

Full Council

13 February 2025

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

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: Additional parking restrictions at the Queenstown Events Centre under the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider new parking restrictions at the Queenstown Events Centre.

Executive Summary | Whakarāpopototaka Matua

The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018 (the bylaw) regulates parking and the use of roads and public spaces under Council's control and came into effect on 1 March 2019. The bylaw enables changes to parking restrictions across the district by Council resolution, in response to changing circumstances.

As a high-use community facility, hosting a variety of users, the Queenstown Events Centre is experiencing parking capacity issues during peak times, and when events are hosted at the venue. Over the last few months there has been an observed change of use in the car park. The changes are a greater volume of users; as well as users parking their vehicles in the carpark for multiple days and overnight. This has triggered a review to determine if the parking is serving the intended uses of the facility, and if the parking should be regulated by a resolution under the bylaw.

To mitigate some of these parking pressures, this report proposes the introduction of a restriction of no overnight parking in the Queenstown Events Centre carparks. If approved, this parking restriction will be implemented with the installation of signage and subsequent enforcement to address safety and operational concerns raised by the public, Councillors on behalf of the public, or identified by Council officers.

The parking restrictions proposed for approval in this report fall under one category. The restrictions support the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (the Rule) and are supported by the Queenstown Lakes District Council Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018.

The report notes that parking usage at other council facilities will also be actively monitored and reported on separately if usage patterns suggest that intervention may be required at these locations. Any monitoring reports and recommended changes to parking restrictions at these centres will be presented to the Infrastructure Committee/Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board for consideration.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** the new parking restrictions proposed at Queenstown Events Centre as set out in Attachment A and B; and
3. **Agree** that these new parking restrictions will come into force as soon as signage notifying the restrictions has been installed at the carpark.

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7 February 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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7 February 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. The Queenstown Lakes District Council Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018 (the bylaw) regulates parking and the use of roads and public spaces under the Council's control.
2. Changes to existing restrictions or the implementation of new restrictions requires a Council resolution prior to implementation.
3. Regular changes to traffic restrictions (including parking controls) are required throughout the district, often in response to requests from the public or businesses citing safety or accessibility concerns. Opportunities for improvements are also identified by staff when considering changes in parking use patterns, demand, or as the development of master planning of town centres continues.
4. In making a resolution regulating parking under the bylaw, the Council is required to take account the considerations specified in Section 5.1 of the bylaw.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

5. 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.
6. As the local resident population and visitor numbers have seen significant growth in recent years¹, the Queenstown Events Centre has seen an increase in user numbers, creating more pressure on facility parking.
7. Queenstown Events Centre member and user numbers for 2024-2025 include:
 - 2911 members (gym, swim and belay license holders)
 - 1217 visit pass holders (gym and swim)
 - 1576 swim school enrolments (they may not visit every term but are enrolled).
 - Since July 2024 and up to the end of January 2025, overall visits to Queenstown Events Centre including surrounding sports fields were 452,710; up 3% on the same period last year.
8. Queenstown Events Centre also provides access to casual visitors who only want to use the showers at the facility, with this service at a peak over the summer season. Shower user number are:
 - May 2023 to January 2024 = 3882
 - May 2024 to January 2025 = 7990
9. Most of the Queenstown Events Centre carpark has no parking restrictions, other than:
 - Four mobility parking spaces
 - Three parent parking spaces

¹ According to [Statistics New Zealand](#), the Queenstown-Lakes District grew by 8% in the year ending June 2023. This was the fastest growth rate of any territorial authority area in New Zealand.

- Authorised vehicle parking for “back of house” operations for events, loading and unloading equipment/supplies, sport and community group storage access, emergency management storage, contractors and Council-branded vehicles and fire and emergency access).

10. When temporary events are hosted at the Queenstown Events Centre parking restrictions may be modified to ensure event parking and access the venue can be safely and appropriately managed. Any temporary event parking rules will be approved as part of a Traffic Management Plan, including clear communication of these temporary restrictions.

Parking Requirements in the District

11. This report seeks to approve new parking restrictions at the Queenstown Events Centre, supported by the bylaw, and ensuring enforceability under the bylaw.

12. As transport strategies are developed, changes and adjustments will be required to achieve short-term and long-term objectives. These will be reported when identified and in advance of implementation, allowing for signage and any other on-road requirements to support the restrictions.

