

Wānaka Community Board
3 December 2020

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 4

Department: Property & Infrastructure

Title | Taitara Temporary Road Closure Application – Challenge Wānaka 2021

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

The purpose of this report is to consider an application received for temporary road closures associated with the annual Challenge Wānaka sporting event scheduled to take place in February 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

- 1 Southern Safety Services Limited on behalf of the Challenge Wānaka Sports Trust have applied to Council for a set of temporary road closures for their annual event scheduled to take place in February 2021. The event is moving from central Wānaka to Glendhu Bay in 2021 with the road closure areas used to manage the safety of athletes and spectators by restricting access to vehicular traffic.
- 2 The closure is requested to allow the event to take place in a safe and efficient manner and the recommendation is for approval subject to conditions as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Wānaka Community Board

1. **Notes** the contents of this report;
2. **Approves** the temporary road closure application for the Challenge Wānaka 2021 event subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Approval of the final Traffic Management Plan by QLDC Planning and Development prior to the event taking place.
 - b. The applicant must make provision for piloted controlled access through the road closures for affected commercial operators getting clients to their activities to the satisfaction of the Wānaka Community Board.
 - c. Radio advertising two days prior and on the morning of the event.
 - d. The event organisers shall arrange suitable disposal methods for recycling and rubbish/refuse.
 - e. The applicant must ensure access is available for emergency services, QLDC Road Maintenance Contractor any other Council maintenance contractors if

required and a mobile phone contact must be provided to NZ Police in the event of the need for emergency access.

- f. The applicant shall notify all affected parties including residents and businesses who operate within and beyond the closure areas of the extent of the temporary road closure and ensure their needs are suitably catered for. Contact details for the event organiser must be provided in this notification.
 - g. The applicant must liaise with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to ensure people accessing or returning from the walking tracks beyond the closure area are aware of the closures and suitable access through the closures is provided for, if required.
 - h. A reminder notice advising of the duration and dates of the closure shall be distributed to DOC and all affected parties, including residents and businesses who operate within and beyond the closure areas, at least ten working days prior to the event. A copy of this notice is to be supplied to APL Property.
 - i. The applicant must advise of the closures through their own social media and contact QLDC Communications to arrange the closures to be further shared through Council social media. Contact details for the event organiser must be provided in this.
3. **Authorises** the following schedule of road closures:

Otago Secondary Schools & Tri NZ Secondary Schools Event

Road to be Closed: Wānaka Mt Aspiring Road from Motatapu Road to Hospital Flat

Period of Closure: 1200 to 1600 Thursday 18 February 2021

Road to be Closed: Motatapu Road for 2.5 km from Wānaka Mt Aspiring Road

Period of Closure: 1300 to 1600 Thursday 18 February 2021

Challenge Wānaka Half

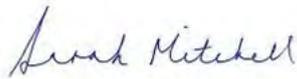
Road to be Closed: Wānaka Mt Aspiring Road from Motatapu Road to Treble Cone Ski field turnoff

Period of Closure: 0700 to 1230 Saturday 20 February 2021

Road to be Closed: All of Motatapu Road

Period of Closure: 0900 to 1600 Saturday 20 February 2021

Prepared by:



 Sarah Mitchell
 Property Advisor
 APL Property

13/11/2020

Reviewed and Authorised by:



