Peak local democracy: QLDC launches 'The Highest Vote' campaign

We're aiming to take democracy to new heights with the launch of our 2025 local election campaign:

THE HIGHEST VOTE.

The Highest Vote encourages locals to head for the hills and cast their votes at the highest elevation voting boxes in the country, while aiming to top the charts for voter turnout. In 2022, 43.05% of eligible voters in our district cast their vote. In 2025, the goal is to soar past the previous national average turnout of 44.5%.

Helping to elevate democracy (literally!) is skifield operator RealNZ who will host voting boxes at Cardrona Alpine Resort's ticketing office (1,670m elevation) and Treble Cone's ticketing area (1,260m elevation). Locals hitting the slopes can drop their voting papers into these boxes from 9 September to 11 October.

Adding to the theme, QLDC will host a voting box at the Crown Range lookout on Friday 10 October, giving folks an opportunity to drop their vote in at one of our most scenic spots.

Prefer to vote from lake level? No worries. Everyone eligible can vote by post or use any of the other voting boxes located throughout the district.

"Voting here isn't just about ticking a box, it's about showing up for the environment, the community, and the future of this incredible district," says Mike Theelen, QLDC Chief Executive. "With such an engaged and passionate population, we believe Queenstown Lakes can lead the country in voter participation this election."

"Voting boxes in our alpine district will be at the highest elevations in the country, and we want our voting figures to reflect that," Mike adds.

Whether you're voting at a ski field or beside a lake, The Highest Vote invites residents to get involved in a way that's fun, memorable, and uniquely 'us'. After all, this district is known for going the extra altitude.

Want to run for office or know someone who should? "How our district moves forward involves everyone who lives here," says Mike. "It's important that our elected officials reflect the values and ideas of our diverse community."

So lace up those boots, grab your voting papers, and get ready to be part of something epic. This October, it's not just about casting a vote - it's about aiming for The Highest Vote!

KEY ELECTION DATES:

Nominations for both QLDC and the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board open on 1 July and close at noon on 1 August.

Voting papers delivered: 9 September – 22 September.

Voting period: 9 September – 11 October.

THE HIGHEST VOTE 2025



CAN I STAND FOR MAYOR, COUNCIL, OR COMMUNITY BOARD?

The elected positions in our district are:

Queenstown Lake District Mayor (1 member)

Queenstown Lakes District Councillors (11 members)

3 Arrowtown-Kawarau Ward Councillors

4 Queenstown-Whakatipu Ward Councillors

4 Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward Councillors

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (4 members)

To be a candidate for an elected member position, you must be:

A New Zealand citizen

Over 18 years old

Enrolled on the electoral roll

You do not need any special qualifications. Elected members come from all backgrounds and walks of life.

To learn more about standing for election, visit www.lgnz.co.nz

WHO SHOULD STAND FOR COUNCIL?

Someone who cares deeply about their community, works well with others, communicates effectively, and is open to learning. You don't need to be an expert, just committed, collaborative, and ready to listen and lead. Whether you're working, raising kids or retired, local government is for people from all walks of life. Councils often offer flexibility like parental leave or childcare support. If you've ever coached a team, run an event, volunteered, or stood up for what matters - this could be your next step!

CAN I VOTE?

If you're eligible, you must also be enrolled to vote.

You're eligible if you are:

- ✓ Aged 18 or older, **and**
- ✓ an NZ citizen or permanent resident, **and**
- ✓ have lived in NZ continuously for 12 months or more at some point in your life.

WHAT COUNTS AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT?

You're considered a permanent resident if:

- ✓ You're in NZ legally
- ✓ You're not required to leave by a specific date (i.e. not on a time-limited visa)

This includes holders of valid resident visas, such as the 2021 Resident Visa, if you meet the criteria above.

NOT ELIGIBLE?

If you're on a visa that requires you to leave NZ by a certain date (e.g. work or student visa), you're **not** eligible to enrol or vote.

