
TEN YEAR PLAN 2018-2028 HE MAHERE KAHURUTAKA 2018-2028

A summary of decisions on the big issues

During March and April this year, the Council sought your feedback on a number of 'big issues' in the draft Ten Year Plan 2018-2028.

The consultation process invited formal submissions on these issues and any aspect of the draft plan, and we received 586 submissions from across the district. The feedback was largely supportive

of the preferred options we proposed, and additional comments included active travel and alternative transport options, rates and affordability, three waters, and our town centres.

Hearings took place on the 15 and 16 May, the Council deliberated on all the information and the following is a summary of their decisions on the big issues.



We asked:**1A**

Do you support the preferred option to complete the programme outlined in the draft plan?

1C

If the funding assumptions are not supported (NZTA) do you agree that Council re-prioritise some projects?

Preferred option:

We proposed a partial delivery of the masterplan, thereby partially achieving the economic benefit of this with the ten years. This deferred upgrades to public areas such as the Village Green and Earnslaw Park, plus street upgrades such as pavement widening.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME COST**\$327.7M****ESTIMATED COMPLETION****2019-2027****Outcome:**

Of the submissions received 74.17% were either supportive or neutral regarding the Queenstown Town Centre Masterplan preferred option. The Councillors recommended that the preferred option be included in the final plan as outlined in the draft. The Consultation Document referred to October 2018 as a timeline for confirming the NZTA level of subsidy. It is likely that this will now be in 2019 but won't significantly affect the proposed work programme. Should NZTA not provide the sought subsidy 88.69% of you agreed that Council could re-prioritise some projects.

Council did decide to bring forward the pedestrianisation of Brecon Street for 2018/19 to be incorporated with similar work for Beach and Rees Street. This has not affected the budget for this project but delivers the benefits earlier.

Feedback was received that reflected concerns about the potential loss of the Queenstown Memorial Centre to accommodate the proposed arterial route. The location of a replacement has yet to be identified but Mayor Boulton has stated publicly that "the Memorial Centre will stay until there is an alternative in place." As the town centre implementation programme reaches the point for those decisions, we will ensure we engage with the community to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Some of you also highlighted the potential loss of parking around St Peter's Church which is important for services. Final decisions have yet to be made but it is intended that some parking will remain to support church activities, although parking capacity may be reduced. Vehicular access will remain to ensure the church is accessible for those who need it, such as the elderly or disabled visitors.

“ The Memorial Centre will stay until there is an alternative in place ”

MAYOR JIM BOULT

BIG ISSUE 2

How do we propose to pay for the Queenstown Masterplan

We asked:

1B

Do you agree with the preferred funding model?

Preferred option:

We proposed a model that assumed NZTA funding would meet a significant proportion of the capital costs, alongside increases to roading and recreation rates. The remaining debt would then be recovered from a targeted rate for a new wider CBD zone (65%) and Wakatipu ratepayers (35%) as those who would most benefit from the developments.

RATES IMPACT

1.4% to 30.3%

MAIN IMPACT

Wider Queenstown CBD;
Wakatipu Ward

Outcome:

Council confirmed that the proposed model to fund the Queenstown Masterplan would be adopted, and 75.15% of you either agreed or were neutral on that preferred option. The Council would like to acknowledge the concerns and suggestions that were raised through the consultation, and want to offer reassurance that as the need for a new rate arises then a more specific proposal will be consulted on with the community before any final decision is made. At this stage that is not anticipated until 2021/22 and would include target area and method.

BIG ISSUE 3

Project Connect and library proposal

We asked:

2A

Do you support the funding for a Council Office?

2B

Do you agree that this should include an interim dedicated Queenstown library space?

