

23 January 2025

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Sent via email to ██████████

RE: LG25-0002 – Costs breakdown on the stonework and restoration of Ballarat bridge consultant and fees for Derek Chin of Stantec.

Dear ██████████

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – PARTIAL RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 20 December 2024 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

- ***A full breakdown of the costs expended on the stonework and restoration of Ballarat bridge that that took place this year and gratefully. All itemised including consultant fees for Derek Chin of Stantec etc.***

QLDC RESPONSE

To address your request, we consulted the Roothing Operations Team and they have provided the below response.

The total cost of the restoration work is \$63,288.69 plus GST, of which \$52,055.04 plus GST is the physical work.

The total cost of Stantec time is \$11,233.65 plus GST, this includes time for liaison with Heritage New Zealand and the contractors on consenting and repair methodology, preparation and lodgement of the archaeological permission to complete the work, design, and construction support.

QLDC is aware of three strikes to this bridge over the past year, which is disappointing, to the best of our knowledge there have been no prior historic incidents like this.

The above costs are the total sum to repair the damage from the first two strikes, which was combined into one establishment in Spring 2024. The actual cost to QLDC is expected to be significantly less than quoted above, because we have followed up with the owner of each vehicle that has damaged the bridge, and their insurance companies. While we can not be sure of the total cost to QLDC while cost recovery processes are underway, the majority of the cost has already been recovered.

We have provided the total costs but have decided to withhold the detailed breakdown costs and our rationale for the withholding grounds has been explained later in our response.

It is noted that a further, third, strike to the bridge occurred in December 2024. An initial inspection suggests the most recent damage is not as serious as the previous incidents, possibly due to QLDC

reinforcing the bridge while undertaking repair work in Spring 2024, but there is certainly still some further repair work required after the latest hit in December 2024.

Decision to withhold remaining information requested.

We have good grounds under the LGOIMA for withholding/redacting some of the information requested. We consider it is necessary to withhold the information on the basis of the following grounds:

- s 7(2)(b)(ii) - would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; or

Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the LGOIMA provides that good reason for withholding information exists if making the information available 'would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information' unless other considerations exist which render it desirable in the public interest to release the information.

In this case, we considered the breakdown payments to be commercially sensitive information because it is information specific to QLDC's suppliers. Disclosure of this information could reveal their commercial position, and this could disadvantage them if widely known by the other competitors in the market.

We trust the above information satisfactorily answers the relevant components of your request.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Stakeholder and Democracy Services Manager).

Kind regards,

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