

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025 // ISSUE 168

**'THE HIGHEST
VOTE': IT'S
YOUR TIME
TO DECIDE**

More than 30 people have put themselves forward for the forthcoming local body elections and it's nearly time for you to choose who you want to represent you as Mayor, Councillors and Community Board members. Voting opens on 9 September and closes on 11 October – read more about how and where to vote, and why we're aiming to take local democracy to new heights on page 4.



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

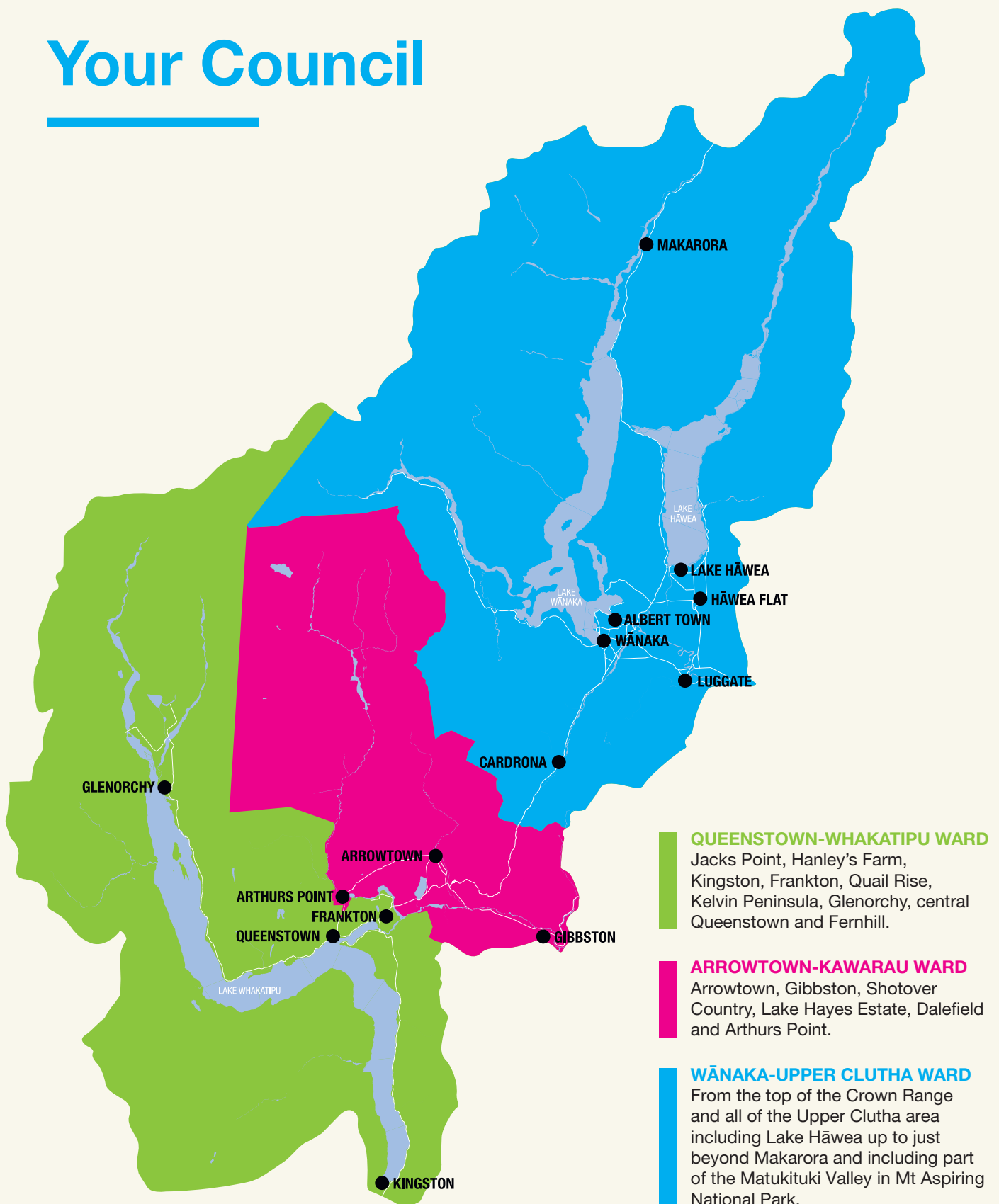


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Your Council



QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

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

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

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

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.

WELCOME – NAU MAI,
HAERE MAI!

Your time to decide

The next two pages of this edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai focus on the upcoming local body elections. We explain when, how and where to vote (including in some unexpected locations this year!).

We also explain why our promotional campaign this time around is called 'The Highest Vote'. Above all, this is your opportunity to vote for the people you want to represent you around the Council and Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board tables for the next three years.

The timing is especially important given some of the current challenges faced by all local authorities across Aotearoa New Zealand, and especially by our district as one of the fastest-growing parts of the country.

QLDC delivers and maintains on your behalf the things that matter to you all as residents and ratepayers. These include not only vital infrastructure like roading and water services but also much-valued community services including parks, playgrounds and reserves, libraries, and sport and recreation facilities like swimming pools, gyms, courts and public venues.

