

# Item 1: Developing a Freedom Camping Bylaw

**SESSION TYPE:** Workshop

**PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:**

To seek guidance from elected members regarding regulatory interventions to inform the development of a draft Freedom Camping Bylaw.

**DATE/START TIME:**

Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 1.00pm

**TIME BREAKDOWN:**

Presentation: 30 mins

Questions or Debate/Discussion: 60 mins

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Luke Place

**Title:** Principal Policy Advisor

14 May 2025

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Kenneth Bailey

**Title:** Community Services General Manager

14 May 2025

**ATTACHMENTS:**

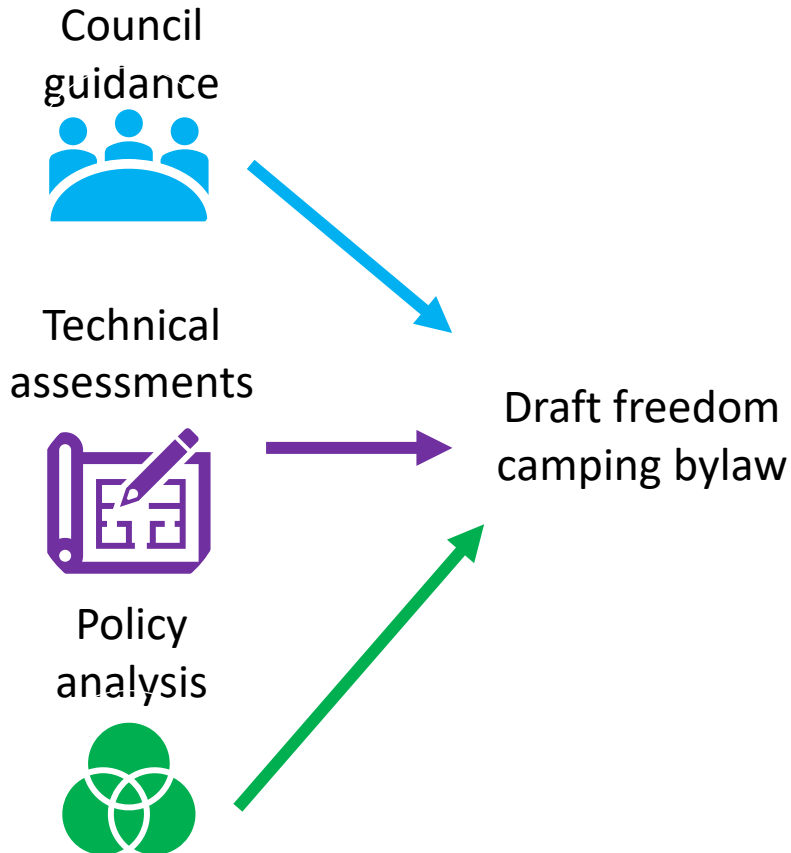
|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| A | Freedom Camping Bylaw PowerPoint |
|---|----------------------------------|

# Developing a freedom camping bylaw

# Purpose of workshop

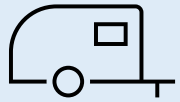
- > Share preliminary assessment of areas where freedom camping could be considered (subject to conditions).
- > Report on recommended modifications to the preliminary assessment to inform the management of freedom camping and the overall responsible camping programme.
- > Receive feedback on preliminary areas for freedom camping to inform the development of a draft bylaw.

# Bylaw development process



| Indicative date    | Task  |
|--------------------|---|
| 20 March 2025      | Council meeting – Issues and options<br>Determined that a bylaw and non-regulatory tools are the most appropriate way to manage perceived problem |
| 15 April           | Council workshop #1 – Council guidance on preferred regulatory interventions  |
| 22 May 2025        | Council workshop #2 – <b>We are here</b>  |
| May – June         | Bylaw drafting  |
| 26 June 2025       | Council meeting - adopt a draft bylaw for consultation  |
| July - August 2025 | Public consultation on draft bylaw  |
| September 2025     | Hearing of submissions and deliberations  |
| 9 October 2025     | Council meeting - adopt final bylaw   |

# Background – QLD camping context



The Freedom Camping Act 2011 permits camping in self-contained vehicles on all QLDC controlled/managed land.



The Reserves Act 1977 prohibits freedom camping on land classified as 'reserve'.

1 (formal) NZTA freedom camping site

All other NZTA land currently permitted for freedom camping

13 Doc camping areas  
- either free or low cost  
(approx. \$15/night)

18 Commercial Campsite/Holiday Park

1 QLDC freedom camping site  
(Luggate Red Bridge)

1 New Zealand Motor Caravan Association camping site

0 LINZ freedom camping sites

# Freedom Camping Act 2011 and freedom camping bylaws

Freedom camping bylaws can restrict or prohibit freedom camping to protect:

- > the area
- > health and safety of people who may visit the area
- > access to the area.

Bylaws can not:

- > manage freedom camping on private land
- > consider impacts on private land.

Bylaws may not apply blanket prohibitions.

# Recap of feedback from workshop #1

What we heard at workshop #1 (15 April 2025):

- > A wide range of impacts and community concerns are being experienced.
- > Reserve land should continue to be managed under the Reserves Act 1977.
- > The balance of land should be managed under a freedom camping bylaw.
- > A freedom camping bylaw response needs to be in line and proportionate to the impacts.