From the Chambers

NEW FEES AND CHARGES

Just after this issue was sent to print, Council was due to consider adopting new fees and charges for some services from 1 July at a meeting held on 26 June. Earlier this year, fee increases were recommended across 12 categories as part of proposed changes to user fees and charges for 2025-2026 and were subject to formal consultation over March-April. A total of 62 submissions were received and a hearing of submissions held on 27 May. The hearing panel recommended changes to the registration fees for dangerous and menacing dogs. Another doggy initiative sure to get some tails wagging is the proposal to cap the payment of registration fees for working dogs at two, even if the owner has more than this. There were also changes proposed for Wānaka Airport aircraft parking and landing fees, with training flights excluded and the landing charge only applied once during a pilot training session, as this can involve many touch and go manoeuvres. It was also proposed that parking fees would not apply to existing commercial and private operators based at Wānaka Airport.

The final adopted changes, along with of the 2025-26 Annual Plan, will be on the QLDC website after the meeting.

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW TO BE IN PLACE FOR SUMMER

In September 2024, a judicial review challenge ruled the Council's 2021 Freedom Camping Bylaw invalid. As we've covered in recent editions of this newsletter, since then, the Council has had very limited tools available to address complaints about freedom camping whilst the district remains a very popular destination for visitors wanting to do so.

At its meeting on 26 June the Council was due to consider agreeing a draft Freedom Camping Bylaw for public consultation, with plans to hold a hearing of submissions during August and to adopt the final version of the bylaw at the final meeting of this term of Council, to be held on 9 October, in readiness for the main summer season.

FUNDING APPROVED FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Volunteer groups and the huge variety of different services that they provide are the backbone of our community. Some of them will be very happy following decisions made on 26 June to approve funding to support their activities. Many funders don't fund operational costs like rent or salaries. Council has seen a growing need to provide these more 'sustaining' grants to groups, especially in the current climate of fiscal constraint and cuts to public sector funding and services.

EVENTS FUNDING APPROVED

At the same 26 June meeting, events funding was also set to be approved to support various events planned for 2025-2026. Funding was particularly aimed at event sustainability measures such as minimising waste and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

In addition, at this meeting the Council was being asked to 'reframe' its approach to events with the adoption of a new Events Policy, the previous Events Strategy dating from 2015. This earlier strategy had a strong economic emphasis but the new policy reflects changing public attitudes to events and the evolving community expectations that an event will try to reduce waste and carbon emissions.

Our 'green' plan



Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on our draft Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028. Over the next few weeks we'll review the responses, make final edits, and aim to have the plan adopted at the 31 July Council meeting.

And if you're seeing this before the end of Friday 27 June, you still have time to tell us what you think. Just head over to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz.

Building on the foundations of the two previous three-year plans, the 2025-2028 draft outlines a comprehensive set of actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing native biodiversity and increasing community resilience to climate impacts.

To keep up to date with our climate and biodiversity work, check out climateaction.qldc.govt.nz and sign-up for our climate action newsletter at the bottom of the homepage.

In the website's latest updates section you'll also find info about the opportunity to join the independent Climate Reference Group that advises Council decision making.



Get me via email

This newsletter is mailed to our local residents and out-of-town, NZ-based ratepayers six times a year. If this means you, and you still want to receive a hard copy, then sweet as – you don't need to do anything.

But if you'd like to join the thousands of people who prefer to receive a digital copy via email then it's easy to switch. Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with the word "newsletter" as the subject and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list.

We'll send you a website link six times a year to view/download all future issues instead (and won't spam you with anything else!). You'll be helping us reduce the number of copies we print and distribute.

And remember, every issue is also on our website qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai





Help Te Tapuae Southern Corridor grow well

We're calling for feedback on a draft Structure Plan for Te Tapuae Southern Corridor. It sets out a strategic blueprint for how this priority development area south of Kawarau River can grow well so it can remain a highly desirable area where people live, work, play and visit.

WHAT IS A STRUCTURE PLAN?

It's a 30-year roadmap used to guide how an area grows — from where homes, shops and parks go, to how people get around and where key services are placed and staged. By guiding the location of essential infrastructure and services, structure planning ensures new communities develop in a well-functioning, cohesive, and sustainable way.

Structure plans don't change zoning, but set the direction for future development.

WHY DOES TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR NEED ONE?

The area is growing quickly, and while development has been taking place there for many years now, it has increased significantly in the last five. In this short time, the local population has grown by 260% to 3,840 residents.

This growth is likely to continue, regardless of whether we have a plan in place. If we want to ensure neighbourhoods are

designed in the best possible way for our communities, a structure plan for the entire corridor is essential.

That's why it's important we prepare for the future and ensure it's developed in a way that meets the needs of the whole community, all while protecting what makes this place special.