As you can see from the page opposite, we have three separate wards – Arrowtown-Kawarau with three Councillors, and Queenstown-Whakatipu and Wānaka-Upper Clutha with four each. Together with the Mayor, this makes a total of 12 Councillors representing our district.

In addition, there are four elected members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board who are joined by Councillors from that ward.

This year, all wards and the Board are being contested. That's to say there are more candidates than there are seats. This is a very positive situation because it provides electors with a choice.

Please take the time to find out more about the candidates in your area and ask them questions about issues that are important to you. Their details are on our website where we'll soon be posting some short videos filmed with each candidate.

Head to qldc.govt.nz/elections and look out for your voting papers from around 9 September. It's time to make your voice heard!



Property Management Stars Shine!

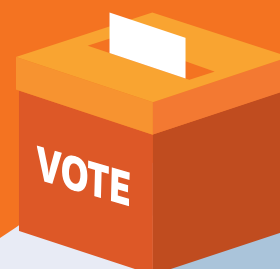
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DISTRICT PREPARES TO HEAD FOR THE HILLS AND CAST 'THE HIGHEST VOTE'



VOTING PERIOD RUNS FROM

9 SEPTEMBER TO 11 OCTOBER

This year's local body elections are your opportunity to embrace the spirit of democracy and make your mark by using the country's highest ballot boxes.

We've set our sights high, aiming for a record-breaking local vote – beating the 43.05% turnout in our district from 2022 and surpassing the national average last time of 44.5%. It's a lofty goal and we'd love you to get on board.

Most importantly, we want you to have your say in shaping how the next Council and Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board will represent you and help achieve the future you want for our beautiful district.

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.

If you didn't enrol by 1 August 2025, you'll need to cast a special vote. Special votes are available for those not on the final roll, who didn't receive or damaged their voting document, or who are on the unpublished roll. To cast a special vote, visit our Queenstown or Wānaka offices during the four-week voting period.

WHERE CAN I CAST MY VOTE?

Helping to elevate democracy, RealNZ is offering a unique chance to vote while hitting the slopes this winter. Locals can drop their voting papers at special ballot boxes located at Cardrona Alpine Resort's ticketing office (1,670m) and Treble Cone's ticketing area (1,260m) from 9 September until the season ends at each mountain (which depends on the weather, of course!).

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

Prefer to keep your feet on the ground? No worries! You can vote by post, or by dropping your vote in a local ballot box available throughout the district, including:

QUEENSTOWN LOCATIONS

PAK'nSAVE

Woolworths

New World

The Warehouse

UPPER CLUTHA LOCATIONS

New World Three Parks

New World Wānaka

Hāwea Store and Kitchen

Treble Cone Ski Field ticket area (whilst open)

Cardrona Alpine Resort ticket office (whilst open)

COUNCIL VENUES

Frankton Library

Arrowtown Library

Wānaka Library

Queenstown Library

Queenstown Events Centre

Queenstown Council Office (10 Gorge Road)

Wānaka Council Office (47 Ardmore Street)

THE FULL LIST OF BALLOT BOX

LOCATIONS IS ON OUR WEBSITE

AT [QLDC.GOV.T.NZ/ELECTIONS](https://qldc.govt.nz/elections)

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.

WHERE CAN I SEE THE LIST OF CANDIDATES?

Want to make an informed decision before casting your Highest Vote? Head to qldc.govt.nz/elections to find out more about each candidate.

WHEN CAN I VOTE?

Voting papers will be delivered to all enrolled voters between 9-22 September, with voting then open until midday on Saturday 11 October.

Colliers

2025 / 2026

Otago Property Market Review and Outlook

QUEENSTOWN, WĀNAKA, DUNEDIN & CENTRAL OTAGO

OUT NOW



OUR WATER DONE WELL

Direction confirmed for water services

QLDC will create a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) to deliver future water services in the district after the matter was considered at a Full Council meeting on 31 July.

The decision follows a proposal put before the community to manage and deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services as part of central government's Local Water Done Well plan.

During the meeting it was stated that the decision reflected analysis that a WSCCO would be the most effective at providing these services under the new legislative and regulatory regime, and enabled Council to begin preparing to create an organisation to deliver future water services.

The decision to progress with a WSCCO was undeniably a challenging

one to make but, on balance, Councillors considered that this model will provide a range of advantages in accountability, independence, and lower household costs in the long term when compared with the in-house model.

HOW IT'LL WORK

The future WSCCO will be fully owned by QLDC but governed by its own independent board and management. QLDC will be the only shareholder, and will appoint board members based on the skills and experience needed for its proper governance.

Council will set the organisation's strategic priorities and establish measures to ensure it performs to expectations, while the Commerce Commission will use various regulatory tools to ensure water charges are fair, cost-reflective and transparent.

The other shortlisted option evaluated, which received support from the majority of more than 120 submissions received during the consultation period, was for QLDC to continue to deliver water services in-house.