# Preliminary approach based on workshop #1 feedback

- > **Reserve land** - Exclude land managed under the Reserves Act 1977 (RA):
  - > status quo i.e. freedom camping is prohibited
  - > Councils can lift the default prohibition via a Ministers delegation (i.e. Red Bridge Luggate site) or through a reserve management plan.
- > **Other land** – The balance of land managed or controlled by QLDC is within scope of the bylaw:
  - > e.g. QLDC streets and car parking areas
  - > mapping and management of restricted areas guided by constraints identified by technical assessments.



# Output of preliminary technical approach – areas for consideration

- Approximately 22 vehicle parking areas which are:
  - completely outside of land managed under the Reserve Act 1977
  - assessed as being possible for freedom camping based on site specific transport/access considerations
  - constraints may be able to be managed with appropriate conditions.
- Only a proportion of vehicle parking spaces within each vehicle parking area would be available for freedom camping.

**Effect of this approach** = Using the preliminary technical approach may create a regulatory response that isn't fit for purpose, difficult for campers to understand, and tricky to monitor/enforce.

# Recommended modified approach

- > Identify areas of reserve land to be considered for freedom camping.
  
- > This has been informed by:
  1. technical assessment i.e. areas that are not subject to hard constraints (high impacts) from freedom camping.
  2. officers on the ground experience, understanding of issues (esp from the 2024/2025 summer period), and site-specific knowledge.

# Possible conditions to manage freedom camping areas

- > Conditions could relate to a range of matters needed to protect the area, health and safety, and access and include:
  - > maximum number of self-contained vehicles at an area
  - > use of a certified self-contained vehicle
  - > hours of arrival/departure
  - > space occupied by vehicle, equipment, personal effects etc.
  - > maximum number of nights
  - > return limits limitations
  - > seasonal restrictions
  - > lighting of fires
  - > disposal of waste and litter.

# Recommended modified approach - Areas for consideration (Whakatipu ward)

| Area                                      | Location/map reference |
|---|------------------------|
| Industrial Place carpark                  | A                      |
| Queenstown Events Centre northern carpark | B                      |
| Boundary Street carpark                   | C                      |
| Ballarat Street carpark                   | D                      |
| Stanley Street carpark                    | E                      |
| Tucker Beach Road                         | F                      |

| Area                         | Location/map reference |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Shotover Bridge carpark      | G                      |
| Spence Road shoulder         | H                      |
| Hayes Creek Road carpark     | I                      |
| Lake Hayes Pavillion carpark | J                      |
| Lake Hayes north carpark     | K                      |
| Bush Creek carpark           | L                      |
| Flint Street carpark         | M                      |
| NZTA Kingston camping area   | N                      |

| Key           |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Blue shading  | Not reserve land |
| Green shading | Reserve land     |

# Recommended modified approach - Areas for consideration (Upper Clutha)

| Area                                | Location/map reference |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pembrook Park carpark               | O                      |
| Brownston Street on-street carparks | P                      |
| Wanaka lakefront carpark            | Q                      |
| Eely Point                          | R                      |
| Wanaka Recreation Centre carpark    | S                      |
| Camp Hill Road carpark              | T                      |
| Hawea Domain carpark                | U                      |
| Luggate Red Bridge carpark*         | V                      |

| Key           |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Blue shading  | Not reserve land |
| Green shading | Reserve land     |

# Models available to manage freedom camping on areas for consideration

| Freedom camping on non-reserve land only   | Freedom camping on non-reserve and reserve land  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Model 1  | Model 2  | Model 3   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tool used:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom camping bylaw</li></ul></li><li>• QLDC controlled or managed land i.e. streets and carparking areas</li><li>• Identifies areas where freedom camping is prohibited and where freedom camping is allowed subject to conditions (i.e. restricted areas).</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tools used:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom camping bylaw to manage freedom camping on reserve land and non-reserve land</li><li>• Ministerial delegation to remove Reserves Act 1977 prohibition on identified reserve land</li></ul></li><li>• Identifies areas where freedom camping is prohibited and where freedom camping is allowed subject to conditions (i.e. restricted areas).</li></ul> | <p>Tools used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom camping bylaw to manage freedom camping on non-reserve land<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identifies areas where freedom camping is prohibited and where freedom camping is allowed subject to conditions (i.e. restricted areas).</li><li>- Can occur as part of the current program/process.</li></ul></li><li>• Reserve Management Plans to manage freedom camping on reserve land<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify where freedom camping can take place on specific reserves subject to controls.</li><li>- A separate and future programme of work/process not part of the bylaw development workstream.</li><li>- Explore alternatives such as formally managed spaces on QLDC owned land.</li></ul></li></ul> |



