

7 November 2025

[REDACTED]

C/- [REDACTED]

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

LG25-0295 - Council Staffing, Funding, and Incentives for Historic Heritage

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 9 October 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

1. The total pool for your heritage funding.
2. Whether you have any other funds/grants that could be used for historic heritage and if so, the maximum grant.
3. Whether you have any other financial or regulatory incentives for historic heritage.
4. Whether you have dedicated heritage staff and if so, how many.

QLDC RESPONSE

Release of information

In response to your request, we consulted with both the QLDC Community Partnerships Team and the QLDC Planning Policy Team.

1. The total pool for your heritage funding.

Heritage Related Funding	Total Funding Pool (NZD, annually)	Description
Heritage Incentive Grant	\$50,000	This budget provides community funding to support the preservation or enhancement of listed heritage assets—both natural and built—within the Queenstown Lakes District. Full details and grant criteria are available here .

Heritage budget (Internal)	\$20,000	This budget is dedicated to the renewal of Council-owned heritage assets.
Cemeteries budget (Internal)	\$125,000	This budget primarily funds cemetery operations but also intersects with heritage activities. Some allocations may support heritage-related projects, including capital works (such as, memorial walls), asset renewals, or community events.
Other internal budgets		There is no dedicated heritage funding from grants, donations, or incentives within property or roading maintenance budgets. However, general maintenance budgets may cover work on heritage assets, with priorities guided by the prescribed levels of service and the asset hierarchy outlined in maintenance contracts.

2. Whether you have any other funds/grants that could be used for historic heritage and if so, the maximum grant.

The 2025–26 Community Fund Grant has a total funding pool of \$180,000. This contestable fund is open to all community groups and organisations. While it is not specifically dedicated toward heritage projects, heritage-related projects may be eligible for funding, provided they meet the criteria and submit an application. There is no set maximum grant amount per application, although total funding is limited. In recent years, the fund has been heavily oversubscribed, and this is taken into consideration when assessing applications. Full details of funding criteria, recent recipients and approved funding amounts are available here: [Community Fund – QLDC](#).

The 2025–26 Local Community Support Fund has a total funding pool of non-cash contributions valued up to \$250,000. This contestable fund is open to all community groups and organisations. While it is not specifically dedicated toward heritage, heritage-related projects may be eligible for in-kind support valued up to \$2,000 per request, provided they meet the criteria and submit an application. Eligible costs may include expenses such as building or resource consents. Full details and funding criteria are available here: [Local Community Support Fund – QLDC](#).

3. Whether you have any other financial or regulatory incentives for historic heritage.

The QLDC Operative District Plan (ODP) includes both regulatory and financial incentives to support the protection of historic heritage. Regulatory flexibility is available, including the ability to relax certain District Plan rules on a case-by-case basis where this will result in improved heritage outcomes, and minor repairs and maintenance to listed heritage items are generally permitted activities, reducing the need for consent. The plan also encourages adaptive reuse to support the ongoing economic viability of heritage buildings (see: [13.2 Historic Heritage Rules](#)). In addition, Council provides a [Heritage Incentive Grant Scheme](#) offering financial assistance toward approved conservation works, professional heritage advice, and reimbursement of some consent-related costs for protected heritage features.

The QLDC Proposed District Plan (PDP) shows that the PDP includes Policy [26.3.4 Objective - The historic heritage value of heritage features is enhanced where possible](#), which aligns with the Operative District Plan's approach (similar to ODP 13.2 Historic Heritage Rules). This policy specifically provides for incentives to achieve improved heritage outcomes through the relaxation of rules elsewhere in the District Plan, applied on a case-by-case basis.

4. Whether you have dedicated heritage staff and if so, how many.

The QLDC 'Parks Officer – Cemeteries and Heritage' role has 0.5 full-time employee (FTE) allocated to heritage-related activities.

Heritage, however, is a multi-faceted area that intersects with many roles across Council. Council recently surveyed staff to identify positions with a heritage-related component, or "touchpoint." A [summary visual of the survey results](#) is attached, and more detailed information can be provided if required.

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 3 December 2025, 12:07 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Director Democracy Services).

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,



Democracy Services Team
Corporate Services | Queenstown Lakes District Council
P: +64 3 441 0499
E: informationrequest@qldc.govt.nz

QLDC Heritage Touchpoints