However, given water services cost ratepayers a significant amount of money that would increase regardless of which approach was taken, it's imperative Council takes a long-term view to ensure those services remain reliable and sustainable.

While the majority of submitters opposed a change to how water services are delivered, Council's role is to consider community views alongside legal and technical perspectives, and many of the genuine concerns raised have since been addressed by evolving legislative changes.

Ultimately – after careful assessment of the two models, public input, the recent legislative changes, and debate on the matter – the Council decision provides certainty to the district's residents around how their water services will be delivered in the future.

Responsibility for the district's water services, along with ownership of QLDC's water assets and associated debt and liabilities, will be transferred once the WSCCO has been established under new legislation.

Visit our dedicated webpage: letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/our-water-done-well

In the meantime QLDC must continue its programme of delivery. Read more about our current water investment on pages 20-21 of this newsletter.

First steps towards a Regional Deal

The Otago Central Lakes has taken the first official step towards developing a Regional Deal with central government by signing a memorandum of understanding with ministers in early July.

In late February, Otago Regional Council (ORC), Central Otago District Council (CODC) and QLDC submitted a light touch proposal to the Department of Internal Affairs in line with the Regional and City Deal framework.

The proposal outlined the region's current challenges, which are set to intensify as population and visitor numbers continue to rise. With some of the fastest growth in New Zealand over the past decade – and projections showing this will continue for at least 20 years – the region's popularity, natural beauty, and appeal to investors make it a magnet for growth. The proposal aims to manage this growth effectively, ensuring it enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

In short, our entire region is seen as a highly desirable place to live and visit, but we can't manage the impact of

growth alone. We need to work with central government on affordable and sustainable tools that enable us to continue to manage growth and ensure the entire region retains its status as a destination of choice.

In the coming months, all parties will engage in negotiations around the contents of the deal, while final approval will remain delegated to individual councils and Cabinet.

You can read the Central Otago Lakes light-touch proposal as part of the agenda for QLDC's Full Council meeting of 25 February at

[1 qldc.govt.nz/council-meetings](https://qldc.govt.nz/council-meetings)



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Funding recipients confirmed

Applications for three annual Council funds opened earlier this year, namely the QLDC Community Fund, Events Fund and Waste Minimisation Community Fund.

The creativity and passion of local non-profits and companies working towards community-minded goals never ceases to amaze us!

EVENTS

FUND

\$287,000 was awarded to attract and support the following sports, arts, cultural and community events:

Arrowtown Autumn Festival
Aspiring Conversations
Central Lakes Polyfest
Challenge Wānaka Festival
Gin Festival Arrowtown
Global Games
Highlanders Super Rugby Preseason
Lake Hayes A&P Show
Michael Hill International Violin Competition
Motatapu
Natural Selection Bike Aotearoa
NZ Mountain Film Festival
NZ Open
OUT&About Wānaka
Queenstown Diwali
Queenstown Marathon
Queenstown Multicultural Festival
RIPE - Wānaka Wine & Food Festival
Snow Machine
Wānaka A&P Show
Wao Summit
Warbirds Over Wānaka
Winter Pride

More info

qldc.govt.nz/events-fund

WASTE MINIMISATION

COMMUNITY FUND

\$60,000 to support passionate locals taking action to reduce waste and promote the sustainable use of resources:

Adaptive Snowsports
Whakatipu Charitable Trust – Snoskirz
Aspire Preschool and Nursery – Little Sprouts, Big Impact (composting)
CaliWoods – Natural, low-waste parenting workshops
Cameron Tippet – Recycled filament project
Dripping Bowl – Glass bottle return scheme
Ian Fitzpatrick – The Trash Goblin
KingsView School – Compost system
Merino Muster – Sip smart
Natacha Murphy – Sustainable Cycles (reusable period products)
Protect Our Winters NZ – Sustainable Slopes: Repair, Swap & Learn
Wakatipu Toy Library – Sustainable party packs
Waste-Ed with Kate – Waste minimisation education in retirement villages
Women's Shed Aotearoa – From Offcut to Opportunity

More info

qldc.govt.nz/wmcf

COMMUNITY

FUND

\$180,000 was awarded to support 28 groups that deliver strong wellbeing outcomes and reflect community needs:

Abbeyfield Wānaka
Arrowtown Community Nursery
Aspiring Beginnings ELC
Central Lakes Breastfeeding Charitable Trust
Fernhill Sunshine Bay Community Association
Glenorchy Heritage & Museum Group / Tāhuna Glenorchy Dark Skies Group
Graeme Dingle Foundation Southern
Hanley's Farm Community Garden Association
Hāwea Charitable Trust
Headlight Trust
KnowYourStuffNZ Charitable Trust
Lakes District Air Rescue Trust
Mental Hunts Charitable Trust
OUT&about Wānaka
Queenstown & Southern Lakes Highland Pipe Band
Queenstown Arts Society
Queenstown Association of Migrant Pinoys
Queenstown Disc Golf Club
Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust
Shotover Four Wheel Drive Club
Southern Cancer Society Trust
Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust
Te Kohanga Reo o Whakatipu Waimaori charitable trust
The Salvation Army
Upper Clutha Senior Citizens
Wakatipu Toy Library
Predator Free Wānaka
WORD

More info qldc.govt.nz/community-fund

Testing private water supplies

Remember if you own a private drinking water supply it's your responsibility to maintain, monitor and treat it.