 David Wallace
 Manager for Resource
 Management Engineering

18/11/2020

CONTEXT | HORPOAKI

- 3 Challenge Wānaka is an annual event which in previous years has taken place over four days involving a large number of road closures in and around Wānaka township.
- 4 In 2021 the three day Integrity Homes Challenge Wānaka event is moving out of central Wānaka and will be hosted at Bike Glendhu and Glendhu Station giving competitors a fresh course and these companies the ability to support each other and their local community.
- 5 The event organisers are focused on delivering a world-class event for all participants from juniors through to the top New Zealand triathletes. Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions it is highly likely that no international competitors will be able to race in next year's event and therefore the organisers are keen to use existing infrastructure in Wānaka in order to reduce costs and keep the iconic race on track for February 2021.
- 6 The event will utilise Glendhu Bay for the swim leg with the bike leg being a 5 lap course on Mt Aspiring Road from Glendhu Bay to the bottom of Treble Cone Ski Field which the event organisers consider to be a safe and secure road ride without the dangers of traffic. The run will take place on Motatapu Road and at Bike Glendhu Bike Park.
- 7 Bike Glendhu and Glendhu Station will be used to host the Expo, registration and athlete functions (which have previously been held in Pembroke Park in central Wānaka) with adequate room here for parking and a safe and compact venue for the Junior, Intermediate and Adaptive racing to be held on the Thursday 18th February and Friday 19th February.
- 8 Southern Safety Services Limited have applied on behalf of Challenge Wānaka to temporarily close part of Mt Aspiring and Motatapu Road. A schedule and map outlining the road closures is appended in **Attachment A**.
- 9 The scheduled events for 2021 are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Thursday 18 February 2021

- The Intermediate and Adaptive events will take place in the morning managed through the Traffic Management Plan with a stop/go in place with minimal waiting time. In the afternoon from 12.30pm the Otago Secondary Schools race incorporating

the Tri NZ Secondary School will take place and will involve a four hour closure of Mt Aspiring Road from Motatapu Road to Hospital Flat and a three hour closure of Motatapu Road for 2.5 kilometres from Wānaka Mt Aspiring Road.

- The applicant advises the age groups all start 3 minutes apart so all will be on the bike leg by 1pm with most biking 10km and seniors 20km seeing the slowest competitor finished at 2.15pm. The road will remain open at this time for a period of 30 minutes to let traffic pass through both ways. If for any reason a very slow competitor is still out the road traffic will still be able to pass as all competitors will be obeying road rules.
- At 2.45pm the under 19 elite race girls and boys will commence at 3 minute intervals with all expected to be completed by 3.45pm with the road reopened at 4pm. Again any stragglers will be advised the road will reopen and at all times they must obey road rules.

Friday 19 February 2021

- The Puzzling World Junior Challenge Wānaka race for all ages up to Year 6. No road closure is required for this event which will again be managed through the Traffic Management Plan with a stop/go in place with 10 minute delays.

Saturday 20 February 2021

- Challenge Half and an Aqua bike event comprising a 3 kilometre swim and 120 kilometre bike ride. The closures proposed are for Mt Aspiring Road from Motatapu Road to the Treble Cone Ski Field Road from 7am to 12.30pm and Motatapu Road from 9am to 4pm.

10 The applicant has supplied a copy of their Health & Safety Plan, Risk Assessment Management System (RAMS) and Crisis PR procedures which is **Attachment B**. They further advise Covid-19 updates/provisions will be made to this in due course. Due to the size this document is available on request.

11 The Council can close roads to vehicular traffic for events by using provisions of the Local Government Act 1974. The Chief Executive as delegated authority is delegated to consider applications to temporarily close roads under this legislation.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

Matters to be Considered

12 The scope of matters to be considered in the Wānaka Community Board reaching a decision to temporarily close roads to vehicular traffic is set out by the Local Government Act 1974. Clause 11 of the 10th Schedule of this Act states that:

'The Council may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit (including the imposition of a reasonable bond), and after consultation with the Police and Ministry of Transport, close

any road or part of a road to all traffic or any specified type of traffic (including pedestrian traffic)...

(e) For a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 31 days in any year for any exhibition, fair, show, market, concert, film making, race or other sporting event, or public function:

Provided that no road may be closed for any purpose specified in paragraph (e) of this clause if that closure would, in the opinion of the Council, be likely to impede traffic unreasonably.'

