

12 December 2022

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 15 November 2022. You requested the following information from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC):

1. What is the governance structure of all recreational/cycle trails in your district?
2. Copies of any management and/or funding agreements you may have with any local trails trust or trail organisations.
3. How much operational funding or grant money your council allocates to each trail trust or trail organisation in your district per annum?
4. How much capital funding does your council allocates to recreational/cycle trails in your district?
5. A brief description of all roles (either internally or externally) involved with the planning, designing and managing recreation/cycle trails in your district, how much funding is allocated to trails staff and where does this funding come from?
6. How are recreation/cycle trails in your district maintained? who is responsible for maintenance, what is the annual maintenance cost and who funds trail maintenance?

QLDC response

The information requested is provided below:

Biking in Queenstown Lakes District

Cycle routes in Queenstown are defined in any one of the following 3 key maps:

- Active Travel: [Active Travel \(qldc.govt.nz\)](http://qldc.govt.nz)
- Queenstown Trails: [Maps & Trails - Queenstown Trail](#)
- NZ Great Rides: [New Zealand Cycling Map \(nzcycletrail.com\)](http://nzcycletrail.com)

1. *What is the governance structure of all recreational/cycle trails in your district?*

Queenstown Lakes District Council - Is the asset holder and maintains most of the trails the groups below build.

QLDC maintains 154,401 meters of trail within the Lakes District. The trails that QLDC maintain are classified as Premier, community or Natural. All great ride trails are Premier.

Length of Premier Track and Trail Asset per Ward:

Ward	Length (m)
Wakatipu	65,297
Wanaka	20,284
TOTAL	85,581

QLDC manage the renewal on the trails, i.e. managing Fall from height or planned upgrades

Queenstown Mountain Bike Club - Volunteer organisation formed in 2003 with the express purpose of facilitating the development of mountain bike trails and biking areas within the Wakatipu area. Currently QMTBC has over 2,000 active members. Funds are acquired through membership fees (\$50/\$30 per annum), community grants, fundraising events, sponsorship and donations. QMTBC oversees most public downhill mountain bike trails across Queenstown.

- The club has a licence for Gorge Road Jump Park which is on Freehold QLDC land, this expires in 2024.
- The club has a Reserve licence for Wynyard Jump Park in Ben Lomond Reserve
- The club has a Reserve Licence for the Kerry Drive Jump Park in Queenstown Hill reserve.

Most of the club's official trails are in Fernhill Bike Park in the Ben Lomond Reserve on QLDC Reserve Land.

The club currently maintains the Queenstown Bike Park Trails in the Ben Lomond Reserve. Ben Lomond has 31,446 meters of Downhill Bike trails in the Ben Lomond Reserve on QLDC Administered land currently maintained by the QTMBC:

Trails	Length (m)
Grade 2 - Easy - Cycle Trail	7,269
Grade 3 - Intermediate - Cycle Trail	4,143
Grade 4 - Advanced - MTB Track	3,928
Grade 5 - Expert - MTB Track	10,452
Grade 6 - Extreme - MTB Track	5,673
Grand Total	31,466

Queenstown Trails Trust – “The role of the Queenstown Trails Trust is to create, nurture the world-class trail network and we have big expansion plans for the future.” Funded by grants, donations and partner businesses. QTT is a registered charity who facilitate the building trails, advocate to government, support its stakeholders, develop funding strategies for trail development. QTT promotes the Queenstown Trail network, a 130km series of linked trails throughout the Queenstown area.

Glenorchy Trails Trust - Formed by local passionate bikers and walkers with the goal to develop trails in the Glenorchy and Kinloch areas. They are a charitable trust and rely upon ongoing funding and donations

to maintain and extend the Glenorchy trail network. They are funded by donations, sponsorship and grants.

The Lightfoot Initiative Charitable trust - Lightfoot's purpose is to benefit communities within the Queenstown Lakes District by supporting the development and use of safer, healthier and more sustainable transport networks that encourage widespread mode shift and greater community connection.

Bike Wanaka- Supports the development and growth of mountain biking across the Upper Clutha region. Volunteer organisations funded through membership fees (\$25/\$30), sponsorship, grants and donations. Bike Wanaka has over 800 members.

Bike Wanaka has a management agreement for the bike park in Lismore Park and currently have funding and plans to upgrade this asset.

Upper Clutha Tracks Trust - The Upper Clutha Tracks Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to developing a high-quality network of public trails around Wanaka and the Upper Clutha Basin. Funded by donations, grants, and funding partners.

2. *Copies of any management and/or funding agreements you may have with any local trails trust or trail organisations.*

There have been recent discussions about drawing up a formal legal agreement between QLDC and QT to agree trail creation and maintenance responsibilities and expectations, but this has not occurred yet.