Arsenic occurs naturally in some bore water around our district. Present in low levels in soil, rocks, air and water, people may consume small amounts of arsenic every day for a long time without any obvious health effects.

However, consuming large amounts of arsenic in drinking water can be harmful to health, and consuming moderate amounts of arsenic every day for many years may also cause long-term health effects.

So ensure you include arsenic in your testing regime. For a list of IANZ accredited laboratories visit

 taumataarowai.govt.nz

Flush it out

Did you know some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that might have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

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



From the Chambers

ADOPTION OF TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STRUCTURE PLAN

If it was a symphony, the last movement will be played when Council considers the final version of the Te Tapuae Southern Corridor Structure Plan at its meeting on 4 September. The Structure Plan will guide how land south of the Kawarau River and around Hanley's Farm, Jack's Point and Homestead Bay will be served by transportation, parks and open spaces, community facilities, retail areas and infrastructure over the next 30 years.

Planning for and delivering such a volume of work over that timeframe could be likened to the classic question – how do you eat an elephant? Of course, the answer is piece by piece! Accordingly, the Structure Plan is divided into phases, covering the short-term (three years), medium-term (ten years) and long-term (30 years). However, the phases are joined together by the whole-of-corridor approach that helps to ensure that development is cohesive and the different pieces fit together well.

This area has grown by 260% in only five years and will continue to grow.

Having a Structure Plan in place helps to ensure that the new neighbourhoods are designed in the best possible way to meet community needs.

EXCITING ADDITIONS TO NEW STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders and excitement in the same heading is surely a contradiction in terms? The new standing orders might be more than 100 pages long but within them are several new developments that represent a big step forward for QLDC that could indeed be described as 'exciting'.

For just over a year, Council and Community Board workshops have been open to the public (with only a few exceptions for public excluded items), with agendas and minutes prepared and published. But under the new standing orders adopted by Council on 31 July, a commitment has been made to record all public workshops and make the sessions available to view on the Council's website.

Officers maintain a register of public excluded resolutions to monitor when they might be able to be made public. This

can often happen over time, for example when commercially sensitive negotiations conclude or when a property is sold. Similarly, the public excluded sections of meetings will be recorded from now on with the aim that they too, over time, may be able to be released publicly.

The new standing orders also provide clarity on an issue which has historically been rather unclear. Provision will be made for there to be a public forum at extraordinary and emergency meetings, although the subject must be connected to the matter for which the meeting has been called.

DRAFT TRAFFIC & PARKING BYLAW ADOPTED FOR CONSULTATION

Have you ever been tempted to ignore a 'chains should be fitted' notice on a snowy road and taken your chances instead? After all, it's not much fun kneeling beside your vehicle in the wet and cold trying to fit them. However, a clause in the draft Traffic and Parking Bylaw (adopted for consultation on 31 July) proposes enabling police to enforce fitting of snow chains on vehicles,

notably on the Crown Range Road, by updating the delegations for temporary restrictions.

Other new clauses deal with shared zones and pathways, more flexible options for bicycle parking, and acknowledgement of the growing use of micromobility devices like e-bikes and electric scooters. It's worth noting that this bylaw does not deal with parking availability and supply.

NEW CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY PLAN ADOPTED

The third iteration of the Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan (to cover 2025-2028) was another item approved at the Council meeting held on 31 July.

At July's Audit, Finance & Risk Committee meeting, QLDC's climate and biodiversity team presented the final update on the previous plan, noting that 95% of its 81 actions had either been completed or started. Committee members congratulated the team for the work completed before it then went before all elected members.



Freedom camping

As highlighted in several previous issues of this newsletter, we've been working hard to develop a new freedom camping bylaw that will protect specific parts of our district and reflect community concerns.

A draft bylaw was published on 8 July and formal submissions closed on 8 August. During that period we hosted public drop-in sessions at both Wānaka Recreation Centre and Queenstown Events Centre, and a free online webinar. These were opportunities for people to learn more about the draft bylaw, ask questions of Council officers and elected members, and find out how to make a submission.

We received more than 370 formal submissions from individuals, businesses and organisations which our team is now collating and reviewing. The results of the consultation will be considered by a hearing panel of elected members which will help to inform any changes to the draft bylaw ahead of it being considered at a future Full Council meeting.

We expect the new bylaw will be in place before this coming summer.

For full details and the latest updates visit letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

SOME OF THE KEY PROPOSALS IN THE DRAFT BYLAW INCLUDED:

Prohibiting freedom camping on most roads including any on-road vehicle parking spaces located within the district's built-up urban areas, including residential, town centre, commercial, and other business areas.