# Preliminary areas for consideration - Queenstown

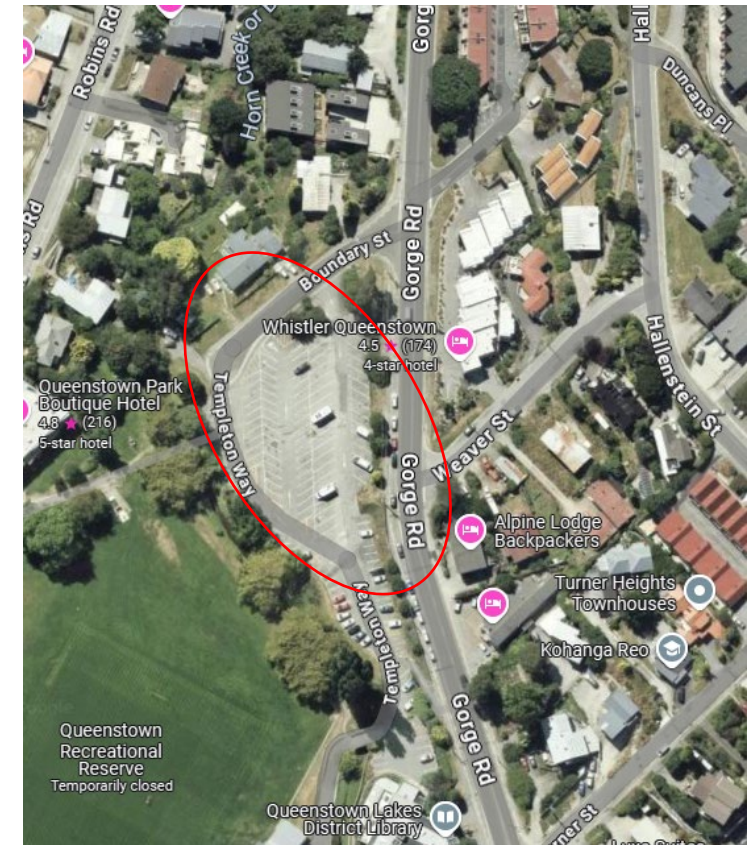
Location A - Industrial Place carpark



Location B - Queenstown Events Centre northern carpark

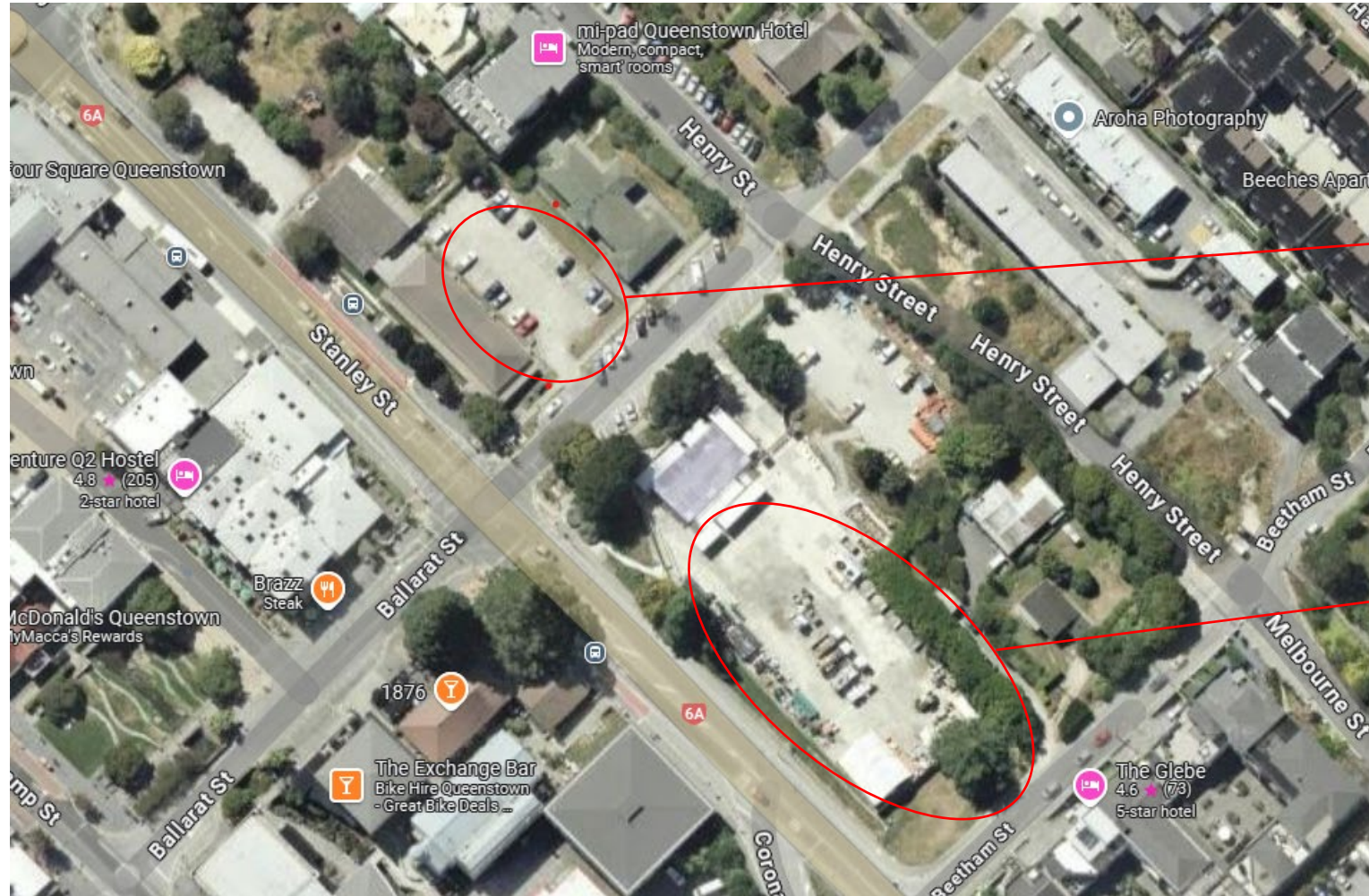


Location C - Boundary Street carpark





# Preliminary restricted areas - Queenstown



Location D -  
Ballarat Street  
carpark  
reserve land

Location E - Stanley  