- 13 In 2006 Council adopted a document headed 'Criteria for Closing Significant Roads' to guide it when considering planned temporary road closures. This document provides guidance on the application of Clause 11 of the 10th Schedule of the Local Government Act 1074. It is noted that under this document neither Mt Aspiring Road nor Motatapu Road are identified as 'significant roads' however Mt Aspiring Road which is the only road leading out to Mt Aspiring National Park could be considered a 'significant road' in the Wānaka District.
- 14 The key component of this document covers the matters to be considered when determining whether the closure would be likely to impede traffic unreasonably. In balancing the pros and cons of a road closure proposal the document effectively asks a series of questions summarised as follows:
 - a. Is there a real possibility that traffic will be impeded?
 - b. Is there an alternative route available (or so little traffic through the area that the absence of an alternative route is not important)?
 - c. Is there a level of community comfort with, or benefit to the community from the proposal that makes the closures not unreasonable? Is the interruption to a whole community more important than the benefits of the event?
 - d. Is the event likely to evolve in future years to something that has a more severe impact?
- 15 The document notes that the use of 'may' implies a discretion and the expectation is that discretion will be exercised in accordance with the policy.
- 16 To assist the Wānaka Community Board in making its decision the NZ Police and other emergency services, Department of Conservation, Aspiring Highways, and Council contractors have been notified of the proposed closures. The intent to close the road has also been publicly notified in the Wānaka Sun Noticeboard on 15 October 2020 and on the QLDC website for upcoming road closures. At the date of this report no concerns or issues have been received from these notifications.
- 17 We have however been made aware through Council that a concern was raised by a commercial operator who conducts their business near Treble Cone, with the proposed closures seriously affecting their ability to operate if they cannot get clients to their

activities which are at the end of the Mt Aspiring road closure. This information was relayed to the applicant and they were advised that they needed to liaise with this company to ensure their needs were sufficiently catered for.

- 18 Council Engineers have been consulted and they advise that they consider it key for the event organisers to liaise with the Department of Conservation as there will be people planning to access, or return from, the DoC walking tracks past the closure area. They also advise that there will need to be adequate liaison with affected parties in the hope that all parties can be accommodated for during the relatively short period the closures are in place. APL have notified DOC outlining the proposed closures and at the date of this report no feedback has been received. The applicant has also been advised to liaise with the Department over the proposed closures to ensure all needs of walkers accessing and returning from Mt Aspiring National Park, beyond the closure area, are catered for. They advise they will liaise with DoC in both Wānaka and Queenstown and will keep them informed and updated. They will also have notice boards in place at the start of tramping sites two weeks prior to the event notifying of the closures.
- 19 An initial consultation with the Wānaka Community Board was also undertaken to determine if there were any issues or concerns with the proposed closures that needed to be addressed prior to presenting this report.
- 20 Challenge Wānaka provided a letter with their application which was sent on 8 September 2020 to commercial operators whose businesses the event organisers considered may be affected by the closures. They also more recently contacted i-Site Wānaka to see if there were any further businesses that should be advised of the proposed closures and these have also been contacted.
- 21 The event organisers are keen to make things work for all parties in terms of providing access through the road closures and will be guided by the WCB and Southern Safety Services on this. At the date of this report Challenge have advised that they will be liaising with aforementioned commercial operator to ensure they are able to access their business through a prearranged convoy through the closures. They further advise that to date they had only had feedback from two other businesses, Wānaka Paragliding and Aspiring Guides, both who were happy to work around closures and in with any convoy access arranged.
- 22 We have included a condition of the road closure approval that provision must be made for piloted controlled access for affected commercial operators getting clients through the road closures to their activities to the satisfaction of the Wānaka Community Board.
- 23 A standard requirement of all temporary road closure approval is that a Traffic Management Plan is approved before the roads are closed. This will ensure that all traffic and pedestrian flows are managed with appropriate signage, barriers and wardens. Southern Safety Services are preparing the final Traffic Management Plan which will be submitted to the QLDC Road Corridor Engineer for approval.
- 24 We have considered the above against the Council's 'Criteria for Closing Significant Roads' policy document with Paragraph 14 setting out the key questions that need to be

addressed ahead of making a decision on the road closure application. These are addressed as below:

a. Will traffic be impeded?