Allowing freedom camping with restrictions in 158 carparking spaces across 15 specified areas in the district.

Allowing freedom camping on most rural roads (including any areas off the active road corridor such as off-road laybys), subject to restrictions such as how close to the road a freedom camper can park themselves.

HOLIDAY HOME MANAGEMENT

Sorted.

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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.



NEW PLAYGROUND SWINGS INTO ACTION

A new playground and toilet facility at Hāwea Flat's McPhee Park – a collaboration between QLDC and Hāwea Community Association – is now open! There was a great turnout at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on a beautiful day at the start of August. Attendees included members of the family after which the park is named. Big thanks to Jimmy Cotter for providing information about Alan and Eileen McPhee who took over the local store in the late 1930s. Alongside their children Jim, Bernadette and Margaret (Cotter) they served the growing community and delivered supplies widely, including to the Ministry of Works camp during the dam's construction. It was wonderful to see Jimmy's father, Dick Cotter having fun on the swings!



READING TO RIMU (& OTHER PAWSOME PALS)

Meet Rimu – a gentle soul who volunteers in her spare time for QLDC Libraries' free Reading to Dogs programme. Like several of Rimu's furry friends, this Bernese Mountain Dog helps children relax and gain confidence to read aloud. They don't mind if you stumble over your words; they're patient, non-judgemental and ask for nothing more than a good scratch at the end. Special thanks to Therapy Pets, supported by Hato Hone St John, for this much-loved programme. Find out more at [1 qldclibraries.govt.nz](https://qldclibraries.govt.nz)



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!

A warm welcome to another 96 new Kiwis who joined our growing local flock at the latest citizenship ceremony held in Queenstown on 17 June. The event included karakia, a kapa haka performance by Wakatipu High School students, and youngsters from Queenstown Primary School's choir leading a rousing rendition of the national anthem. The next ceremony will be held on 9 September during Welcoming Week. Read more about this celebration of diversity and inclusion on page 19. [Image – Photos by Leigh]



REWIRING FOR LOWER BILLS

The first community event of the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA), led by Rewiring Aotearoa, took place at Smiths Craft Beer House in late July with support from Destination Queenstown, Central Lakes Trust, Ara Ake and QLDC. The aim? To help residents reduce their power bills and emissions, increase energy resilience and ultimately make our district the world's most electric destination. Locals including Trent Yeo (pictured) shared stories about their own electrification efforts and experts were on hand to answer questions over a few drinks. Find out more at

rewiring.nz [Image – remark.nz]



REC CENTRE 'PEDDLES' NEW BIKE SHED

With a newly constructed bike shelter and the coldest days well behind us, there's never been a better time to pedal your way to Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC). The covered area offers plenty of space to park up and there are even some free tools if you need to do any minor repairs or adjustments. Make sure you take a look on your next visit, especially if you're also making use of the Schools to Pool active travel route connecting WRC with Holy Family School via Wānaka Primary, Mount Aspiring College and Te Kura O Take Kārara.

Arterial project complete

Queenstown's Arterial Road (Stage One) project is now officially complete, marking a major milestone in delivering essential infrastructure improvements both above and below ground.

While the new arterial road itself was opened in January, work has continued on the side roads at Ballarat, Malaghan and Beetham streets to create safe pedestrian access routes into the town centre.

Kā Huanui a Tāhuna | The Alliance has also been installing a stormwater pipe and the outfall structure on lower Ballarat Street near Horne Creek and connecting it to the stormwater network at the intersection with Stanley Street. This remaining work was finished in early July.

The result is a stronger, safer, more welcoming and more connected link into Queenstown – one that will serve our community for decades to come.

The Alliance team has worked tirelessly over almost four years, building strong connections with the local community, working with challenging terrain and through difficult weather conditions to get the job done.

We're incredibly proud of what's been achieved, and sincerely grateful for the patience and support of residents, businesses and visitors.

HERE ARE SOME 'BEFORE-AND-AFTER' PHOTOS THAT SHOW JUST HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Beetham Street and Melbourne Street

BEFORE



AFTER



Corner of Beetham and Melbourne Streets

BEFORE



AFTER



Frankton Road

BEFORE



AFTER



ARTERIAL PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

5,700 tonnes
of asphalt laid



approximately
1,070m³
of concrete went
into the walls

5,570
face-to-face meetings
and check-ins with
stakeholders



3 large-scale
pedestrian walkways

7,640 plants



4 cul-de-sacs

200

additional carparks
created in downtown
Queenstown

3 outfall structures

150 trees

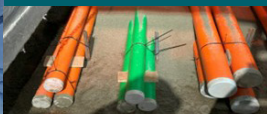


1.1km
roading

41 light poles
(excluding traffic signals)

43 South Island subcontractors involved

approximately
6,000m
cable ducting for power



4
signalised intersections



221
number of piles installed

79

artwork panels installed

19

retaining walls



8,000m
of three water pipes
installed (replaced all
the older infrastructure
to private properties)



2 gabion
basket vehicle barriers

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Rates made easier

Following feedback, we've made improvements to our instalment and due dates for the next 12 months, with four equal instalment periods and consistent due dates to make it easier to plan for payments.