Please see the below link for the copies of funding agreements:

- <https://qldc.sharefile.com/d-s6fcfc76f4c6a4cedba2d4ce50dbe282c>

Ten Year Plan 2021-24 (3-year grant)

- Bike Wānaka \$20,000
- Queenstown Mountain Bike Club \$30,000
- Queenstown Trails Trust \$75,000
- Upper Clutha Tracks Trust \$50,000

Ten Year Plan 2021-24 (1-year grant)

- Glenorchy Trails Trust \$12,500
- Trails Trust Consortium (SETT) \$25,000

Annual Plan 2022-23 (1-year grant)

- Bike Wānaka \$21,000 (updated funding agreement attached along with original funding agreement)
- Glenorchy Trails Trust \$20,000
- Upper Clutha Tracks Trust \$21,000 (updated funding agreement attached along with original funding agreement)

Trust	QLDC Grant 2020/2021	QLDC Grant 2021/2022	QLDC Grant 2022/2023	QLDC Grant 2023/24 (approved 10YP)
Queenstown Trails Trust	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Glenorchy Trails Trust	\$0	\$12,500	\$20,000	\$0
Queenstown Mountain Bike Club	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Upper Clutha Tracks Trust	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$71,000	\$50,000
Bike Wānaka	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$41,000	\$20,000
Trails Trust Consortium (led by SETT)	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
The Lightfoot Initiative Charitable Trust	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0

3. *How much operational funding or grant money your council allocates to each trail trust or trail organisation in your district per annum?*

Council engaged a Maintenance Contractor through a competitive tendered process to maintain the trail and provides all budget. Work is carried out as part of a scheduled maintenance program across the district.

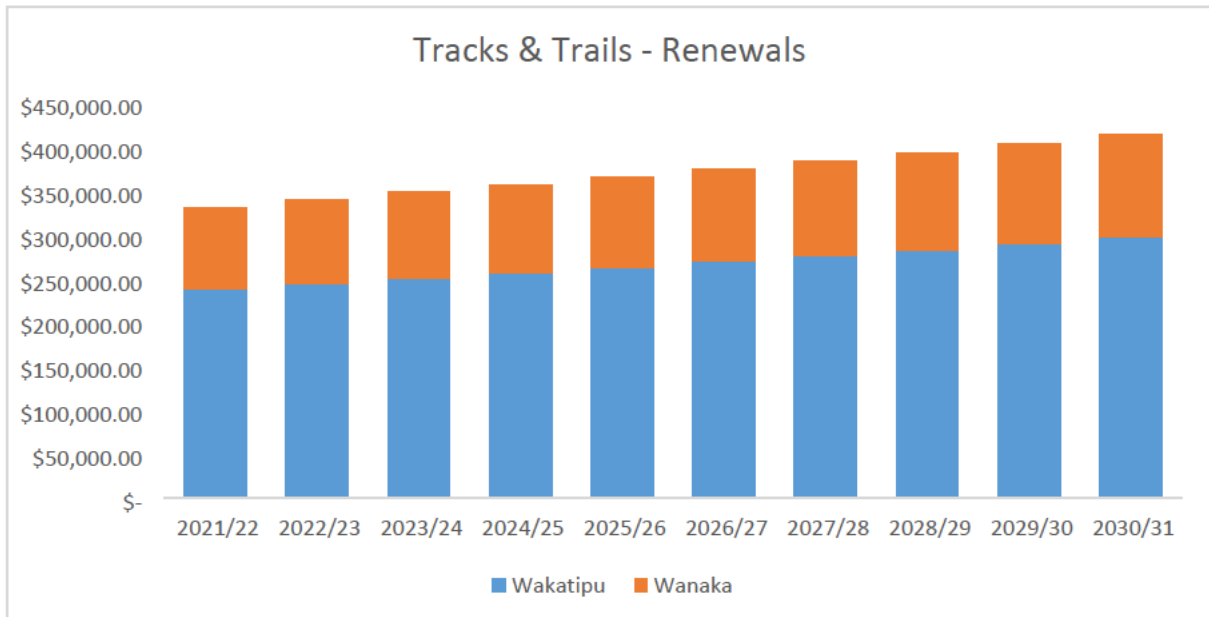
The information requested regarding the cost of the maintenance cost is commercially sensitive and we are unable to provide that information.

4. *How much capital funding does your council allocates to recreational/cycle trails in your district?*

Best viewed at:

- https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/hgpfn2d3/qldc_ten-year-plan_volume-one_2021-2031-approved-and-signed-updated-page-77.pdf
 - Tracks and Trails, Whakatipu page 76
 - Tracks and Trails, Wanaka page 77

QLDC manage the renewal on the trails, i.e. managing Fall from height or planned upgrades and have the following Capital budget in the LTP



Infrastructure team

2021/22

\$27,261 – Wanaka Pool to School Active Travel
 \$131,896 – Wakatipu Active Travel LCLR Unsub
 \$75,805 – Wakatipu Active Travel LCLR
 \$512,813 – Wakatipu Road to Zero
 \$456,254 – Wanaka Road to Zero
\$1,204,209

2022/23 (Spend)

\$88,168 – Wanaka Pool to School Active Travel
 \$300 – Wakatipu Active Travel LCLR Unsub
 \$8,940 – Wakatipu Active Travel LCLR
 \$23,024 – Wanaka Road to Zero
\$120,432

2022/23 (Forecast)

\$540,000 Wanaka Active Travel
 \$300,000 Wakatipu Active Travel
\$840,000

2023/24 (Forecast)

\$480,000 Wanaka Active Travel
 \$510,000 Wakatipu Active Travel
\$990,000

5. *A brief description of all roles (either internally or externally) involved with the planning, designing and managing recreation/cycle trails in your district, how much funding is allocated to trails staff and where does this funding come from?*

Please see our response to Q1.

The parks team do not have an internal role that is solely responsible for biking.

Two roles in Parks - Parks & Reserves Officer (Volunteer/Community) liaise with the biking community. Other roles across the organisation have touch points in biking.

6. *How are recreation/cycle trails in your district maintained? who is responsible for maintenance, what is the annual maintenance cost and who funds trail maintenance?*

Most of the trails are maintained by QLDC, except the licenced areas in Reserve areas in the Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Reserves.

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind Regards,



Poonam Sethi

Governance and Official Information Advisor