This includes having plans in place for how we'll address increasing traffic movements in the area, more housing choice, three waters infrastructure, access to shopping, businesses and community facilities (such as new schools, healthcare and reserves), and safe transport options.

WHAT'S PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT PLAN

We're proposing a range of ways to address key challenges and opportunities in Te Tapuae Southern Corridor, to help manage growth and guide development in the area. These include:



Better transport options



More housing choice



Three waters infrastructure



Stronger community facilities



Shops and local business opportunities



FEEDBACK
CLOSES ON
20 JULY

GET INVOLVED TODAY AND HELP PLAN FOR TOMORROW

A detailed breakdown of what's affecting the area and how we plan to address these challenges, supporting information, and details on how to give feedback are all available at the QR code above or at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After we've received feedback, we'll review and incorporate it into a final Structure Plan before Council considers its formal adoption in September.

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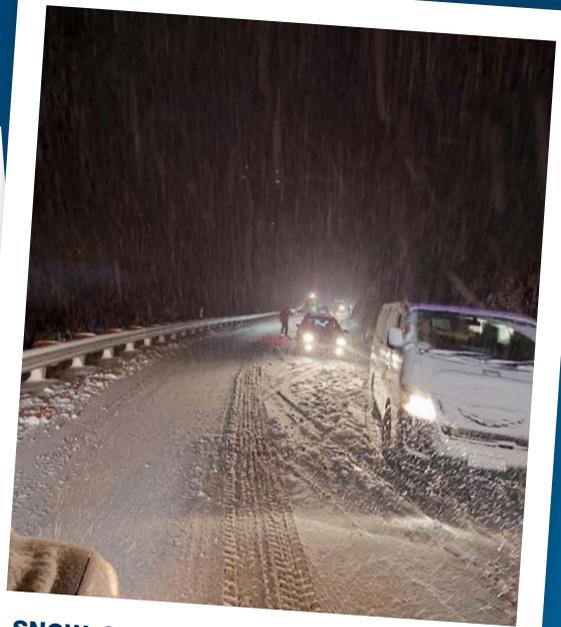
'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be good to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



ANOTHER HOST-TECH HOSTED!

Host-tech 2025, held in Queenstown in May and powered by QLDC's Economic Futures team, was a standout success bringing together tourism operators, hospitality businesses and tech innovators from across New Zealand and beyond. The event showcased our district as a leader in technology with a focus on collaboration, smarter visitor experiences and export-ready innovation. Find out more about this and other events through the year at [host-tech.org](https://www.host-tech.org)



SNOW, SNOW ON THE RANGE

A wintry blast in early June brought welcome snow to our local mountains just before they opened for what will hopefully be an epic season. It also saw the Crown Range Road closed overnight – a reminder for everyone to be prepared for potentially tricky conditions when travelling in our alpine environment. If you haven't already, make sure you read our winter driving tips on pages 22-23 and consider signing up for our morning road reports and occasional community text alerts.



EVENT SPARKS 'ENERGETIC' IDEAS

Mayor Glyn Lewers made the welcome address to more than 200 attendees at Electrify Queenstown 2025, held at Skyline in late May. The three-day event organised by Destination Queenstown aimed to help businesses and households explore practical ways to reduce energy bills, electrify and decarbonise. Other speakers included QLDC Resilience & Climate Action Manager Bill Nicoll who presented on local energy resilience and emergency preparedness. More info at [electrifyqueenstown.co.nz](https://www.electrifyqueenstown.co.nz) [Image credit: Will Nelson].



CONFERENCE COMMITTED TO CARING

Flashback to March and the ten-day Buddhist conference held at Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC). We thought it would be good to include a photo this time, partly to highlight the versatility of WRC's indoor court space and mainly to acknowledge the efforts of organiser Siddhartha's Intent in promoting sustainability and giving back. Across the 2023 and 2025 events, attendees collectively donated over \$13,000 to the Love Wānaka Community Fund to support local environmental efforts. And, with help from Wastebusters, Plastic Free Wānaka and Sustainable Queenstown's DISHrupt initiative, the event committed to being zero waste.



LITERARY FESTIVAL LITERALLY FANTASTIC

Queenstown Lakes Libraries 'LitFest' saw dozens of wide-ranging, free events at branches on both sides of the Crown Range from March to May. It was all about expression, creativity and connection – with libraries evolving, the festival showcased just how much they have to offer. Amongst the highlights was the panel discussion on adult neurodiversity held in partnership with Te Hau Toka and featuring experts in ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia and autism. Thanks heaps to our panel, and everyone who came along.