Ratepayers should have received their first instalment notice at the start of August, with payment due the day this edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Māi goes live. Please note that penalties for late payments will be applied from Monday 25 August.

INSTALMENT	PERIOD	DATE SENT	DUE DATE	PENALTY APPLIED DATE	PAYING YOUR RATES IN FULL
Instalment 1	1 Jul – 30 Sep	1 Aug 2025	20 Aug 2025	25 Aug 2025	If you would prefer to pay the full amount for the year in one go, you can do so by 20 August 2025.
Instalment 2	1 Oct – 31 Dec	3 Nov 2025	20 Nov 2025	25 Nov 2025	
Instalment 3	1 Jan – 31 Mar	2 Feb 2026	20 Feb 2026	25 Feb 2026	
Instalment 4	1 Apr – 30 Jun	1 May 2026	20 May 2026	25 May 2026	

THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY YOUR RATES IS VIA DIRECT DEBIT

A direct debit automatically deducts the amount required at the specified frequency, and we offer weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly payment options. An application form is available at qldc.govt.nz/rates, via email to directdebit@qldc.govt.nz, or by dropping in to a Council office.

YOUR RATES INVOICE INCLUDES NEW RATING VALUATIONS

Every three years, we look at the value of all properties to ensure rates are distributed fairly. The latest rating valuation on 1 September 2024 reflects market conditions at that time, and form the basis for rates calculations until the next valuation in 2027.

Rating valuations are used to determine your share of the district's total rates. They don't generate additional revenue for Council but instead adjust how rates are distributed among ratepayers.

THINK OF RATES AS A PIE.

The size of the pie does not change because of new valuations. However, your slice of pie might get bigger or smaller depending on a change to your property value in relation to the average change of values across the district.

Top of the (dog) pops

It's that time of year again when we unveil the most popular dog names in our district over the past year.

A massive bark out to all the Charlies out there for being top dog (but only by a whisker!).

- 1 Charlie (64)
- 2 Frankie and Luna (62)
- 3 Bella (51)
- 4 Poppy (50)
- 5 Ruby (44)

SIGN UP FOR SCUTTLEMUTT

Our free twice-yearly e-newsletter all about dogs in the district. Subscribe at qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt



Bus fare changes

Did you know Otago Regional Council (ORC) delivers public transport, not QLDC?

ORC is changing bus fares from 29 September to meet new central government funding rules.

The free fare for children aged 5-12 will end and the new fare will be \$1.50*. The adult fare will increase from \$2 to \$2.50*. The fare for young people remains at \$1.50* and cash fares remain at \$4.

* prices with Bee Card.



Child under 5 years

Children under 5 still ride free – no Bee Card needed.

Child 5–12 years

Free fares for children aged 5–12 will end.

New fare with Bee Card will be \$1.50.

New cash fare will be \$4.

Young people 13–18 years

Fare remains \$1.50 with Bee Card.

Cash fare remains \$4.

Adults (19+)

New fare will be \$2.50 with Bee Card.

Cash fare remains \$4.

SuperGold card holders (65+)

Off-peak will remain free with Bee Card.

New peak-time fare will be \$2.50 with Bee Card.

New peak-time cash fare will remain \$4.

Community Connect


New fare will be \$1.25 with Bee Card.

Cash fare will remain \$4.

Queenstown ferry and airport bus


No change.

For a full list of the changes visit orc.govt.nz/fares



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Tis' nearly the season to seal

We're quickly approaching the spring conditions needed to give our roads some tender loving care so they don't deteriorate and cause greater issues in the future.

Every year, around 5-8% of roads in the district get resealed. This helps prevent them getting 'tyre-d' and resealing roads before deterioration occurs means less time, cost and disruption to drivers than having to rebuild a road's entire structure.

Resealing a road does come with some disruption, but it's a case of short-term pain for long-term gain.

We do our best to keep roads well-maintained and safe by resealing them several times throughout their lifespan. However, roads built many years ago will end up needing a bit more attention, and considerably more work to get them back up to scratch.

If a full reinstatement is required, crews have to:

- > Remove the existing surface layers.
- > Depending on requirements, remove some or all of the existing basecourse and subbase, then prepare the subgrade surface.
- > Add a new subbase of compacted aggregate to provide stability.
- > Add a base course – a higher quality layer of compacted aggregate that sits closer to the surface where the majority of the road's load will be supported.
- > Complete the road reinstatement with a surfacing layer which can vary between chipseal or asphalt, depending on requirements.
- > For chipseal roads, crews return in a year once everything has settled to add a second coat seal.

HOW DOES RESEALING A ROAD PROTECT IT?

The surface of the road you drive on is like paint on your house – it keeps water from reaching the structure underneath and damaging it. And much like paint, the seal will crack and deteriorate over time and, if neglected long enough, it will start to let water in.