Preferred option:

We proposed a Council-owned building on Council-controlled land that included provision for an 'interim' library space. Whilst funding was included in the draft plan this did not preclude Council from entering into an alternate funding arrangement.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME COST

\$42.3M

ESTIMATED COMPLETION

2019-2021

Outcome:

In your submissions you were largely supportive or neutral regarding the inclusion of funding for a new Council office in the CBD, and the inclusion of an interim dedicated library space. Some comments did question whether the new office should be based in an alternative location such as Frankton. This has been debated at length and in February 2016 the Council decided that the preferred location was the Queenstown CBD. That decision stands to maintain a dynamic and authentic town centre.

BIG ISSUE 4

Wanaka Masterplan

We asked:

3A

Do you support the development of a Wanaka Masterplan in 2018 to enable a strategic and well connected approach to Wanaka planning?

Preferred option:

We proposed that the community support the development of the Wanaka Masterplan to enable a strategic and well connected approach to planning including parking, active travel, transport and the Lake Front Upgrade.

PROPOSED MASTERPLAN COST

\$0.5M

Outcome:

The need for a coordinated, cohesive response to growth in our district remains front-of-mind for Council and many of you in our community. 91.95% of submission responses were favourable towards starting a masterplan for Wanaka this year and you can expect to start seeing news about engagement activities in Spring. We've also recognised the need to invest more in the planning process and have increased the budget to \$0.9M, an increase of \$0.4M from the draft plan.

BIG ISSUE 5

Water supply and quality

We asked:

4A

Do you agree with the water supply project programme and timing to meet the Drinking Water Standards (2018) by 2027/28?

Preferred option:

Deliver the programme as outlined in the draft Ten Year Plan, therefore meeting the Drinking Water Standards in year ten but reconsider the timing in the event that other major projects are not delivered.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME COST

\$126.6M

EFFECT ON RATES

2.1% to 19.0% increase

Outcome:

The issue of supplying safe drinking water is one that generates significant debate, and this consultation was no different with 3 Waters generating the third highest number of submissions (although water treatment generated the least). The programme we proposed sees Council meeting the Drinking Water Standards in full in year ten of the Ten Year Plan, and you were very supportive with 80.85% of you in favour of or neutral to the programme outlined.

As stated previously Council does currently deliver safe drinking water to its communities and is committed to meeting the required standards. If additional funding becomes available the delivery of this programme can be reprioritised through a future Annual Plan review or Ten Year Plan.

BIG ISSUE 6

Funding new wastewater and water supply schemes for small communities

We asked:

5A

Do you agree that Council should introduce a general subsidy in order to protect the environment by supplementing the cost of smaller community schemes?

5B

Do you support the application of a two tier charge to the Arthurs Point scheme to enable a fairer apportionment of cost to the user?

Preferred option:

We proposed to introduce a general subsidy of up to 20% funded by the district-wide general rate for new reticulated water or wastewater schemes for small communities. In addition, we presented a two tier charge system that could be applied to the Arthurs Point scheme from 1 July 2018. It was also proposed that this same approach be implemented in Glenorchy, Hawea and Luggate schemes a year later from 1 July 2019.

PROPOSED CAPITAL COST FOR SMALL COMMUNITY SCHEMES

\$13.5M

Outcome:

After deliberation on these two issues, Council decided to progress the preferred options as outlined in the Consultation Document. Council officers will now progress implementing these options, which were largely supported by the community during the consultation period.

OTHER QUESTIONS WE ASKED

Community investment

We asked:

6A

Do you agree with the investment in community projects?

6B

Do you support the inclusion of funding to support the early harvest of Coronet Forest (i.e. funding for the revegetation project)?

6C

Do you agree that Council should enter into a lease for an interim Frankton library?

Outcome:

It was great to see the overall support for the investment in community projects such as the district's Sport and Recreation facilities, libraries, venues, and walking and cycling trails and tracks. This demonstrates how much you value these and want to see them maintained and where possible enhanced.