UP, UP AND AWAY!

NASA's Scientific Balloon Program made a successful return to Wānaka Airport this autumn with two flights to test and qualify the agency's super pressure balloon technology. Each the size of Forsyth-Barr Stadium when fully inflated at target altitude, these bulbous beauties also carried scientific instruments as they soared more than twice the height of commercial aircraft. It was great to have the good folk from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia back in town and we hope to see them again next year. [Image credit: Bill Rodman/NASA].

New to the district?

To help you settle into life in our district we've created a Newcomers Guide. It's filled with local resources and services to support you and your family adjust to your new home.

You'll find information on:

- > community life;
- > health and wellbeing;
- > work and study;
- > housing;
- > transport and driving;
- > managing costs; and
- > emergency preparedness and safety.

You'll also find ways to connect with groups and organisations in Whakatipu (Queenstown, Arrowtown, Glenorchy, Kingston) and the Upper Clutha (Wānaka, Luggate, Lake Hāwea, Makarora).

Scan the QR code to read the guide or visit qldc.govt.nz/newcomers-guide

This guide was proudly created by the QLDC Community Partnerships team in collaboration with support services organisations, the education and business sectors, and newcomers themselves.

It was developed as an action from the QLDC Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 as part of our commitment to the Welcoming Communities programme.



Nau mai haere mai! A very warm welcome to all our 'newbies', 91 of whom attended April's Citizenship Ceremony in Wānaka. The newly-hatched Kiwis were treated to a special performance from the Central Otago Regional Choir and received a native plant to mark their new roots in our corner of the world.
Image – Matt Bennell Photography.



Don't panic, we've got this!

Over 500 Year 6 students from our district and Central Otago have officially graduated from Emergency Management Otago's annual Clued Up Kids programme.

From fire safety and water smarts to pet care and mental wellbeing, these 10-11 year-olds picked up practical, lifesaving skills they can use at school, at home and throughout life.

A massive shout out to the ten emergency services and community organisations that joined QLDC to make it happen, as well as the programme's first ever local business sponsors: iFLY Queenstown, Ziptrek Ecotours and Air Milford.



Kids learning outdoor survival skills from Land Search & Rescue.

Need help with accommodation?

Check out our Manaaki info hub!

qldc.govt.nz/manaaki

You'll find:

- / Advice for finding somewhere to live
- / Links and resources to help you settle
- / Where to get further free advice and support



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Parks plans progress

Still time to have your say on Glenorchy Airstrip and Queenstown Hill reserves.

GLENORCHY

AIRSTRIP RESERVE

We're currently asking for your views on a draft Glenorchy Airstrip Reserve Management Plan 2025 (RMP) which outlines how QLDC will manage the airstrip on behalf of users and the local community.

The existing RMP was adopted in 2016. Since then, we've worked alongside residents and businesses to implement new management processes and make improvements at the airstrip. We now need a more future-focused plan that's aligned with the Resource Management Act noise contour that became operative in 2021.

The draft plan is based on early engagement with the community and stakeholders, and with the Glenorchy Airstrip Consultative Governance Committee which includes representatives from the Glenorchy Community Association, neighbouring landowners and operators.

It's now time to hear if the draft RMP 2025 reflects the community's future vision and needs. Find out more online and provide a submission by 8 August at

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz.

Printed copies are also available at Council offices and libraries.

TE TAPUNUI

QUEENSTOWN HILL

We're also encouraging everyone who values Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill to share their thoughts on a draft Forestry Management Plan.

It proposes to remove all invasive wilding tree species on the much-loved reserve and replant the site with a mixture of native trees, mixed native and exotic trees, and grey tussock and shrubland species.

The removal of wilding conifers and the replanting on reserve land will have an affect on recreational experiences, trails, the visual landscape, neighbouring properties and natural hazards; all while reducing wildfire risk and enhancing biodiversity.

Ultimately the plan aims to enhance how people use this space and ensure it flourishes for future generations to enjoy. This aligns strongly with our commitments laid out in the Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 (see page 9).

We're keen to understand if the community support the proposed plan. Thanks to everyone who came along to our three drop-in sessions in June after submissions opened. Remember to make yours before 6 July!