Airport review takes off

As we reported last time, independent consultancy and airport specialist Egis NZ Ltd continues to engage with the community as it helps develop a vision and masterplan for Wānaka Airport.

Along with an online survey attracting more than 250 responses and around 40 uses of an interactive pin-drop tool, nearly 100 people attended two drop-in sessions hosted by Egis at the end of June.

This first phase was designed to capture initial thoughts on what role the airport should play in the district's future. Since then, Egis has been developing several possible scenarios based on this feedback which will be tested with another round of engagement from 25 August to 18 September.

The possible scenarios and all other relevant info will be available on QLDC's Let's Talk engagement platform from this date and there'll be two further drop-in sessions:

- > Friday, 29 August, 4.00 - 7.00pm;
Alpine Helicopters, Wānaka Airport.
- > Saturday, 30 August, 9.00am - 12.00pm;
Wānaka Recreation Centre.

Egis will present findings from its community engagement to elected members later this year.

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





WELCOMING WEEK

TE WIKI O MANAAKI

5-14 SEPTEMBER 2025

From 5-14 September we'll be celebrating diversity and inclusion around the district with Welcoming Week New Zealand — Te Wiki o Manaaki Aotearoa: an opportunity to celebrate our welcoming values for all, including migrants from overseas and within NZ.

This annual event again features a variety of free community activities, starting with a Mihi Whakatau (welcome) from Mana Tāhuna and continuing with community plantings, a citizenship ceremony, a wellbeing workshop, and more.

It's all designed to foster mutual understanding, stronger connections, and a deeper sense of belonging among all of us.

No matter what language you speak, who you worship, or where you were born, we're glad you're here!

For a full list of free events check out qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-week or scan here



Queenstown Multicultural Festival in March is another annual celebration of our diverse community [Image - Tim Shultz Photography]



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Futureproofing the Upper Clutha's wastewater needs

Work's about to begin on extensive upgrades to infrastructure in Lake Hāwea, Albert Town and Wānaka to respond to and futureproof wastewater needs, provide additional capacity, and help protect the natural environment.

This includes:

- > A new wastewater pump station (WWPS) at Domain Road in Lake Hāwea.
- > 12.5km of new wastewater pipeline connecting Domain Road to existing infrastructure at the Albert Town WWPS.
- > Upgrades to the existing Riverbank Road WWPS.
- > 7.4km of new wastewater pipeline connecting Riverbank Road WWPS and Albert Town WWPS to Project Pure near Wānaka Airport.

Once complete, these upgrades will see wastewater from Lake Hāwea township treated and disposed of at Project Pure, they enable the future connection of Hāwea Flat and Hāwea Campground, and flows from Wānaka and Albert Town will be managed by two pump stations.

Ultimately, we'll have a network that can handle Upper Clutha's wastewater needs well into the future, and the network will be more resilient in the event of any unforeseen issues.

Spades are expected to hit the ground in early September, with construction anticipated to be completed by early 2027. That's nearly a year earlier than initially anticipated.

SOME DISRUPTION IS INEVITABLE

This will include noise, vibration, traffic management, and increased construction machinery around and between various work sites.

STAY IN THE LOOP

We'll have a detailed delivery plan in place soon and will share more information about what to expect as part of these works soon.

Find out more and sign up for email updates at qldc.govt.nz/upper-clutha-ww

Luggate's drinking water

As previously shared in February's edition, upgrades to Luggate's water supply and treatment have been brought forward, and work is expected to kick off in the next few weeks.

These will help to ensure drinking water in the township remains fully compliant with the latest standards.

While we'll have a clearer picture of delivery once a contract for this work has been awarded, we're expecting

the new protozoa barrier (UV disinfection) to be operating in time for Christmas, and all remaining work to be wrapped up by February 2026.

GET THE LATEST STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

For more information on the project and what to expect during construction, head to qldc.govt.nz/luggate-water-upgrades

Pumping up Queenstown's wastewater capacity

Queenstown is set to benefit from a larger, more effective wastewater system as the new year will bring with it work on a new pressurised wastewater pipeline to provide an additional connection through to existing infrastructure in Frankton.

Ultimately, this infrastructure will increase wastewater capacity in the area, reduce the risk of overflows, and provide for the needs of our rapidly growing population.

The new pipeline is designed to run underneath Frankton Track and positioned alongside an existing gravity there, adding a second connection running from Cecil Road through to the pump station near Frankton Beach.

USE FRANKTON TRACK TO COMMUTE?

We get it! Frankton Track is an extremely important connection and recreational space that many of us use every single day to move around the area.

Construction will affect access to the track for extended periods once work begins in January 2026, but we'll minimise disruption by delivering the project in stages.

Parts of the lakeside trail will need to be temporarily closed so this work can be completed safely and efficiently, but we're checking in with neighbouring residents and businesses to understand how this can work best for as many people as possible.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

If you live alongside Frankton Track, own a property there, or operate a business in the area that may be affected by these works, we want to hear from you! We're calling for feedback so we can consider how this work may impact you, and how we deliver it next year.