Street carpark  
reserve land



# Preliminary restricted areas – Queenstown

Location F - Tucker Beach Road



Location G - Shotover Bridge carpark  
reserve land



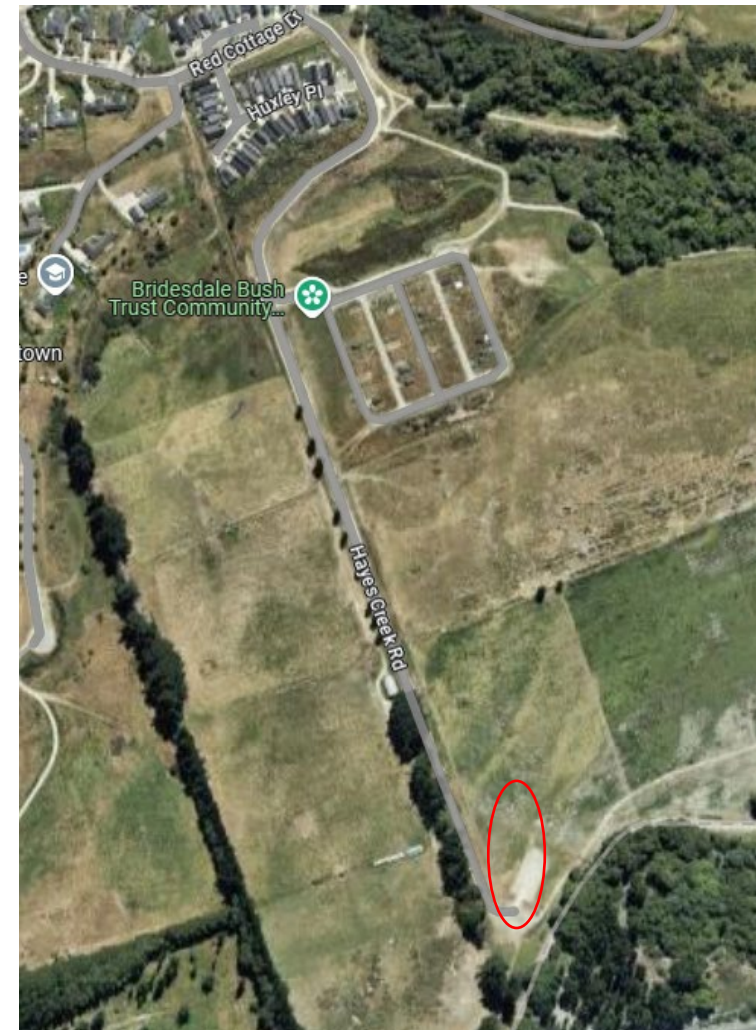


# Preliminary restricted areas – Queenstown

Location H - Spence Road  
reserve land



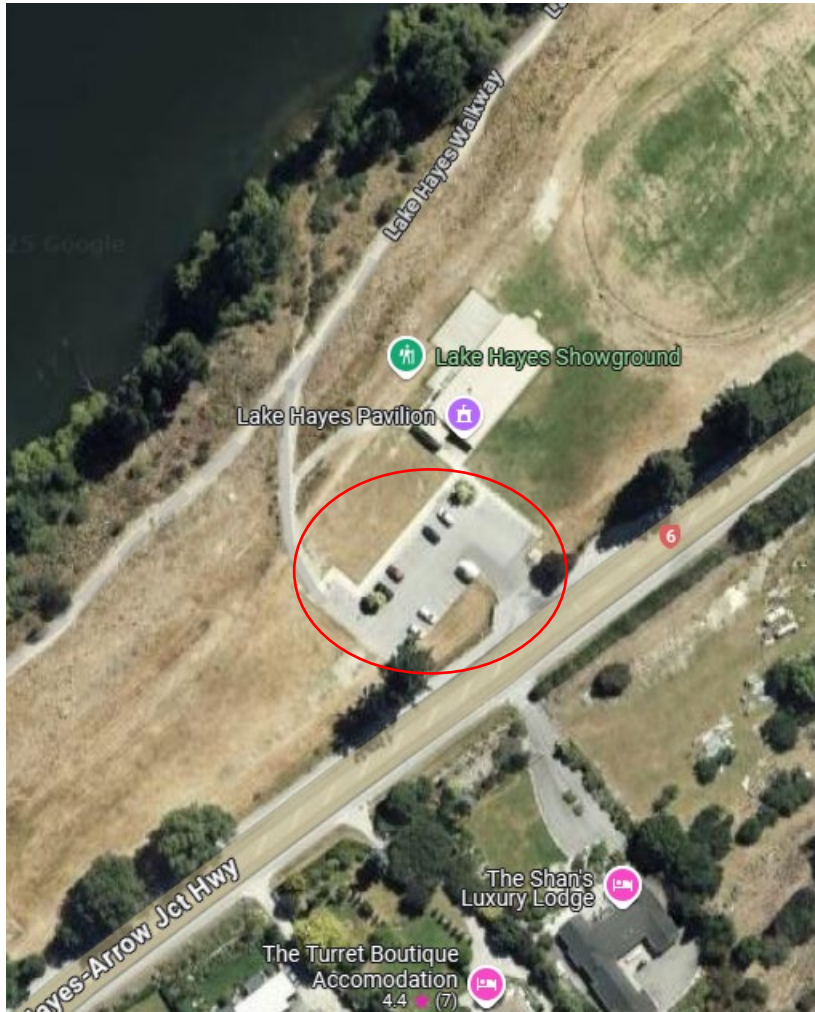
Location I - Hayes Creek Road carpark  
reserve land