Head to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz or scan here.



Bus route and timetable changes



Otago Regional Council has announced changes to some bus routes and timetables to/from Queenstown beginning 30 June.

These will see services expanded, some frequencies increased and some better connections, including an Arrowtown – Arthur's Point – Queenstown – Jack's Point route via Malaghans Road (Route 4).

Route 4 will create the direct, back-route along Malaghans Road reflecting feedback from commuters. Buses will run every 30 minutes at peak times (6.00-8.30am and 3.00-6.00pm).

Route 3 between Kelvin Heights and Quail Rise will also move to a 30-minute peak frequency, and Route 2 will continue its current route along Arrowtown – Lake Hayes Road, ending at the Frankton Hub.

ORC confirmed that revised timetables (affecting all Queenstown routes) will reflect more accurate travel times based on traffic volumes through the day, with minor tweaks to times on Routes 1 and 5.

The Queenstown ferry will continue its existing timetable.

See a full list of the changes at

www.orc.govt.nz/QTbuschanges

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KIA ORA PUKA!

After many years of distinguished service, QLDC Sport & Recreation's beloved mascot Paddles the Polar Bear has finally put his paws up, opened a cold one and retired.

The search was then on for a replacement with kids given the chance to vote for their favourite candidate.

The clear winner and our new mascot is...

Puka the Pūteketeke

WHO IS PUKA?

Puka - a rare giant variant of the southern crested grebe - is a fun, energetic, and inspiring figure for the children taking part in our Sport & Recreation programmes and services. We're hoping they'll bring a smile to the faces of tamariki throughout the district and help create a lifelong love for staying more active, more often.

WHAT WILL PUKA BE DOING?

Puka loves social media and plans to make a few appearances on our digital channels, and they'll also be featuring at our Swim School, climbing wall lessons, and at our birthday party packages too! You can also expect to spot Puka at various events around the district.



Winter planting underway

Eager volunteers from several local groups have been busy clearing, digging, planting and protecting hundreds of native plants as the main winter season gets underway.

QLDC continues to support their efforts on reserve land and, whilst there are too many to mention individually, we're delighted to highlight some of their recent mahi here. Check out our Facebook page **@QLDCInfo** for heaps more photos and shout outs from around the district.



Volunteers from Te Kāmano native plant nursery on their way to getting 200 plants in the ground mid-May at the Hāwea Food Forest site by Hāwea Domain.



Staff from Platinum Villas in Fernhill planted a further 300 natives on One Mile Reserve in late April. This on top of around 600 already taking root thanks to their hard work over the last two years – ka pai!

Alliance update

Queenstown's town centre received a welcome boost in time for King's Birthday weekend when Gorge Road, Ballarat Street and Athol Street all reopened following recent works.

Replacing 32m of wastewater pipe under Gorge Road was completed ahead of schedule whilst, at the Athol-Ballarat streets intersection, the final stormwater connection and upgrades to the outfall structure at Horne Creek are all done.

This means a temporary coach stop has been relocated back to its usual position on Athol Street, allowing the Stanley Street carpark to be fully reinstated.

Thanks to everyone for your patience!

Stay up to date on the Frankton intersection and bus hub upgrades

NZTA Waka Kotahi is delivering improvements to SH6 and SH6A to support an efficient and reliable transport network to address growth in Queenstown.

If you live or work in the area and would like to sign up for work notices, please email info@wtpa.co.nz with 'Work Notice' in the subject line. This is a great way to find out firsthand about the days, time and duration of specific pieces of work that may cause disruption.



Looking down Ballarat Street after the underground stormwater upgrades.



Opening Soon

Remarkable Laundry delivers premium commercial laundry solutions and linen hire throughout Queenstown

- High-quality linen hire
- Professional laundry care
- Free Pick Up and Delivery

Contact us for an exclusive launch offer available for a limited time.

info@remarkablelaundry.co.nz or call +64 21 6608 11

Burn dry then cool your ashes!

Otago has several towns where air quality is known to worsen during winter. Arrowtown is one example in our district.

Otago Regional Council monitors air quality by measuring the amount of microscopic particles, for example from wood burning. Elevated levels can be harmful to your health.

So, only burn dry wood in a well-ventilated fire to reduce pollution.

HOW TO BURN DRY AND BREATHE EASY:

Stack firewood off the ground, out of the rain and with plenty of **airflow** so it dries faster.