FIND OUT MORE AND GET IN TOUCH

Scan the QR code for more information on the project and a feedback form, or head to

 qldc.govt.nz/frankton-track-ww

Once the new pipeline's in place, we'll fix up the compacted gravel surface on Frankton Track and plant a bunch of natives along its edge. New seating will be installed in several places along the lakeside trail so people using the path can rest and enjoy views over Lake Whakatipu, and additional wayfinding signage will help direct users to their destinations.



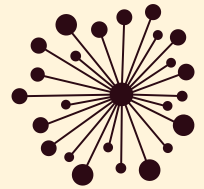
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Wao Summit - the Journey to 2125



wao

Summit 2025
28 Oct - 2 Nov

The Wao Summit 2025 is a week-long festival of kōrero, films, walking tours, practical workshops, and community events across Wānaka and Queenstown. The programme is designed to educate communities, ignite climate action, drive system change, and build a stronger, more resilient Aotearoa.

Grounded in the question, what kind of ancestors do we want to be?, this year's summit takes the long view, looking 100 years ahead to reimagine how we live, lead, and thrive in 2125.

Whether you're a business leader, builder, student, parent or policymaker, it offers the tools, inspiration and collective momentum to help shape a thriving Aotearoa—now and for generations to come.

QLDC is once again proud to support the summit through its annual Events Fund (see page 8). Early bird pricing is available until 14 September - get 15% off all sessions and day passes!

Find out more and buy tickets

wao.co.nz



What's on at our libraries?

SOCIAL ENGLISH CLASSES

Social English classes are back by popular demand!

Totally free, they're ideal for those who'd like to practise speaking and listening in English, build vocabulary, and practice grammar and pronunciation.

All sessions are run in a relaxed environment by experienced tutors.

Scan the QR code for more information.



Head along to your local branch – there's no need to book:

FRANKTON LIBRARY –

every third Thursday of the month, 5.30–6.30pm.

QUEENSTOWN LIBRARY –

every first Thursday of the month, 5.30–6.30pm.

WĀNAKA LIBRARY –

every Monday, 10.00–11.00am.

Supporting our seniors

Council libraries are committed to supporting older adults by offering services that help people stay connected, confident and well.

DIGITAL HELP SESSIONS

Our libraries offer free drop-in sessions and one-to-one digital help appointments. Bring your own device and our friendly team will assist with your questions, big or small. We also offer help with accessing our eResources such as eBooks, audiobooks and streaming services.

HOME DELIVERY

Did you know we offer a free home delivery service from Frankton, Queenstown and Wānaka libraries? This provides access to books and magazines for those unable to drop by due to mobility, transport or health-related reasons.

MEMORY CARE COLLECTION

As part of our journey to becoming a dementia-friendly library team, we're excited to introduce our new Memory Care Collection. This specialised collection includes supportive resources for those living with dementia, their whānau, caregivers and support networks. Items include puzzles and memory games, assistive listening devices, Joy For All robotic companion pets, and more.



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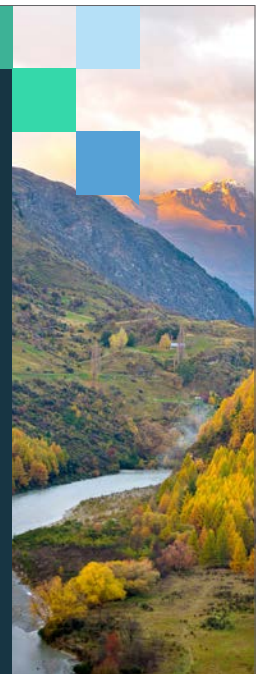
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Register with Let's Talk
and receive our monthly
consultation newsletter!



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

DRAFT DANGEROUS & INSANITARY BUILDINGS POLICY 2025

Status: Submissions open until
7 Sep.

TRAFFIC & PARKING BYLAW 2025

Status: Submissions
open until 7 Sep.

WIDGEON PARK RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Status: Submissions
open until 14 Sep.

ARROWTOWN RIVERSIDE RESERVES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Status: Submissions open until
21 Sep.

UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:

WASTE MANAGEMENT & MINIMISATION PLAN

Status: Submissions
closed 30 Jun.
Feedback being
reviewed with final
plan presented to
Council for formal
adoption in Sep.

TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STRUCTURE PLAN

Status: Submissions
closed 20 Jul.
Feedback being
reviewed with final plan
presented to Council for
formal adoption in Sep.

DRAFT FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

Status:
Submissions
closed 8 Aug.
Public hearing
of submissions
on a date TBC.

GLENORCHY AIRSTRIIP RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Status:
Submissions
closed 8 Aug.
Public hearing of
submissions on
25 Aug.

DRAFT TE TAPUNUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

Status: Submissions closed
6 Jul with a hearing on
21 July. Feedback being
reviewed with final plan
presented to Council for
adoption on 4 Sep.

FIND FULL DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

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WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
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Indoor Courts
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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

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Sam White ✉ communications@qldc.govt.nz
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