## **Streamlined Planning Process**



## How will a proposed plan change be processed?

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is considering applying to the Minister for the Environment to undertake an alternative plan making process under the Resource Management Act (RMA) called a Streamlined Planning Process (SPP). The SPP processes and timeframes can be customised to achieve a faster outcome than the traditional method of making District Plans and plan changes. This will help Council respond to the issues affecting affordable housing in a timely yet comprehensive manner. The key aspects of the SPP are explained further in the diagram below.

## How will a proposed plan change be processed?

Following feedback received on the four policy options proposed under QLDC's Planning for Affordable Housing project, Council will work to develop the final option and supporting planning reporting to be notified for further community feedback in 2022. The public will also get a chance for further input following notification of the Proposed Plan Variation.

Council applies to the Minister for a SPP	Minister issues direction	Council follows process and timeframes set out in direction	Panel gives recommendation to the Minister	Minister makes decision	Plan operation (no appeals)
Only a Council can apply to the Minister to use the SPP process. The application must demonstrate that key criteria have been met, the proposed steps and timeframes, and an explanation of the public and stakeholder participation that has occurred prior to applying.	If approved, the Minister makes a direction on the timeframes and steps required to be followed. A direction will include an opportunity for the public to submit and for people to speak to their submissions at a hearing before an Independent Hearing Panel.	Council must follow the process and timeframes set by the Minister. These may be shorter than the typical timeframes for plan changes or plan variations. Some steps of the traditional process may be excluded to speed up the process (for example, further submissions).	The Independent Hearing Panel will hear submissions and make a recommendation to the minister regarding the Proposed Plan Variation.	The Minister, not the Council, is the decision maker on the Proposed Plan Variation. The Minister can accept the recommendation of the Independent Hearing Panel, decline it, or sent it back to the Panel for further consideration.	Once approved by the Minister, the Proposed Plan Variation will become operative. A key difference from the traditional process is that there is no ability for any party to appeal the Minister's decision.