

Full Council

27 June 2024

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [5]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 Allocation Recommendations

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūrokoii

This report provides an overview of the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Community Fund 2024-2027 (QLDC Community Fund) application and review process and seeks approval from Council on the recommended funding allocations.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** the following recommended funding allocations from the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027:

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant 2024/25
Queenstown Arts Society				\$5,000
Glenorchy Heritage & Museum Group	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Three Lakes Cultural Trust	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Te Atamira Whakatipu Community Trust	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	
Lakes District Museum Incorporated	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Upper Clutha Historical Society Inc	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Women's Shed Queenstown	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Happiness House Trust	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	
Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country Community Association				\$10,000
Queenstown Community Cats				\$3,000
Community Networks/ LINK	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	
Out&about Wānaka				\$10,000

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant 2024/25
Lake Hāwea Community Association	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Wānaka Community Workshop Trust	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	
Kingston Community Association				\$17,000
Volunteer South Trust/ Kaitūao o te Taitonga	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	
Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Kāhu Youth Trust	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Mint Charitable Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Path Wānaka/Ara Ki Wānaka	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Aspiring Beginnings Early Learning Centre				\$4,000
Wānaka Playgroup				\$2000
Wakatipu Youth Trust t/a Whakatipu Youth Trust	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	
WORD Limited (World Off-road Riding Department)				\$5,000
Lakes District Air Rescue Trust	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Wakatipu Community Foundation				\$10,000
Shaping Our Future	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Glenorchy Community Association	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Gibbston Community Association				\$10,000
Queenstown Harvest Community Gardens	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Arthurs Point Community Association Inc				\$10,000
Tucker Beach Wildlife Trust				\$10,000
KAPOW Queenstown				\$2,000
Wai Wānaka	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Ruby Island Management Committee	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Incorporated (WCG)	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	
Wao Aotearoa	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Whakatipu Wildlife Trust	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Wakatipu Reforestation Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Southern Lakes Branch of NZ Deerstalkers Association	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant 2024/25
Baskets of Blessings Charitable Trust	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Grow Wānaka Community Gardens	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Food for Love	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
KiwiHarvest	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Upper Clutha Children's Medical Centre Trust				\$3,000
Māori Women's Welfare League - Whakatipu-Wai-Māori Branch				\$10,000
KnowYourStuffNZ				\$5,000
Parent to Parent, Otago				\$5,000
Queenstown Cricket Club Inc				\$10,000
Queenstown Pickleball Club				\$3,000
Rad Community Trust				\$10,000
Wānaka Associated Football Club				\$10,000
Whakatipu Waka Ama Inc				\$5,000
Waiorau Nordic Sports Club				\$5,000
Queenstown Gymnastics Club				\$4,000
Southern Lakes Swimming Club				\$2,000
Glenorchy Trails Trust				\$10,000
Upper Clutha Tracks Trust	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Bike Wānaka	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Queenstown Trails Trust	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Queenstown Mountain Bike Club Inc	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
The Kiwi Kit Community Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Queenstown Citizen's Advice	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	

Prepared by:



Name: Giovanni Stephens
Title: Community Investment Advisor

7 June 2024

Reviewed and authorised by:



Name: Simon Battrick
Title: Community Services General Manager
(Acting)

7 June 2024

Context | Horopaki

- 1 QLDC has responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to ‘play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of their communities’ including their present and future communities. A key mechanism for QLDC to promote and support the wellbeing local communities is through direct financial investment into community organisations via community grants. This report focuses specifically on the QLDC Community Fund.
- 2 The QLDC Community Fund is an annual contestable fund for community organisations seeking funding to support wellbeing outcomes for the Queenstown Lakes District’s people, place, and community. To enhance the community grant allocation process, QLDC has launched a new online platform for Council’s community funding opportunities. This platform will help simplify the application process, allowing those seeking funding to apply, see the status of their application, submit any required reporting.
- 3 Despite the Queenstown Lakes community gradually recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges persist due to growth and fiscal pressures. Consequently, an increasing number of community organisations are seeking financial support. Without sustained financial support from QLDC and other funders, and with changing government funding priorities, some projects and services may become unsustainable.
- 4 The most significant funding gaps often lie in operational costs, such as rent, overheads, or administrative salaries. While most funders do not cover these costs, QLDC is one of the main funders that provide operational funding to local community organisations via the QLDC Community Fund.
- 5 Key dates in the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 round include:
 - March/April 2024 – media and emails to community groups promoting the fund.
 - 9 April – 7 May 2024 – fund round open to receive applications.
 - 2 May 2024 – Council formally resolved to meet as the Community Fund Panel to consider allocations.
 - 13/14 May 2024 – fund applicant presentations to elected members.
 - 21 May and 6 June 2024 – QLDC Community Fund Panel (full Council) considers applications.
 - 27 June 2024 – QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 recommendations to Council for approval.
 - 28 June 2024 – Applicants to be advised of the outcome of their applications.
 - July/August 2024 – Successful applicants to be provided with funding agreements and advised of the process to receive payment of grants for 2024-2025.
- 6 A record number of QLDC Community Fund applications were received from across the district, with a summary of applications here:
 - 94 applications received

- Total annual amount requested (year one): \$3,579,488
- Minimum amount requested = \$1,000
- Maximum amount requested = \$500,000

7 The QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 budget available to allocate is:

- Long Term Plan QLDC Community Fund: \$1,598,000 annually for up to three years (2024-2027)
- Annual Plan QLDC Community Fund: \$180,000 for one-year grants only (2024-2025).