Answer: Yes. Mt Aspiring Road is the only road leading out to Mt Aspiring National Park a popular destination for walking, tramping and sightseeing. It is recognised that the tourist numbers accessing this road during the current Covid-19 situation with closed borders will be less than during normal times. The closures are also outside of the main summer holiday period when domestic travel along this road would be higher. It is also recognised that the applicant is working with tourist/commercial operators to ensure minimal disruption from the closures. It is considered that with the lessened traffic on this road and the provision for piloted convoys for affected businesses the relatively short closure should ensure traffic is not unduly impeded. Motatapu Road has been closed in the past without incidence or concerns arising for other sporting events.

b. Is an alternative route available (or so little traffic that the absence of an alternative route is not important)?

Answer: No alternative route available however the applicant has liaised with affected parties and is catering for the needs of those who may be affected. With the borders likely to remain closed at the time of the event and it being outside of the busier Christmas holiday period, traffic is likely to be reduced. A Traffic Management Plan will be in place and a condition of the closure is that access will be allowed for emergency services and Council contractors, if required.

c. Is there a benefit or level of community comfort with the proposal that makes the closures not unreasonable?

Answer: Yes. Challenge Wānaka is an annual triathlon event held in Wānaka run by the Challenge Wānaka Sports Trust, a charitable trust whose primary objective is to arrange and provide events and activities having a sporting, recreational and/or social value for the benefit of the citizens of both the Southern Lakes area and New Zealand in general. It applies the trust funds in and towards the benefit of the community and New Zealand by way of financial contribution towards the establishment and maintenance of recreational, educational and health facilities and services with particular reference to people having disabilities or other extraordinary needs.¹ A number of local businesses are on board including Glendhu Station, Bike Glendhu and Glendhu camping ground who are either hosting the event or event sponsors. Additionally athletes and their families will likely be staying and dining in and around the Wānaka area further supporting local businesses.

d. Is the event likely to evolve in future years to something that has a more severe impact?

¹ <https://www.challenge-Wānaka.com/events/>

Answer: Uncertain. With the borders likely to be closed for the 2021 event participant numbers may be down on previous years as international competitors will be unable to enter the country so in future years the event may grow however it is unknown as to whether the event will continue in the future at the 2021 location.

- 25 In summary this assessment accepts that whilst there is no alternative access and traffic is likely to be impeded by the proposed road closures there will be benefits to the Glendhu Bay and wider Wānaka community and prearranged piloted convoy access through the closures for affected businesses will be provided for.
- 26 Road closures for this event have occurred in and around Wānaka for a number of years without incidence and the recommendation is for approval of the application, subject conditions which will enable the event to proceed in a safe and managed environment.
- 27 Option 1 To approve the application for temporary road closures associated with the event.

Advantages:

- 28 A popular event in the Wānaka sporting calendar will be able to be run as proposed
- 29 Participant and spectator safety will not be compromised with the event held in a safe managed environment.
- 30 Affected commercial/tourist operators have been liaised with and piloted convoy access will be arranged where required.

Disadvantages:

- 31 Road closures affect the normal flow of traffic which could affect local residents, tourism/commercial operators that use the road and inconvenience the public.
- 32 There is no alternative route available.
- 33 Option 2 To decline the application for temporary road closures associated with the event.

Advantages:

- 34 There would be less inconvenience for the public and commercial/tourism operators that use the road with it remaining open to normal vehicular traffic

Disadvantages:

- 35 It could create an unsafe environment during the event for participants, spectators and the general public.
- 36 The event will not be able to be run as planned or not at all.
- 37 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter as the event will be able to proceed as planned in a safe, managed environment .