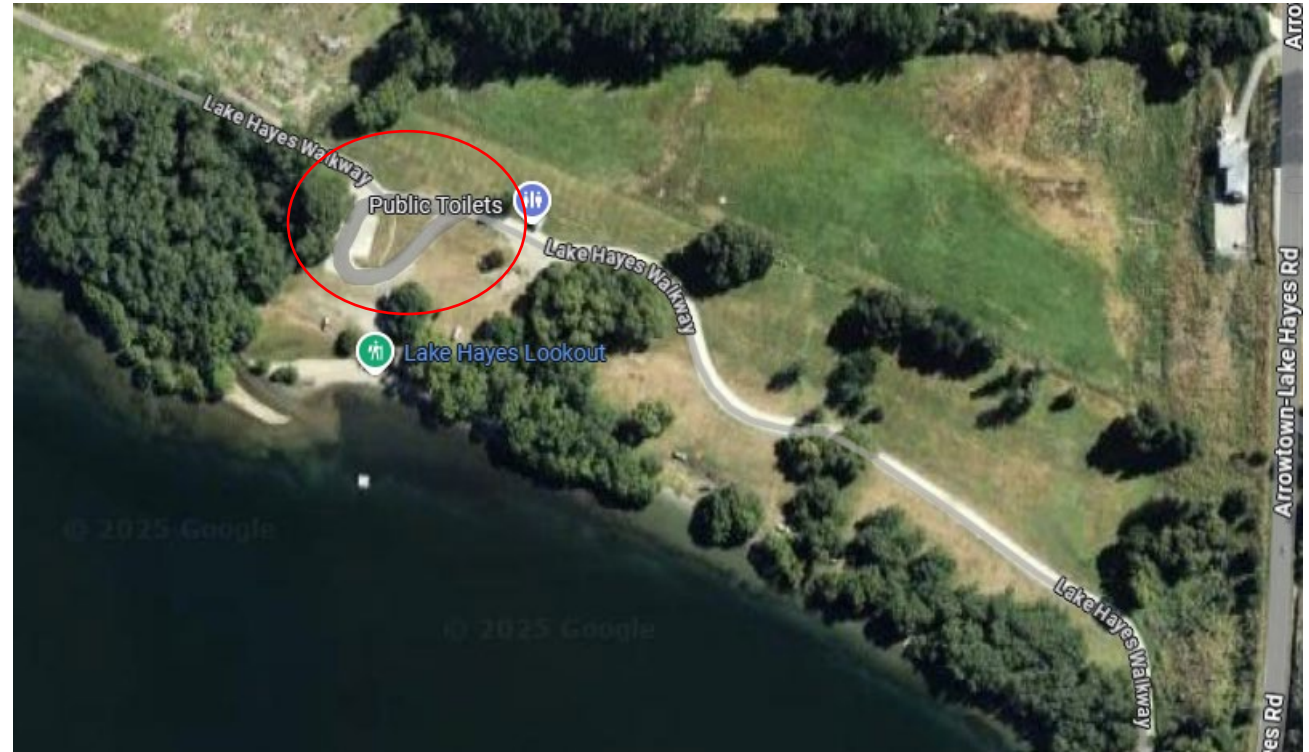


# Preliminary restricted areas – Whakatipu

Location J - Lake Hayes Pavillion carpark  
reserve land

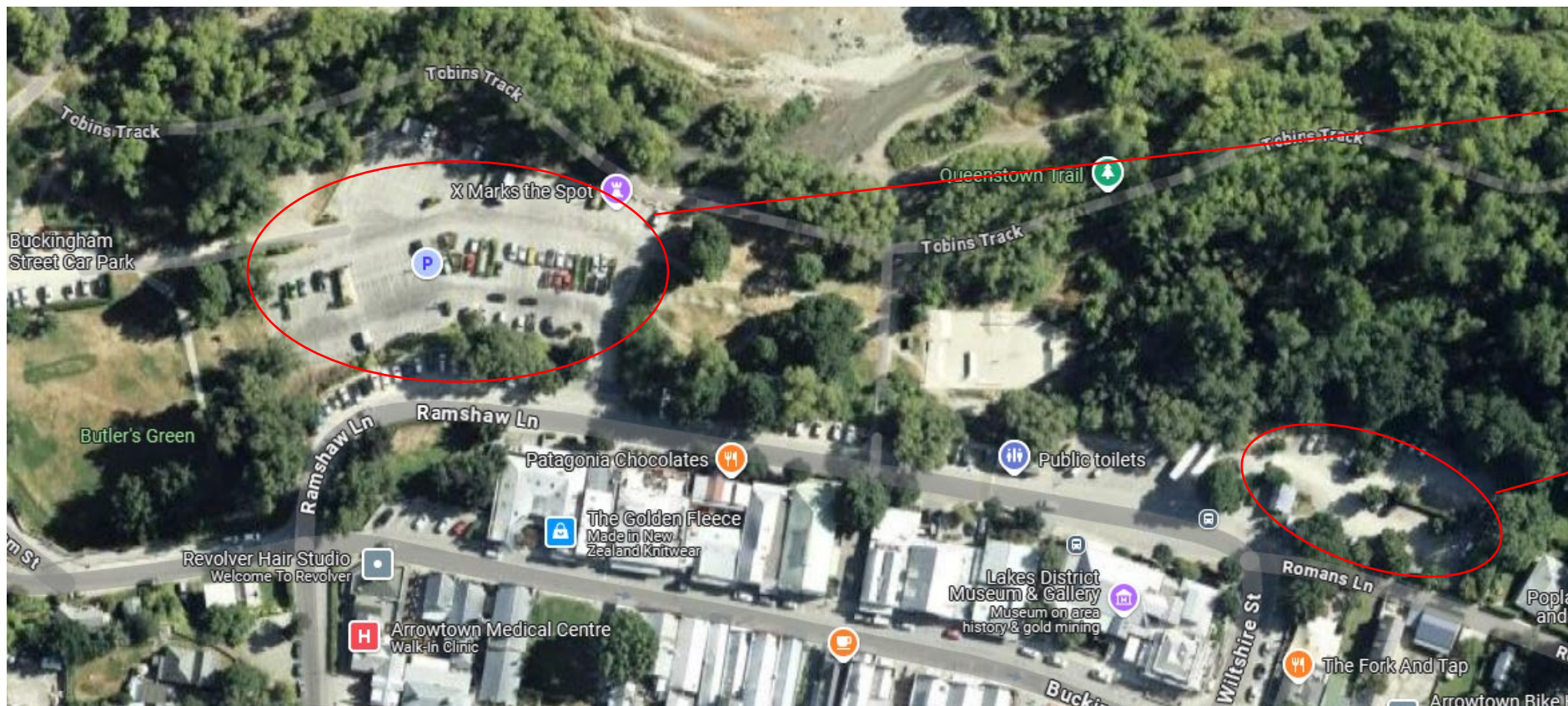


