

Item 2: Joint prioritisation for Otago Central Lakes

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for the Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Negotiation Joint Committee (the Committee) to agree joint prioritisation of the initiatives set out in the Regional Deal Proposal.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. **Note** the priority ranking agreed by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC), at the Council meeting on 26 June 2025 (as set out below)
2. **Agree** a joint priority ranking for Otago Central Lakes, to be used to inform negotiations with central government.

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Context

1. The role of the Committee is to provide direction that informs the negotiation of a Regional Deal between the partner councils and Central Government. The direction provided by the Committee is to reflect the joint priorities for Otago Central Lakes agreed by the Committee.
2. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) agreed a priority ranking of the initiatives at a council meeting, while Central Otago District and Otago Regional Council have not. The Committee is requested to agree a priority ranking of the initiatives to inform negotiations with central government. The prioritisation will inform, not direct, negotiations with central government.

Analysis and Advice

3. The initiatives within the scope of the Regional Deal Proposal are listed below, in the priority ranking order agreed by QLDC. The Committee is asked to:
 - consider the respective priorities for Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council,
 - consider whether this results in a different priority ranking than that approved by QLDC, and
 - jointly agree the priority ranking to inform negotiations with central government.
4. The Committee needs to agree to a priority ranking in order to move forward in the negotiations, as such no alternative options have been evaluated in this report.
5. QLDC's priority ranking of proposal initiatives are outlined below:
 - Transform Transport
 - Refresh transport strategy around offline MRT and sub-regional visitor, commuter and freight links
 - Establish bespoke settings to enable offline MRT
 - Establish alternative funding / financing / ownership / delivery mechanisms for critical public transport, roading and bridge infrastructure.
 - Capturing Value
 - Bespoke settings to ensure growth pays for growth
 - Local visitor levy
 - Bespoke settings to enable a pipeline of affordable housing
 - Mining royalties

- Electrify Otago Central Lakes
 - Provide streamlined planning and land acquisition pathway for a transmission corridor.
 - Establish bespoke settings to allow Queenstown to be treated as part of the Grid
 - Require Transpower to undertake additional options analysis for the new Queenstown line
 - Launch the Ratepayer Assisted Scheme for rooftop solar and batteries.
 - Establish bespoke settings to enable innovation in alternative energy generation
 - Establish bespoke settings to enable increased uptake of solar
- Private Investment, Public Health
 - Use OCL resident and visitor numbers in funding model
 - Accelerate the delivery of a comprehensive health needs assessment for the region
 - Develop integrated private / public healthcare models
 - Deliver partnered health services based on high priority needs and private opportunities
- Visitors and Investors
 - Grow highly productive sectors
 - Increase total value of the visitor economy
 - Position OCL as NZ's investment and business shopfront
 - Power sustainable tourism through data driven insights