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 38 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as it relates to Council's roading network which is identified as a significant asset.
- 39 The proposal for closure temporarily and on conditions to minimise the impact on traffic and pedestrian flows is in line with the Policy's recommendations.
- 40 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the general public, residents and commercial operators who may use the road.
- 41 The temporary road closure has been advertised in The Wānaka Sun inviting comment and will be advertised again before the closure takes place. This is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 1974. They have also been placed on the QLDC website for upcoming scheduled road closures. At the date of this report no issues or concerns have arisen from this notification.
- 42 Council Engineers have been consulted and they concur with the recommended conditions.
- 43 We have publicly notified the intent to close the road, advised Emergency Services, NZ Police, Department of Conservation, QLDC Events office, Ritchies, Council contractors and Council staff who would have an interest in the road closures and followed the statutory administrative requirements of the Local Government Act 1974.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 44 This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance risk category. It is associated with RISK00031 Ineffective management and governance over legislative compliance within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because a variety of regulatory compliance and health and safety risks associated with parties using roads are triggered when the Council considers whether or not to approve a temporary road closure.
- 45 This matter also relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00016 Temporary Core Infrastructure Outage caused by 3rd Party activity within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because the public's general access to the roading infrastructure will be impacted by the event.
- 46 The approval of the recommended option will support the management of the above risks by ensuring that the Council's legislative requirements are fully satisfied and that appropriate conditions are specified to ensure safety of all event stakeholders and minimal impact to the wider community from the temporary road closure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

47 There are no cost implications resulting from the approval of this temporary road closure application. The applicant has paid the cost of the road closure application and will pay for any advertising that is required as part of the process.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

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

- *Significance and Engagement Policy 2014* – providing clarity on Council’s decision making processes and assessing the extent to which individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community are affected by the Council’s decisions.
- *Criteria for Closing Significant Road Policy* – detailed above.
- The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

49 The costs associated with the proposed road closures will be met by the applicant.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES | KA TURE WHAIWHAKAARO, ME KĀ TAKOHAKA WAETURE

50 Temporary road closures are controlled by Schedule 10 Section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974. As authority for approval of road closures is delegated to the Wānaka Community Board and considering Section 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002 the advice recommends a decision that is efficient, effective and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

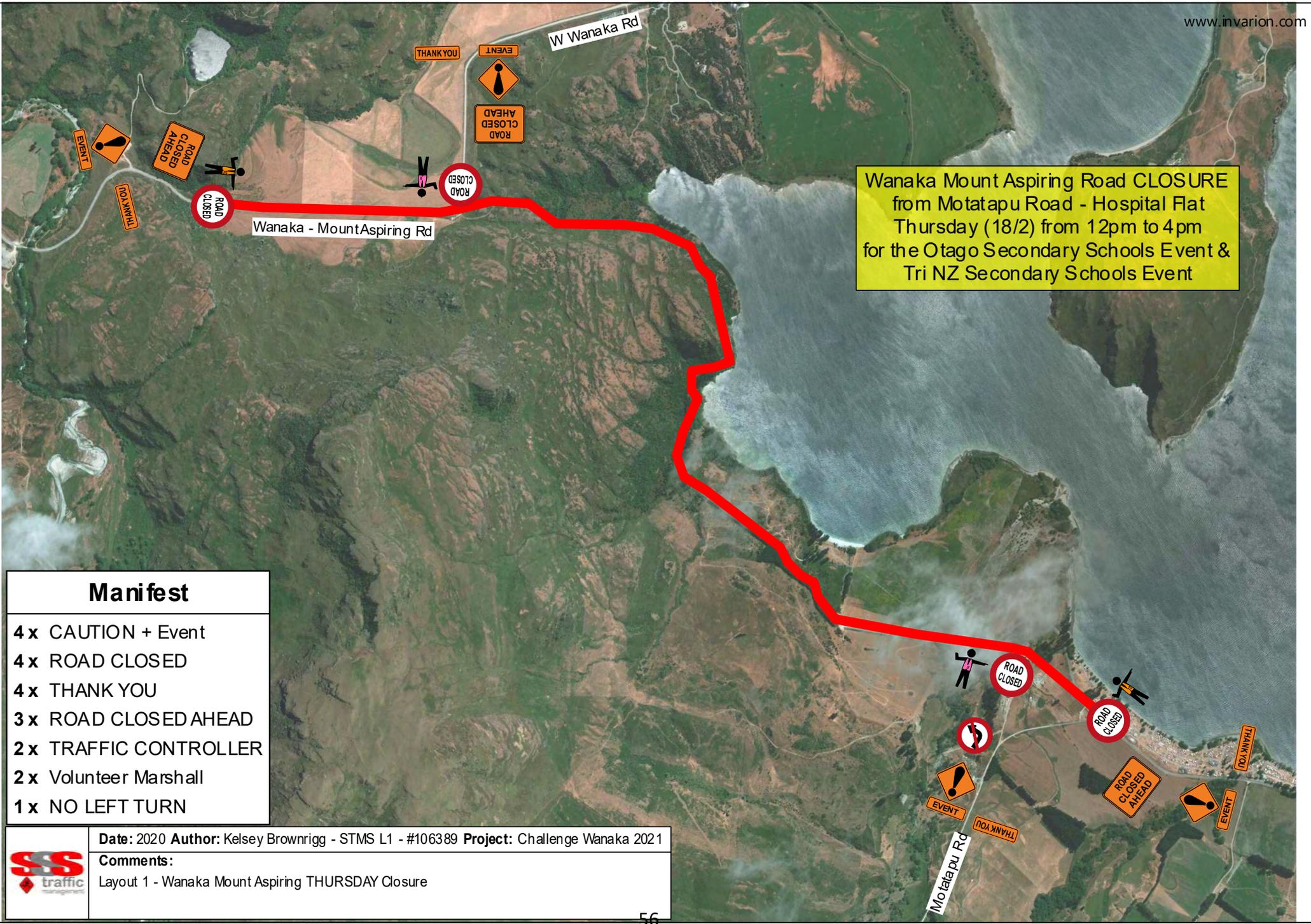
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