Location K - Lake Hayes north carpark  
reserve land





# Preliminary restricted areas – Arrowtown

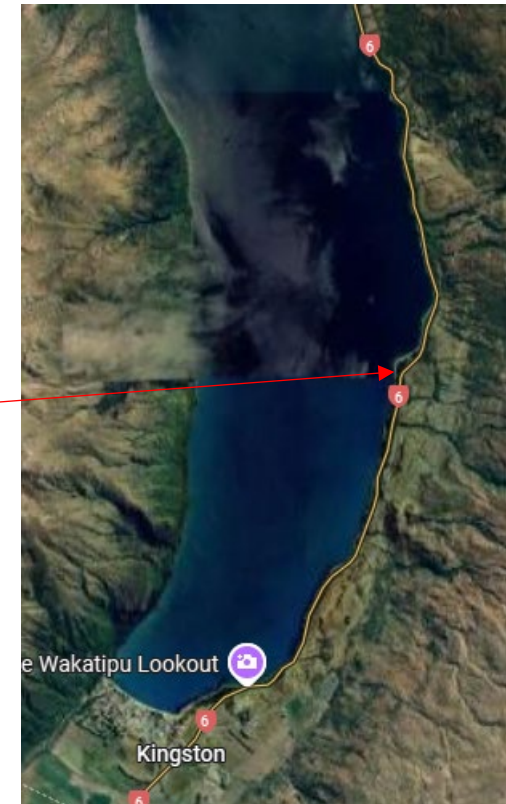
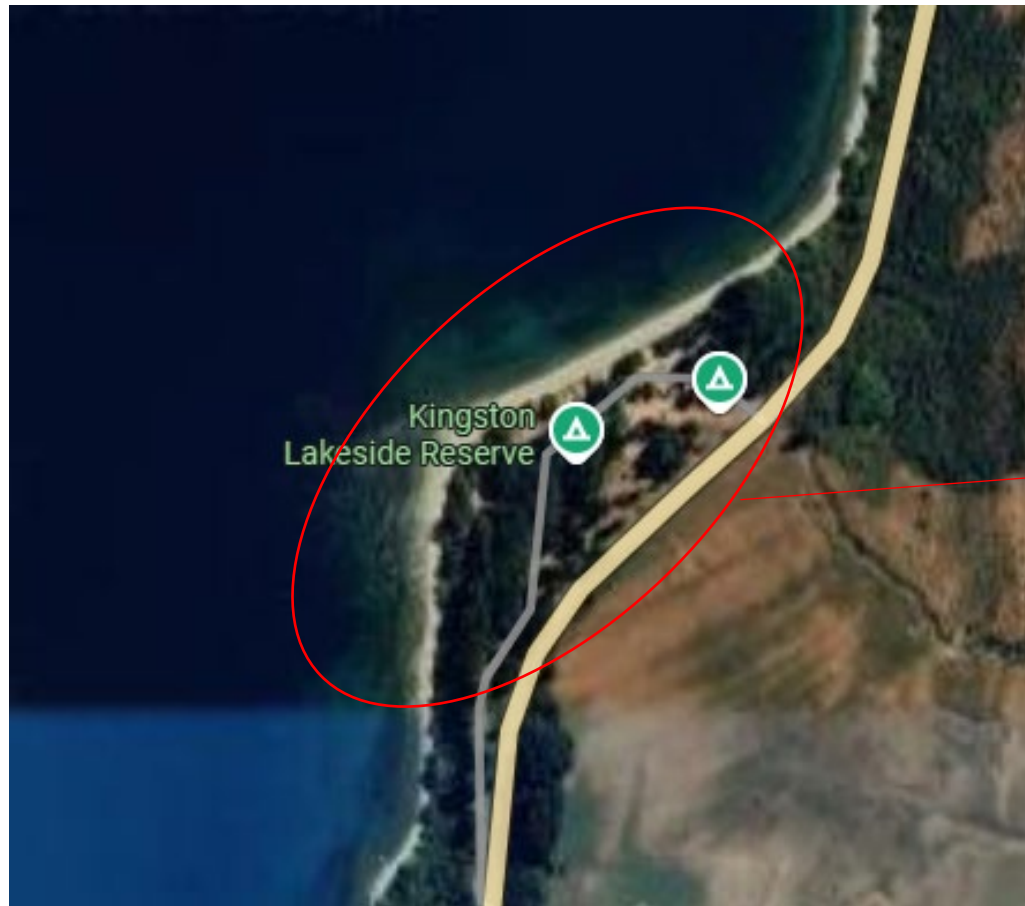