Use a **moisture meter** to check if your wood is dry enough to burn. Less than 25% moisture means more heat and less smoke.

Don't burn wet or green firewood, treated wood or household rubbish – they can release harmful toxins.

Get more tips at orc.govt.nz/burndry

And remember to be careful when disposing of ashes.

Hot ashes can start fires in bins, trucks, and landfills, even days after the fire's out so make sure they're completely cold. Always empty ashes into a metal bin, douse with water, and leave for five days before putting them in your red rubbish bin.

For more safe disposal tips, visit our A-Z Rubbish & Recycling Directory: qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling



Piloting Wānaka Airport's future

The roadmap for developing a vision and masterplan for Wānaka Airport began in mid-April when independent consultancy Egis NZ Ltd met with Councillors and the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board.

Egis has experience in managing 20 airports worldwide. Just as this newsletter was published, it was hosting two drop-in sessions to hear the community's own ideas for the future of the airport:

- > Friday, 27 June, 4.00-7.00pm; Paetara Aspiring Central.
- > Saturday, 28 June, 9.00-11.00am; Wānaka Recreation Centre.

Egis is inviting everyone to provide feedback online from 27 June to 15 July before the chance to review possible future scenarios in further community drop-in sessions in August.

For full details of how to take part in the independent delivery of the Wānaka Airport Future Review head to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz



Time to 'fetch' your dog's registration!

If you've got a four-legged friend in the family, it's that time of year again: dog registration letters will soon be hitting inboxes, and you've got until 31 July to register your pooch or renew their annual registration.

This isn't just a legal requirement for all dogs over three months old, it's also a key part of keeping your pup safe and supports a wide range of important related services in our beautiful district.

It's all about building a dog-friendly community that's safe, responsible and supportive for people and pets alike.

SHIFTED SINCE LAST YEAR? REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR DOG'S DETAILS TOO!

If you and your pooch have moved recently, don't forget to update their address. If your dog ever goes on an unexpected solo adventure, having the correct details helps us reunite you quicker. You can update their info online at [📍 qldc.govt.nz/update-dog-details](https://qldc.govt.nz/update-dog-details) or email the team at services@qldc.govt.nz.

SIGN UP FOR SCUTTLEMUTT

While you're online, check out Scuttlemutt - our free twice-yearly e-newsletter all about dogs in the district. From training tips and events to scenic walks and seasonal updates, it's your go-to guide for dog life in the Queenstown Lakes. Subscribe at [📍 qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt](https://qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt).

PAY ONLINE

We've made paying your registration super easy. Just head to [📍 qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/make-a-payment](https://qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/make-a-payment) and get it done in a few clicks.

So don't delay, get your dog registration sorted and continue being a pawsome dog owner!

WHAT DO YOUR QLDC DOG

REGISTRATION FEES SUPPORT?

Three full-time Animal Control Officers

Three Animal Control vehicles

Uniforms & PPE for Officers

24/7 After-hours response service

Two pound facilities for roaming dogs

Dog training sessions (Wānaka & Queenstown)

Yearly community dog events

School education on dog safety

Dog bark collar loaning service

Signage on trails & reserves

Poo bags and dispensers

Lifelong dog registration tags



Your holiday home specialists

Looking for exceptional property management? Look no further! Our expert team provides top-notch service, ensuring your holiday home is well-maintained and guest-ready. Trust us to deliver a seamless experience for you and your guests.

- Management fee 18% - No Hidden Costs
- High Occupancy

Experience the difference. Contact us today by emailing info@luxuryaway.co.nz or call +64 22 362 1588



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Know how to read your tyre and get the right chains for your car. Your tyre size will be printed on the side. Use the **Snowsweat online calculator** to find the right size chains for your vehicle.

Grab a free **ice scraper** from QLDC offices, libraries and rec centres. Don't use hot water to clear your windscreen!

THIS WINTER

Whether you're an ace behind the wheel or haven't had much experience driving in ice and snow, there's plenty you can do to keep yourself and others as safe as possible when you're out on the roads this winter.

