

Ref: LG24/0024

26 February 2024

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). Council acknowledges receipt of your email dated 26 January 2024 (1.59pm) requesting pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

- *the total amount it has spent in legal costs in relation to the NZL 14 boat from 2017 to 2023*
- *how much it cost to remove the NZL 14 boat from Queenstown Bay*

QLDC Response

Legal costs in relation to NZL14

\$49,646.75 (incl GST) was the total legal costs incurred in relation to NZL14, which broke its mooring in Lake Wakatipu in September 2018, and the legal actions which followed, including:

- Between September 2018 and December 2019, Mr Hunt failed to comply with several directives from Council pursuant to Council's Navigational Safety Bylaw 2018 to relocate NZL14 to a permanent mooring.
- In February 2020, Council obtained a declaratory judgement from the Court, which confirmed Mr Hunt had abandoned NZL14 for the purposes of the Maritime Act 1994 (the Act).
- Council then attempted to invoke its statutory powers under the Act to sell or otherwise dispose of NZL14 and notified Mr Hunt of its intention to do so.
- After numerous failed attempts to find a successful party to purchase NZL14, and delays resulting from Covid, Council turned its focus to disposing of the yacht and arranged for a contractor to undertake these works.
- In November 2022, Mr Hunt filed Court proceedings against Council seeking to prevent Council from selling or disposing NZL14. Mr Hunt's application was dismissed by the High Court in February 2023.
- In March 2023, Mr Hunt filed a further application, which was ultimately dismissed by the High Court in August 2023.
- Following the outcome of these proceedings, Council successfully proceeded with the removal and disposal of NZL14 in November 2023.

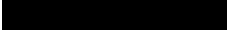
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Costs to remove NZL14

\$126,077.70 (incl GST) was the total cost incurred in the removal and disposal of NZL14. This includes:

- The first attempt in November 2022 following the Court's declaratory judgement and second (successful) removal and disposal of NZL14 in November 2023 after the legal proceedings against Council were resolved, including:
 - o Preparation of transfer plan
 - o Safety management
 - o Establishment of cranes and tow vessels
 - o Transferring NZL14 from Queenstown Bay to the foreshore
 - o Crane works to remove NZL14 from the water
 - o Securing NZL14 on trailer
 - o Transfer to the facility and disposal costs.
- Advertising costs, as required by the legislation, from May 2020 to March 2022.

Kind regards


Information & Records Advisor
Knowledge Management
Queenstown Lakes District Council