Location L - Bush  
Creek carpark  
reserve land

Location M – Flint  
Street carpark

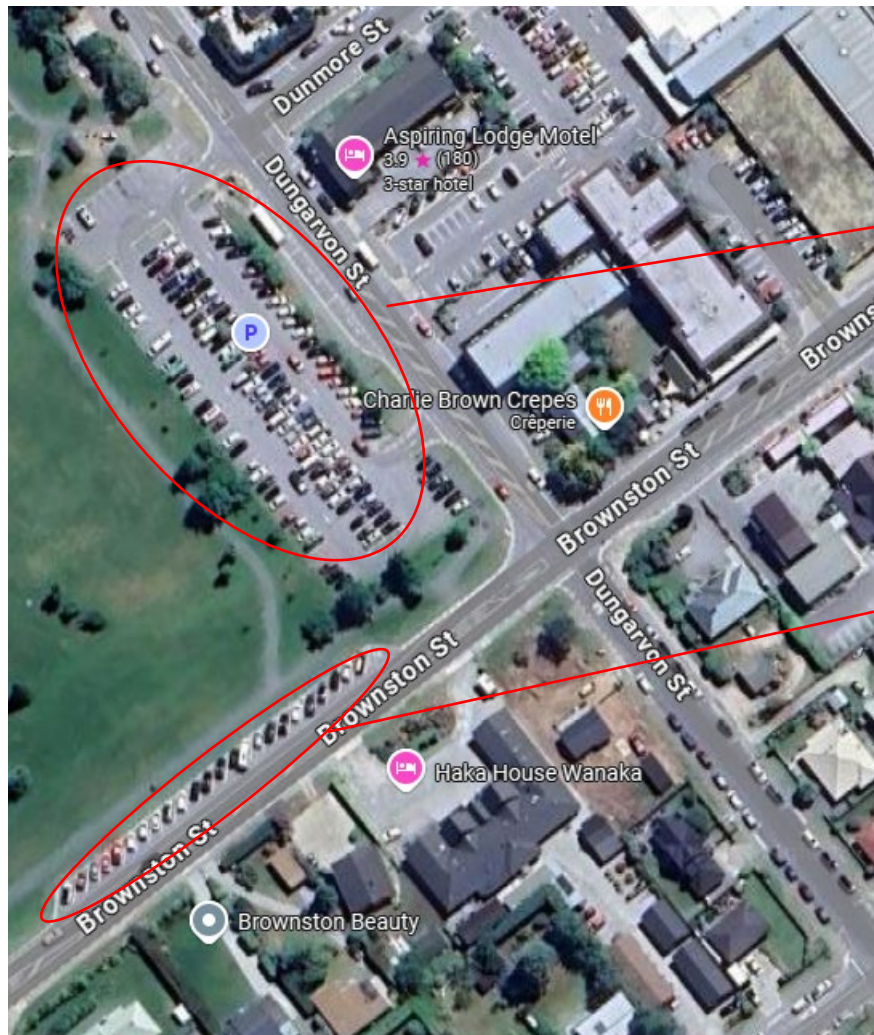
# Preliminary restricted areas – Kingston