13. Information on the restrictions applying across the district must be publicly available consistent with the requirements of the Land Transport Act 1998.

Strategic direction for traffic and parking

14. With both visitor and population growth in the district leading to pressure on housing and higher demands for parking, inappropriate parking is becoming increasingly common.

15. Planning for the management of traffic demand and parking in the future is underway, with various transport strategies being developed.

16. Regulation of parking is required to address current issues and support the future direction of traffic and parking management.

District Plan considerations and implications

17. The District Plan outlines the requirements for parking and traffic to complement the Council’s overall land use goals and objectives for district development.

18. The Transport chapter of the District Plan endeavours to support mode use change by reducing parking requirements within commercial developments, encouraging off-street parking in residential developments and increasing densities around town centres.

Proposed parking and restriction changes

19. The Queenstown Events Centre locations proposed for new parking restrictions have been identified as areas currently being utilised for all-day and overnight parking, often resulting in a

lack of available parking for users of the facility. The implementation of the new controlled parking signage will allow provision for users of the Queenstown Events Centre and prohibit people using the areas for parking their vehicles for extended periods.

20. The Queenstown Events Centre is regularly used for one-off events and sports fixtures. The Queenstown Event Centre Facility Manager will be able to issue temporary parking permits to ensure associated event staff and infrastructure can park overnight at the facility, if required, i.e. truck and trailer units/media broadcast vans etc. It is also acknowledged that overnight parking may be required in the event of a major emergency situation.
21. The specific restriction recommended is no overnight parking across the Queenstown Events Centre carparks. This is depicted in further detail in Attachment A and B.
22. Under Section 5.1 of the bylaw, in making a resolution under this bylaw, the Council will take into account the following considerations listed in (a)-(f) below, if and to the extent they are relevant and in proportion to the significance of the decision. Each of the considerations is listed, with information provided by the report authors following the hyphen in each case:
 - (a) the purpose of this bylaw –in summary this is the exercise of Council’s legal power to regulate traffic and parking in the District, so that roads and car parking in the District can be safely, fairly and effectively enjoyed by users of that infrastructure.
 - (b) the statutory context of the relevant bylaw-making power under section 22AB of the Land Transport Act 1998 and/or Part 8 of the Local Government Act 2002, as the case may be – refer to the Legal Considerations part of the report below;
 - (c) the public interest in a safe and efficient road transport system and the Council’s contribution to that objective in relation to roads under its control – noting that for this objective, roads include parking areas, so the consideration is the public interest in the safe and efficient use of the Queenstown Events Centre carpark;
 - (d) the likely effect of the decision on members of the public or categories of the public – specifically the users of the carpark; – most specifically this relates to the users of the car park. Most of these users will be advantaged because daily turnover of parking spaces will improve availability. Users of the carpark who wish to occupy a space overnight and/or for multiple days will be disadvantaged as this will be prohibited. If overnight and long-stay parkers are displaced from the Queenstown Events Centre carpark then they may create effects elsewhere but this is difficult to predict.
 - (e) the nature and extent of the problem being addressed by the proposed decision and the reasonably available options for addressing the problem (if any) apart from making a resolution under this bylaw – the problem being addressed is a deterioration in the safety and efficiency of the Events Centre car park, due to both overnight occupation of it and lengthy occupation of spaces, at a community facility that is intended by be accessible by a large number of visitors.

- (f) the public interest in protecting from damage land and assets which are owned or under the control of the Council – the Queenstown Events Centre carpark is not staffed overnight and, unlike Council’s campgrounds, it is not equipped with facilities for overnight occupation by persons in their vehicles. Officers have collected evidence of a stark increase in the amount of overnight occupation by vehicle occupants, which has led to instances of using the grounds for toileting, littering and overloading of rubbish bins, consumption of alcohol and associated parties, and emerging conflict between the overnight/long-stay occupants of the car parking spaces and other visitors to the Queenstown Events Centre who have been inconvenienced by low availability of car parking spaces.

