

Minutes of a Full Council Workshop

Thursday 19 February 2026 at 1.00pm
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

A recording of this workshop can be found on the QLDC website.

Present:	Mayor John Glover (Chair)	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Niki Gladding	Councillor Nicola King
	Councillor Jon Mitchell	Councillor Cody Tucker
Apologies:	Councillor Quentin Smith	Councillor Heath Copland
In Attendance:	Michelle Morss	Katherine Harbrow
	Tony Avery	Meaghan Miller (online)
	Simon Mason	Scott Paterson
	Simon Leary	Brendan Peet
	Gareth Noble	Brent Pearce
	Liz Simpson	Maseina Koneferenisi (online)
	Arne Burgess	Mary Davenport (online)
	Helen Beaumont	Campbell Weal
	Anthony Kerr (GHD) (online)	Jane Robertson
	Helen Barclay (GHD) (online)	One member of the media

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP) Long Term Disposal Solution – Workshop</u></p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was to build on the December 2025 workshop, respond to elected members' technical and strategic questions, and prepare Council for deciding on the long-term wastewater discharge option at the 19 March 2026 Council meeting.</p> <p>Simon Mason (Infrastructure Operations Manager), Scott Paterson (Project Manager) and Tony Avery (General Manager, Property & Infrastructure) presented a PowerPoint and responded to questions.</p> <p>Current Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWWTP treats about 14,000 m³/day and is operating under an emergency discharge to the Shotover River; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short-term consent is proceeding through direct referral to the Environment Court, with mediation expected around April 2026. • An enforcement order requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An application for long-term consent to be lodged by 31 May 2026; and ○ A permanent solution to be operational by 2030. • Population growth projections show wastewater volumes could reach 60 million litres/day by 2060, which is nearly double the current load. <p>Options Considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five long-term discharge/disposal options were assessed. Officers' preferred option is Option A: Pipeline and rock outfall to the Kawarau River <p>Option A is recommended because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is most likely to meet 2030 enforcement deadlines, will have the lowest cost and simplest construction, is operationally the lowest risk for handling forecast 2060 volumes and the environmental effects are deemed to be no more than minor once mixed in the Kawarau River. <p>Environmental Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated assessments and advice from Otago Regional Council suggest that the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers meet pristine NPSFM (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management) "A-band" criteria, meaning new national wastewater performance standards (WEPS) may not strictly apply, although they inform best practice. <p>Mana Whenua Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong preference for land-based discharge via natural processes; • Tokenistic or superficial land contact (e.g. rock contact only) is not acceptable; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire a holistic, long-term solution rather than incremental improvements. <p>Land Disposal Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive spatial analysis confirms that very little suitable land exists in the Whakatipu Basin; • The Crown Terrace is the only viable contiguous area but requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About 240 hectares of irrigable land; ○ A 15 km (or more), 700 mm pipeline with a 360m vertical lift; ○ This option has high construction and operating costs and longer construction timeframes than the preferred option. <p>Consenting Pathway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct referral to the Environment Court is the only realistic route to meet enforcement deadlines. • Councillors raised concerns about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The need for community engagement prior to selecting an option; ○ Whether an extension should be sought to allow for fuller public input; ○ Ensuring the decision aligns with Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. • Officers noted that the report to Council would consider the implications of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. <p>Key Decisions for Council</p> <p>Council must determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which long term discharge option to pursue; and 2. Whether further engagement or an extension to deadlines is required to ensure the decision is durable, culturally informed, and socially supported. 	

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	<p>Attachments</p> <p><i>A. Workshop Presentation – Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution 19 February 2026</i></p> <p><i>B Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards (WEPS) Impact Assessment</i></p> <p><i>C Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Enhanced Treatment Options</i></p> <p><i>D Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Dose and Drain (DAD) Assessment</i></p> <p><i>E Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Outfall Assessment</i></p> <p><i>F Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Consent Strategy</i></p> <p><i>G Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Draft Engagement Plan</i></p> <p><i>H Shotover WWTP Long Term Disposal Solution – Workshop Briefing Paper</i></p>	

The workshop concluded at 3.10pm.