8 Community Fund 2024-2027 applicants were provided an option to present to elected members as the Community Fund Panel (full Council) on 13 and 14 May 2024. This was not a requirement of the Community Fund application process. The Community Fund 2024-2027 applications and officer recommendations were reviewed by the Community Fund Panel (full Council) on 21 May 2024, followed by a final meeting on 6 June 2024. All applications were considered on their individual merits, based on the information provided in the Community Fund application form.

9 The total funding budget has been allocated as recommended for both the QLDC Community Fund (2024-2027) and the AP QLDC Community Fund (2024-2025).

10 While the QLDC Community Fund budget does not have enough funds available to support all eligible funding requests, several applicants aligned directly with QLDC strategic outcomes, with other funding able to be contributed from those budgets.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

11 This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.

12 **Option 1** Approve the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 allocation recommendations

Advantages:

- **Timely Distribution:** Ensures that community organisations receive funding promptly, allowing them to continue their essential work.
- **Community Support:** Enhances the wellbeing, resilience, and development of the local community through targeted financial support.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Supports QLDC's strategic objectives by fostering community-led initiatives and promoting social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

Disadvantages:

- **Resource Limitation:** Limited financial resources may result in some applicants not receiving the funding they requested.

- **Potential Dissatisfaction:** Unsuccessful applicants may be dissatisfied with the outcome.

13 **Option 2** Maintain status quo and do not accept the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 allocation recommendations

Advantages:

- **Resource Preservation:** Retains financial resources for future allocation or other strategic priorities.
- **Process Revaluation:** Provides an opportunity to re-evaluate the funding criteria or process for future improvements.

Disadvantages:

- **Support Delay:** Delays the provision of financial support to community organisations, potentially hindering their operations.
- **Community Impact:** May negatively impact the wellbeing and resilience of the community by delaying support for community development projects.
- **Lost Opportunities:** Risks missing out on timely and impactful community initiatives that could benefit from immediate funding.

14 This report recommends **Option 1** because it ensures timely fund distribution to community organisations, supports community wellbeing and resilience, and aligns with QLDC's strategic goals.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

15 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2021 because:

- There is high community interest as numerous organisations depend on this funding to sustain operations and deliver beneficial services.
- It has a medium impact on the district's social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing. The funding supports crucial community services/programmes run by non-profit/voluntary/charitable organisations.

16 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are community organisations that are not-for-profit/charitable operations.

17 Officers have undertaken internal engagement and consideration among elected members and staff regarding the allocation of grant funding from the QLDC Community Fund to various community organisations. However, officers will not be conducting external consultation or engagement on these specific allocation decisions due to the following reasons:

- The funding allocation process is an internal decision-making matter within the Council's purview and budgetary processes.
- While the funding impacts community organisations, the Council already has an established Significance and Engagement Policy that guides when external consultation is required. This specific funding decision does not trigger that requirement based on the policy criteria.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

18 Officers have not undertaken any consultation specifically with iwi.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

19 This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10002 Erosion of social cohesion within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating.

20 The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to retain the risk at its current level. This will be achieved by conducting thorough assessments of community groups' applications before recommending fund allocations and establishing monitoring mechanisms to track and address any issues promptly.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

21 There are no financial implications associated with the allocations recommended from the QLDC Community Fund as they have been fully budgeted for in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

22 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Local Government Act 2002; the recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the Act.
- The strategy is aligned with and considers the principles of the QLDC Mission and Vision Beyond 2050, in particular:
 - Whakapuāwai Hapori Thriving people
 - Whakatinana i te ao Māori Living te ao Māori
 - He ōhaka taurikura Opportunities for all.
- QLDC Grow Well Whaiora | Spatial Plan: The Grow Well Whaiora Partnership was established between QLDC, Kāi Tahu, Otago Regional Council and the Crown to respond to the district's

urban growth challenges. The partnership has produced the district’s first Spatial Plan. The Spatial Plan sets out how and where the district’s growth will occur over the long term. It aims to deliver positive growth that benefits the environment, housing, access to jobs, community wellbeing and visitor experience.

- Events Strategy (2015): QLDC has committed to provide significant investment to support both commercial and community events in the district. Council’s vision of this strategy is to: “Promote and support a balanced portfolio of sporting and cultural events that meet community objectives for the district as a whole in respect of recreational activities, community infrastructure and economic growth.”
- Our Community Spaces (2018): This report presents research into community groups, services and facilities in the Queenstown Lakes District. This report is being refreshed in 2024.
- Welcoming Plan (in draft; to be completed in 2024). QLDC is part of Welcoming Communities | Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori, a programme to support newcomers to feel welcome and able to participate in the economic, civic, cultural and social life of their new community. The programme aims to make the district more welcoming for everyone.

23 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the Act.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

24 Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

25 This funding allocation recommendation aligns with the aims of the Act by empowering communities through democratic decision-making and action. By supporting community organisations addressing various aspects of wellbeing, including social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions, this recommendation contributes to enhancing the overall wellbeing of communities both now and in the future. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

26 The recommended option

- Can be implemented through the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Community Fund 2024-2027 meeting minutes, 21 May and 6 June 2024
---	--