

**Minutes of a meeting of the QLDC Community & Services Committee held via Zoom on Thursday 7 July 2022 commencing at 10.01am****Present**

Councillor Miller (Deputy Chair), Councillor Copland Joined at 10:04, Councillor Shaw, Councillor Whitehead, Councillor and Councillor Gladding

**In Attendance**

Dr Thunes Cloete (General Manager Community Services,) Mr Tim Dowson (Responsible Camping Program Manager,) Christine Skipworth (Parks & Reserves Planner,) Briana Pringle (Parks & Open Spaces Planning Manager,) Naell Crosby-Roe, Ms Susan Jacobs (Governance Team Leader) and Ms Alixandra Villis (Governance Advisor.)

**Apologies**

No apologies were presented.

**On the motion of Councillor Copland and Councillor Gladding the Community & Services Committee resolved to accept the apologies status.**

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**Public Forum**

There were no speakers in the public forum.

**Matters Lying on the Table**

There were no matters lying on the table.

**Confirmation of Agenda**

**On the motion of Councillor Gladding and Councillor Shaw the Community & Services Committee resolved that the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**On the motion of Councillor Gladding and Councillor Miller the Community & Services Committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

## 1 Adoption of the Responsible Camping Strategy 2022

A report was presented by Tim Dowson on the changes to the Responsible camping Strategy.

There was discussion on how the community hasn't been consulted on the draft and how Council manage resources. It was confirmed that this is a review of an existing strategy which has been well promoted, communicated, and accepted by community therefore the work and cost of a wider community submission isn't necessary. Central Govt did parallel workshops and the community didn't turn up to open forums to discuss. It was also agreed that it is necessary to get maintenance workers out to further afield places to prevent fire risk etc.

There was discussion on the negative impact COVID had on data collection and the Central Govt funding being removed. Concerns were raised around funding for ambassadors and enforcement in the freedom camping areas. There were calls for community feedback on understanding the wider impact of these developments from COVID. A question was put forward to explain what happens with ambassadors and enforcement with regards to education?

It was returned that the central govt funding (which was withdrawn) was the source of all payment for ambassadors and enforcement teams. QLDC enforcement is self-sustaining, so council has done additional enforcement which allowed additional reach. Enforcement continues but less resource is available unless there is specific funding from within Council coffers. The movement on the legislation has been slow and despite recommendations the GOVT has ignored them. The funding will be within Council's budget. It was noted that QLDC will be looking for funding and keeping an eye on the market. At this stage no one can tell how big the market will be. Council was very careful to put money into the budget as it wasn't known what demand will be like. Council has however made plans with finance and actions are ready should they receive large numbers of campers. They have spoken with relevant people around enforcement and doc.

It was also noted that the new bylaw has meant new signs have been adopted. Council has shared the designs with other regions as a way of getting a positive national response.

**On the motion of Councillor Copland and Councillor Shaw it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Recommend to Council that it adopts the Queenstown Lakes Responsible Camping Strategy 2022.**

## **2 Adoption of the Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy 2022**

A report was presented by Christine Skipworth on the changes to the Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy.

There was discussion on the privatisation of public land when a property adjacent to reserve or council land has a private garden which encroaches. Arborists are confused about their liabilities. The response from the Parks and regulations dept was that this is a growing problem on reserves, mowing can create pest issues, cutting down trees can affect canopy cover. Enquiries from consultants who wish to clarify has led to a new application process which will be assessed by council to consider safety issues but for the most part it does result in privatisation of the land which council discourage.

There was discussion on ensuring council are not planting trees which will have a likelihood to be removed in future and how communication and education can be improved across departments and with the public to prevent this.

It was agreed that for the protection of trees, council need something solid on when the public are consulted, and a process put in place to escalate and decide the significance of trees from within the communities.

**On the motion of Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Shaw  
it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report; and**
- 2. Recommend to Council that the Tree Policy 2022 be adopted.**

*The meeting concluded at 10.56am.*

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**