Council approved the proposal to undertake the harvest at a meeting in August 2017. With the majority of submissions being either supportive or neutral, the funding has been approved for the investment in revegetation needed to support the early harvest. Council Parks & Reserves officers have committed to exploring what schemes or grants may be available through government agencies to support this programme.

OTHER QUESTIONS WE ASKED

Rates (revaluation and affordability)

We asked:

7A

Do you support the proposal to revise the rating differentials based on the new rating valuations?

Outcome:

Alongside support from you the community, in your submissions, Council agreed that the impact of the recent rating valuations needed to be balanced to ensure that the model was fair and equitable. Therefore the proposed revised differentials (how we allocate cost) were adopted as detailed in the Consultation Document, and will apply for to rates in the district for 2018/19.

Grants and funding

A number of grants and funding requests were approved in the Ten Year Plan and you can view a summary of these on our website at www.qldc.govt.nz.

Specific allocations have also been made within the 2018/19 Economic Development fund to support new business diversity throughout the district. These are as follows:

- > Start Up Queenstown Lakes - \$220k
- > Study Queenstown - \$50k

A further \$160k has been ring-fenced for other economic development initiatives still in the planning process.

Rates

With all things considered, the overall average rate increase has been confirmed as 6.89% (after allowing for growth at 3.5%) in 2018/19, which is marginally less than the proposed increase of 6.95%. The overall rates increase over the full ten years is 3.41% (after allowing for growth).

ISSUED RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY

During the consultation process you took the opportunity to highlight a number of issues that are important to you as a community. These ranged from discussions around funding specific projects to wider conversations about how we manage growth effectively to ensure that our district remains the great place to live and work that it is today. We have responded to some of the more frequently raised issues in the sections prior to this, but other issues are addressed here.

GROWTH IN THE DISTRICT

Some comments were received that raised concerns regarding growth, either district-wide or in specific townships. These generally referred to the ability of our infrastructure to cope with an increasing number of visitors as well as sustained population growth. Some even went so far as to suggest we should stop or cap growth. Legally there is no mechanism for us to stop growth, nor would we want there to be one. Through growth our district will continue to become more exciting, dynamic and diverse, and a great place to live, work and visit.

The whole aim of this Ten Year Plan is to present a vision for the next ten years and how we intend to provide the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to accommodate that in a planned and coordinated way. Council has actively sought and lobbied for new funding mechanisms to make sure the burden of growth is not all saddled with our small ratepayer population. A visitor levy (or bed tax) is something we have long argued for and will continue to do so.

We're also working to define a longer-term vision for the district, not just looking at infrastructure but at the whole picture of what it means to be a part of the Queenstown Lakes community in 20-30 years' time. Look out for more on this in the coming months when we will be engaging with the community on your thoughts for the district's future.

ACTIVE TRAVEL / ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT

Of the 586 submissions received, 254 related to providing a comprehensive cycling and walking network and these comments were primarily from residents in the Upper Clutha. Many of you suggested that the budget for active transport networks in and around Wanaka wasn't sufficient, and therefore the Councillors have agreed to reallocate funding and increase the budget from \$2.3M to \$3.7M (subject to a detailed business case and confirmation of additional funding from NZTA).

For the Wakatipu we've also brought forward an additional \$2.6M from 2029/29 for town centre cycle network links and to progress a detailed business case sooner than initially planned.

FUNDING OF TOURISM

Currently there are three Regional Tourism Organisations in Queenstown Lakes; Destination Queenstown, Lake Wanaka Tourism, and Arrowtown Promotion & Business Association. Some comments suggested that Council should stop funding tourism promotion, particularly in the context of current pressures on infrastructure. Council has noted your submissions.



“ Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide a submission or spoke at one of the hearings. It has been a pleasure to engage with the community at an exciting time of growth for our district. We presented a bold and ambitious plan which has now been adopted by the Council. I am confident this Council can deliver on this challenging programme of work and start us all on a journey to a great future for Queenstown Lakes District ”

MAYOR JIM BOULT