

Minutes of a Full Council Workshop

Thursday 22 May 2025 at 1.00pm
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

Membership:	Mayor Glyn Lewers	Councillor Bartlett
	Councillor Barry Bruce	Councillor Smith (online)
	Councillor Cody Tucker	Councillor White
	Councillor Lisa Guy	Councillor Esther Whitehead
	Councillor Ferguson	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Gladding (online)	
Apologies:	Councillor Cocks (on leave)	
In attendance:	Mike Theelen	Michelle Morss
	Ken Bailey	Katherine Harbrow
	Luke Place	Carrie Edgerton
	Carrie Williams	Kacie English
	Brendan Peet	Jeannie Galavazi
	Amy Galloway	Jane Robertson
	Marie Day	
Media:	One member of the media	
Public:	No members of the public in attendance.	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Freedom Camping Bylaw options</u></p> <p>The purpose of this item was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share officer assessment of areas where freedom camping could (conditionally) be considered; • Report on recommended changes to managing freedom camping and the overall responsible camping programme; • Get Councillor feedback on preliminary areas for freedom camping to help in the development of a draft bylaw. <p>It was noted that the use of reserves for freedom camping was prohibited under the Reserves Act 1977 but Council could lift this via a Minister's Delegation or through provisions in a Reserve Management Plan. If no reserve land was used, this left only QLDC land (and roadways) available for freedom camping.</p>	None

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>Members accepted that some reserve land would probably need to be used for freedom camping as freedom camping was legal under the Freedom Camping Act and ‘reasonable provision’ had to be made to ensure compliance with the law.</p> <p>Officers advised that preliminary areas for consideration in Queenstown included some reserve areas. All the areas identified were described in the PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that only some parking spaces would be made available in each carparking area identified for freedom camping.</p> <p>Members noted that ‘reasonable provision’ was a difficult standard to measure. Ken Bailey confirmed that another consideration in developing a new freedom camping bylaw was to respond to the criticisms made of the Council in the judicial review. Operational standards for freedom camping in the Queenstown Lakes District also needed to be developed alongside a new freedom camping bylaw.</p> <p>Councillor Smith pointed out that freedom camping itself was not the problem but only when too many campers wanted to use the same site. Members acknowledged that because of the popularity of the district, it would be difficult to meet demand but it was unknown what level would be deemed adequate. Officers noted that 900 sites had been reviewed and the proposed areas identified in the presentation were the areas considered to be practical.</p> <p>The Mayor suggested that any new Freedom Camping Bylaw contain no reserves but at the same time, officers identify possible reserves for freedom camping but that these areas be managed under the Reserves Act, not the Freedom Camping Bylaw. Low levels of freedom camping should be permitted at various locations over the district but operational controls needed to be developed alongside to manage any potential negative effects.</p> <p>It was noted that homelessness was defined separately from freedom camping but MBIE was about to undertake consultation on this.</p> <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Developing a freedom camping bylaw</i></p>	

The workshop concluded at 2.31pm.