Enforcement

23. Enforcement will only occur when appropriately signed within the areas described in Attachment A and B.
24. An education plan will be developed to ensure users are aware of any changes. This will include a range of methods including social media, direct communication with users of the Event Centre and brochures explaining the reasons for the proposed restrictions and benefits to users of the facility.
25. The education plan will be developed collaboratively with input from the Event Centre Team, Infrastructure Team, Regulatory Teams, Responsible Camping Team and Communications Team.
26. It is anticipated that the proposed restrictions can initially be enforced within existing budgets using existing staff and resources, however longer term, a review of the management and enforcement of the carpark area will be required to consider the most appropriate and effective methods of enforcement to achieve compliance with parking provisions. Compliance with parking provisions is important to ensure the spaces are available for the intended user groups. This review will consider available technology and resources that can assist with effective and efficient enforcement.
27. **Option 1** Approve the proposed parking restrictions as identified in this report.

Advantages:

- Places a daily limit on how long a car park space can be continuously occupied the same vehicle, which will improve turnover by users and thus availability of spaces for short term visitors to the Events Centre and surrounding facilities.
- Supports requests from the public to improve the availability of morning parking for Queenstown Events Centre users by not permitting overnight parking.
- Address security concerns by preventing the use of the carpark overnight by vehicles and occupants overnight, noting the Events Centre and its grounds are not staffed after hours.
- Improves the community’s understanding of requirements for enforcement.

- Is consistent with the Council's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy
- Enables effective and lawful enforcement.

Disadvantages:

- More regulation - will impose a restriction on use of car parking spaces which are currently unrestricted.
- May cause conflict with vehicle owners receiving infringements for parking in restricted areas which do not permit overnight parking.
- May result in displacement of vehicles to areas that are not subject to the restrictions.

28. **Option 2** Do not approve the proposed parking restrictions as identified in this report.

Advantages:

- No change to the parking allowance in these car parks, enabling members of the public to utilise these parking spaces overnight.
- No cause for conflict with vehicle owners receiving infringements for parking in restricted areas.
- No requirement for signage.

Disadvantages:

- Does not address safety and operational issues raised by the public and Council officers, as explained in this report (i.e. lack of available car parking spaces for users of the Queenstown Events Centre).
- Allowing overnight parking may impede the ability for Queenstown Events Centre users to find parking.
- Does not enable effective and lawful enforcement.

29. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it addresses issues raised by the public and Council officers to improve safety and operations.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

30. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 because this impacts on a single facility with a discrete group of users and interested parties, and changes in parking controls is specifically provided for as part of the bylaw.
31. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are residents/ratepayers and visitors, in particular those utilising the carpark, and those who are finding it difficult to do so due to the lack of available car parking spaces.
32. The Council has completed a full bylaw review in 2018. Significant formal and informal engagement was completed with the community and key stakeholders.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

33. The Council has not sought the specific views of iwi for these operational changes.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

34. This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance risk category. It is associated with RISK10021 Ineffective operations and maintenance of property or infrastructure assets within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a very high residual risk rating.
35. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to avoid the risk. This will be achieved by ensuring operational processes are consistent with legal and regulatory requirements to support education and enforcement activities.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

36. The cost associated with installing the required signage will be met from current budgets. The costs are not expected to be material.

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

37. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- Reference alignment with and consideration of the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050: Our Vision and Mission - QLDC
 - Ten Year Plan 2018-2028 strategic framework contributing to efficient and effective infrastructure and a responsive organisation
 - Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018 as existing regulation
 - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2017
 - The QLDC Disability Policy

- QLDC Responsible Camping Strategy
- QLDC Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution policy

38. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

39. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

40. The exercise of Council power contemplated in this report is the regulation of parking at the Queenstown Events Centre carpark, which is land owned by the Council. The parking regulation power is widely used by Council throughout the district and is not expected to be controversial. The power is available to Council under the bylaw.

41. This report satisfies the decision-making requirements of Council under the bylaw, together with its powers and responsibilities pursuant to the Land Transport Act 1998 and the Local Government Act 2002.

42. The report provides a sound platform for the decision to restrict parking and control vehicle use at the Events Centre car park. The approach has been confirmed by council's legal advisors as appropriate.

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

43. 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 well-being of communities in the present and for the future. The option is consistent with these objectives.

44. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- 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	Traffic and Parking restrictions for the Queenstown Lakes District Council for meeting 13 February 2025
B	Designs relating to items detailed in Attachment A