

Attachment G

Community Wellbeing Assessment

QLDC has undertaken a very high level assessment of community wellbeing based upon the Treasury's Living Standards Framework. It should be noted that the timelines for providing feedback inhibited the ability for this exercise to be undertaken in depth.

Further information about the Living Standards Framework can be found here:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

The framework focusses on 12 domains of current wellbeing – civic engagement and governance, cultural identity, environment, health, housing, income and consumption, jobs and earnings, knowledge and skills, time use, safety and security, social connections and subjective wellbeing.

The following points were noted:

- a) Across the 12 domains of wellbeing, the Government's proposal only achieves more than the council option and the Otago-Southland entity option in one area – income and consumption. This is based upon the current modelling demonstrating that the Government's proposal will achieve the greatest household cost savings (which may or may not be reliable).
- b) The Government's proposal will also achieve results in the domain of cultural identity, with the ability for Te Ao Māori to be integrated within the governance model, but there is no legislative impediment to that being able to be introduced more effectively in either other model.
- c) In the domains of civic engagement and governance, housing (growth and planning) and subjective wellbeing (climate action and emissions reduction), it was found that the Government proposal was the option that contributed least to wellbeing.
- d) It is assumed that over time, the domains of 'jobs and earnings' and 'knowledge and skills' would be negatively impacted under all models except for the council option, which would retain specialist expertise in the district. Of course, the ability to fill these positions may be challenging if competing with a larger entity.
- e) The domains of health, safety and security and environment will largely be met according to the standards of the regulator. The risk here is that the regulator's standards may be lower than those that would be applied under the council model or that offered by an Otago-Southland entity, which may negatively impact community wellbeing.