Location N - NZTA Kingston camping area  
NZTA land





# Preliminary restricted areas – Wānaka



Location O -  
Pembroke Park  
carpark  
reserve land

Location P -  
Brownston Street  
on-street carparks

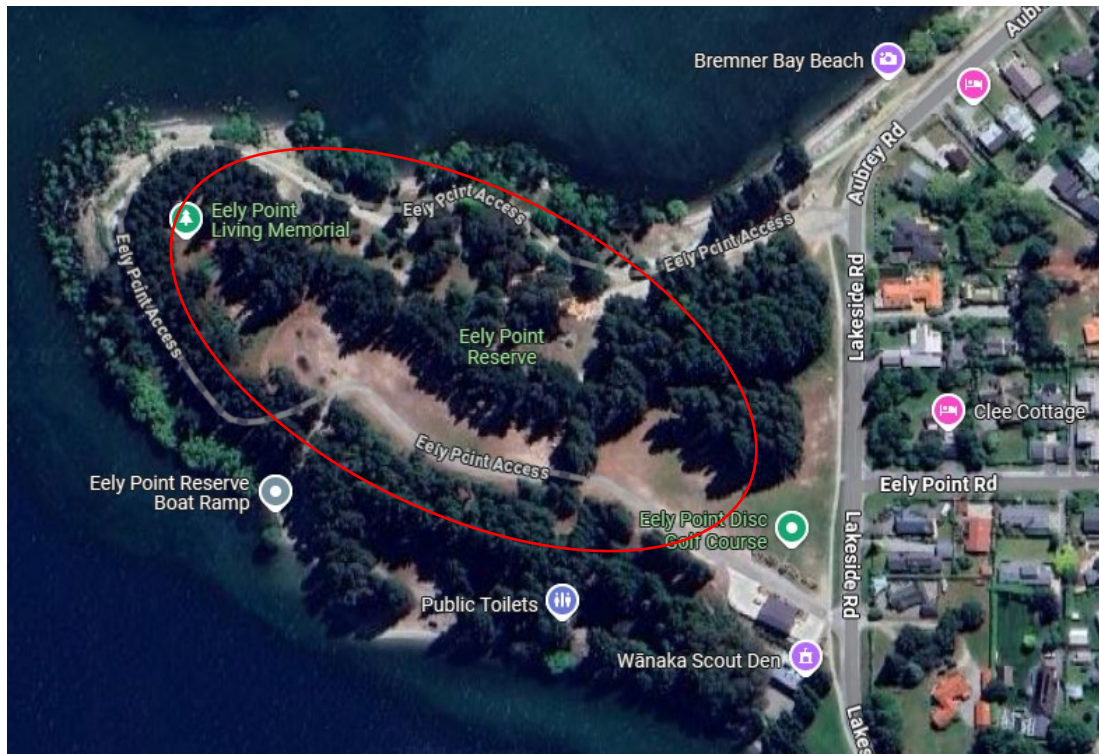
Location Q - Wānaka lakefront carpark  
reserve land





# Preliminary restricted areas – Wānaka

Location R - Eely Point  
reserve land



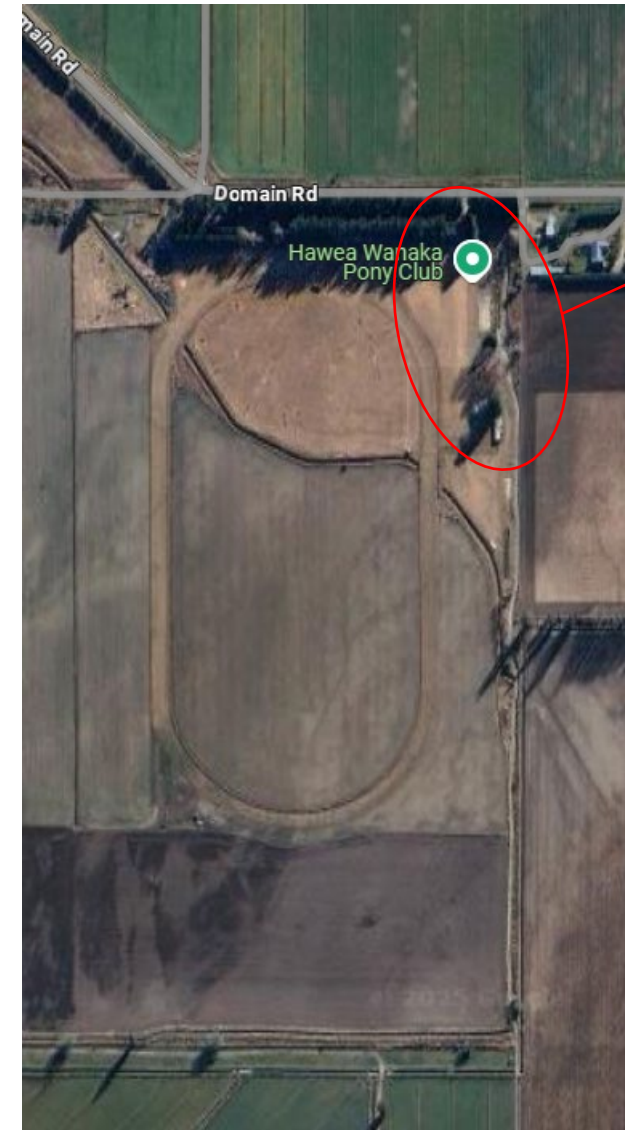
Location S - Wānaka Recreation Centre  
carpark





# Preliminary restricted areas – Upper Clutha

Location T - Camp Hill Road carpark,  
Hāwea



Location U -  
Hāwea Domain  
carpark  
reserve land



# Preliminary restricted areas – Luggate Red Bridge

Location V - Luggate Red Bridge carpark  
Existing freedom camping location (reserve land\*)



# Recommended modified preliminary approach

## > **Key guidance requested from Council:**

1. Feedback on the recommended modified preliminary approach.
2. Feedback on areas being considered for freedom camping.

Work is continuing at pace to confirm the number of vehicle parking spaces that could be made available for restricted freedom camping at each area, their area-specific suitability and potential conditions.