Here are some top tips:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Double your following distance and don't overtake grit trucks</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Plan extra travel time and slow down</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Take extra care on bridge surfaces and when driving through shaded areas</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Accelerate smoothly and brake gently</p> |
| <p>5</p> <p>Carry chains in your vehicle wherever you go, and know how and when to fit them. If you use Crown Range Road regularly, chains should be carried at all times</p> | <p>6</p> <p>If it's one of those really cold, snowy or icy days, sometimes it's just better to stay home and only travel if it's absolutely necessary</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Check road conditions before you leave the house, and make sure all vehicle windows are free of snow and ice before driving</p> | |



Sign up to our Winter Road Reports at qldc.govt.nz/winter-road-reports and you'll get an email every morning before 7.00am with a heads up on what to expect.

Sign up to our community text alerts at qldc.govt.nz/text-alerts and we'll send you a txt message about any road closures due to snow or black ice warnings.

IS YOUR VEHICLE

READY FOR WINTER?

What would you do if you were stuck on the road for several hours, or even overnight, because of an accident, flooding, heavy snow or rockfalls? In winter we should all carry chains and an ice-scraper but it's strongly recommended every vehicle should also have:



A first aid kit



Bottle of water



Snacks



A shovel (which can save the day in certain situations)



A car charger for your cellphone (or separate power pack)



Warm clothes and a blanket for you and your passengers – these situations can sometimes last several hours and you'll need to stay warm



Remember, if you're stuck in an isolated area it's safest to remain in your vehicle until help arrives, unless you're at risk of being trapped, for example, in floodwater (when you should safely move to higher ground and call for help).

TOGETHER TOWARDS ZERO WASTE AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Waste is everyone's responsibility: we all produce it and we all play a part in where it ends up.

QLDC's draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan sets out a range of actions to help change our district's waste story. From reducing construction waste and rolling out a kerbside organics collection service, to supporting local zero waste projects and upgrading our recycling infrastructure — it's going to take collective action to create real change.

This plan builds on what we've already achieved and looks for new opportunities to do better.

Submissions close 30 June, so don't waste your chance:

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/wmmp

SUBMISSIONS

CLOSING SOON!

Register with Let's Talk
and receive our monthly
consultation newsletter!



Let's Talk – we'd love to hear from you

Our Let's Talk website makes it easy to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the projects and plans that matter to you and your community. There's lots of important stuff coming up over the next few months, so head along to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz and keep an eye on what's out for feedback or consultation. And if you register with the site, we'll send a monthly update straight to your inbox so you'll never miss a chance to have your say. We also provide a snapshot right here, on the back page of every edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2028

Status:
Submissions
open until 27
June.

OUR WATER DONE WELL

Status:
Submissions
open until 29
June.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN

Status:
Submissions open
until 30 June.

DRAFT TE TAPUNUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

Status: Submissions
open until 6 July.

TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STRUCTURE PLAN

Status:
Submissions
open until 20 July.

GLENORCHY AIRSTRIPE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Status:
Submissions open
until 8 August.

WHAT'S COMING UP

DRAFT FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

Formal consultation expected in
early July.

ARROWTOWN RIVERSIDE RESERVES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Engagement expected in August.

WIDGEON PLACE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Engagement expected in August.

AND MUCH MORE

FIND FULL DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.T.NZ

QLDC OFFICES

Queenstown Office:

10 Gorge Road
Private Bag 50072, Queenstown
Phone: 03 441 0499

Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: services@qldc.govt.nz

Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand
Alpine Health & Fitness
Indoor Courts
Sports fields
Phone: 03 450 9005

WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
Indoor Courts
Phone: 03 443 9334

PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts
Studio
Phone: 03 450 1721

VENUES

For more information on
our venues please head to
qldc.govt.nz/venues

LIBRARIES

For library opening hours
and locations please head to
qldclibraries.govt.nz

TRANSFER STATIONS

Whakatipu: 110 Glenda Drive
Frankton Industrial Area
Phone: 03 348 5126

Upper Clutha: Cnr of Ballantyne
& Riverbank Roads
Phone: 03 348 6125

HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of
waterway rules by phone
03 441 0499 or email
services@qldc.govt.nz
In an emergency on the water
always call **111**

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

Let's Talk Kōrero Mai is published bi-monthly
by Queenstown Lakes District Council to inform
ratepayers and residents of council activities.

Sam White ✉ communications@qldc.govt.nz
Feedback and ideas are welcome.

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI // JUNE / JULY 2025 // ISSUE 167 // www.qldc.govt.nz

ISSN 3021-2464 (PRINT) ISSN 3021-2472 (ONLINE)