

24 April 2020

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Otago Regional Council
By email: customerservices@orc.govt.nz

SUBMISSION ON OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL'S PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN

The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) requests that the Otago Regional Council include budget to enable two fulltime equivalent Emergency Management Officers (EMO) to be dedicated to the Queenstown Lakes District. At present, the budget reflects 1.5 FTE EMO.

A year ago, QLDC made a compelling case for two fulltime equivalent Emergency Management Officers. This was declined but subsequently a shared resource was agreed to share one FTE across QLDC and Central Otago District Council and this second role is about to commence. It is patently obvious as of today that this is not an adequate response.

There has never been a stronger and more urgent need for additional resource in the Queenstown Lakes District. Not only is the QLDC dealing with an unprecedented welfare crisis, we must be ready to respond to other emergencies. The shared resource model has been applied previously and has proven untenable for a staff member with two masters, a significant geographical difference and two differing operational styles.

On behalf of our community please make this request an absolute priority.

Yours sincerely



Jim Boulton ONZM
MAYOR



Mike Theelen
Chief Executive

CC: Sarah Gardner, ORC
Marian Hobbs, ORC