51 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by ensuring that the events associated with the Integrity Homes Challenge Wānaka 2021 event can continue in the preferred format;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly 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 | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	MAP SHOWING EXTENT OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
B	HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN, RAMS & CP CRISIS PR PROCEDURES (AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)



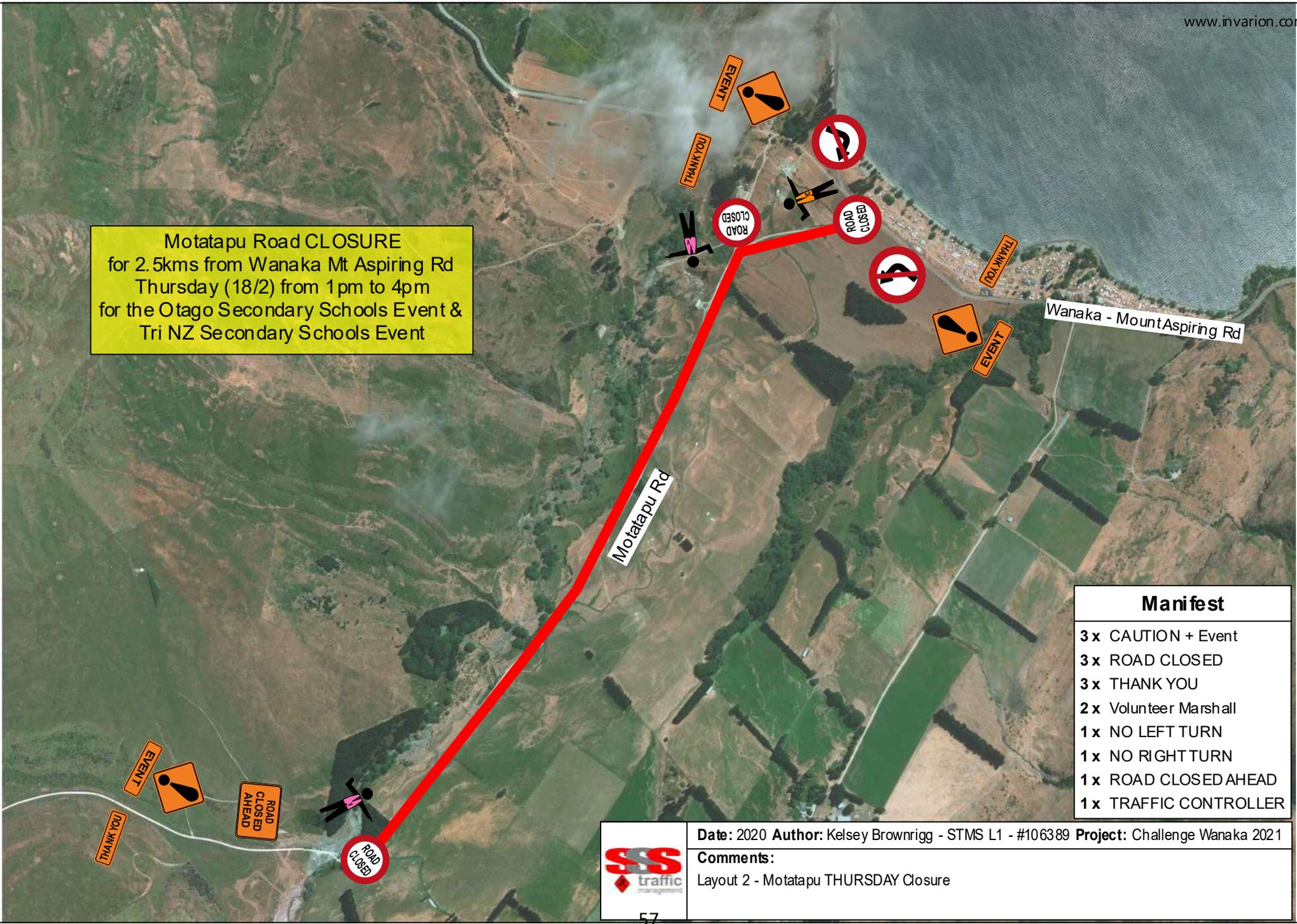
Wanaka Mount Aspiring Road CLOSURE
 from Motatapu Road - Hospital Flat
 Thursday (18/2) from 12pm to 4pm
 for the Otago Secondary Schools Event &
 Tri NZ Secondary Schools Event

Manifest
4 x CAUTION + Event
4 x ROAD CLOSED
4 x THANK YOU
3 x ROAD CLOSED AHEAD
2 x TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
2 x Volunteer Marshall
1 x NO LEFT TURN

Date: 2020 **Author:** Kelsey Brownrigg - STMS L1 - #106389 **Project:** Challenge Wanaka 2021
Comments:
 Layout 1 - Wanaka Mount Aspiring THURSDAY Closure



Motatapu Road CLOSURE
for 2.5kms from Wanaka Mt Aspiring Rd
Thursday (18/2) from 1pm to 4pm
for the Otago Secondary Schools Event &
Tri NZ Secondary Schools Event



Manifest
3 x CAUTION + Event
3 x ROAD CLOSED
3 x THANK YOU
2 x Volunteer Marshall
1 x NO LEFT TURN
1 x NO RIGHT TURN
1 x ROAD CLOSED AHEAD
1 x TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



Date: 2020 Author: Kelsey Brownrigg - STMS L1 - #106389 Project: Challenge Wanaka 2021

Comments:
Layout 2 - Motatapu THURSDAY Closure



Wanaka Mount Aspiring Road CLOSURE
from Motatapu Road - Treble Cone Ski Field Rd
Saturday (20/2) from 7am - 1230pm
for the Challenge Wanaka Half & Aquabike

Manifest
3x CAUTION + Event
3x ROAD CLOSED
3x THANK YOU
2x ROAD CLOSED AHEAD
2x TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
1x NO LEFT TURN
1x Volunteer Marshall

	Date: 2020 Author: Kelsey Brownrigg - STMS L1 - #106389 Project: Challenge Wanaka 2021
	Comments: Layout 3 - Wanaka Mt Aspiring SATURDAY Closure

Motatapu Road CLOSURE
Entire Road Closure
Saturday (20/2) from 9am to 4pm
for the Challenge Wanaka Half & Aquabike



Manifest
2x CAUTION + Event
2x ROAD CLOSED
2x THANK YOU
1x NO LEFT TURN
1x NO RIGHT TURN
1x TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
1x Volunteer Marshall

Date: 2020 **Author:** Kelsey Brownrigg - STMS L1 - #106389 **Project:** Challenge Wanaka 2021

Comments:
Layout 4 - Motatapu SATURDAY Closure

