

Community & Services Committee

3 July 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Title | Taitara : Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community & Services Committee with an update on projects of interest.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the allocations of the Heritage Incentive Grants for 2024-2025.

Prepared by:



Name: Craig Ferguson

Title: Chair, Community & Services Committee

11 June 2025

Context | Horopaki

Sport and Recreation

Ballantyne Road

1. Works will be commencing on site to clear the rubbish and other waste material at the end of June. Retesting of contaminated areas will then occur to ensure the quantity and cost of remediation is at acceptable limits. A programme has been developed including the pathway forward for re-engaging with the public about the future uses of the Ballantyne Road site. It is expected this will occur after October 2025.

Timber Trail

2. The renewal/upgrade of the path that connects Kawerau Road, through the golf course to the Queenstown Events Centre has been completed and has been warmly welcomed by the public as a main thoroughfare for commuters and people accessing the events centre. Additional bollard lights are planned to be installed to assist lighting at night in the 2025/26 year.

Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) Indoor Courts and Fitness Centre Project

3. On 17 April 2025, Council agreed to proceed with the concept design phase to provide 4 new indoor courts and a fitness centre at the Queenstown Events Centre. A Request for Proposal is in the market for project management services and for procuring a design team to begin the concept and preliminary design. It is expected that design commences mid-July. QEC Stakeholder engagement, discussions with several community groups occurred at the Events Centre around potential disruption or relocation of their activities.

Libraries

Digital Literacy Events

Senior Net

4. A key component of the library's popular outreach programme, bringing services directly to older adults, Senior Net covers topics like using library mobile apps and other digital tools.

AI, ChatGPT & Canva Sessions

5. Libraries across the district have seen strong community engagement through regular digital literacy sessions in the library. Recent workshops focusing on AI have been especially popular, reflecting a growing curiosity and enthusiasm to learn more about these emerging technologies.

Property

Hāwea Library

6. Kitchen renovations complete and include two workstations for staff to use.

Queenstown Library

7. The library is being pre-painted. Mobile Laptop tables have been installed, around the library to support the increasing need for study and computer areas

Wānaka Library

8. An enclosed Meeting Room has been installed.

Statistics

9. In the five RFID-enabled libraries, 50% of all physical checkouts are completed using Selfcheck Kiosks.
10. A total 31,688 people visited libraries at Arrowtown, Frankton, Hāwea, Queenstown & Wānaka during May 2025.
11. Most popular language choice using the Selfcheck kiosks is English, followed by Pirate, French, Turkish, Japanese, and Māori.

Skinny Jump Internet

12. Skinny Jump is a not-for-profit, low cost, prepaid broadband service for eligible Kiwi homes who do not have a connection at home because cost is a barrier. Points to note:
 - QLDC Libraries are a local community partner who will help eligible members of the community to sign up and get started.
 - QLDC Libraries are now approved to offer a special option to households with school-aged children of 210GB of free data per month. This is a significant upgrade from the standard JUMP plan.

Parks

Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan

13. Hearings and deliberations were held on the draft Reserve Management Plan in May 2025. 10 submitters spoke to their submission at the public hearing. The hearing panel then deliberated on changes to the draft Reserve Management Plan based on the 106 submissions received. The Community and Services Committee will consider whether to recommend to Council approval of the final Reserve Management Plan at their meeting on 3 July. If recommended for approval, it will then be considered by Council at their 31 July 2025 meeting.

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025

14. The draft Forestry Management Plan proposes removing all wilding tree species on the reserve and replanting the site with a mix of native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. This is part of a wider plan to protect the district's landscapes and native biodiversity. On 29 May 2025,

Council approved the draft Forestry Management Plan to go out for public consultation. Submissions are open until 6 July 2025. Community drop-in sessions were held on 12 and 18 June to support the community to ask questions and understand the draft forestry plan.

Development Plans – Arrowtown Riverside Reserve and Widgeon Park

15. Key stakeholder meetings were held in April and May 2025 to get insights and feedback on the issues, challenges, and opportunities with respect to each reserve. For the Arrowtown Riverside Reserve, the key issues identified were dealing with user conflict in the reserve, managing parking issues and managing existing vegetation. For Widgeon Park, the key issues were rabbit control and the need for a community gathering space. The Parks Team has also held site visits at the reserves with Aukaha and Te Ao Marama and attended the Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country Community Association meeting in May to introduce the plan process. The draft development plans are currently being prepared drawing on these early insights. They will be shared with key stakeholders in July and the wider community for feedback in August 2025.

Clean up along Horne Creek in Warren Park

16. In May 2025, weeds and rubbish were removed from along the banks of Horne creek where it flows through the Warren Park Reserve in Queenstown. This was followed by native planting to enhance the area. This work was undertaken by QLDC with funding from the Better Off Fund (Central Government Funding). This work supports implementation of the Warren Park Development Plan and QLDC's Draft Blue Green Network Plan.

Community Partnerships

Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata Creative and Culture Hui 2025

17. From 12 to 15 June, Queenstown & Wānaka; Weaving Creativity, Community, and Collective Action. This inaugural hui is a partnership between QLDC and Queenstown Lakes Regional Arts Organisation (RAO) Three Lakes Cultural Trust, with support from Creative New Zealand and local organisations who operate in the creative sector. Having the event opened by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Hon Paul Goldsmith shows recognition of the value this sector provides to our community and economy and increases the profile of this important work programme.

Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw

18. The draft was presented to Council on 26 June, seeking approval to consult on the draft bylaw from 9 July to 9 August 2025.

Community Associations

19. Mayor/CE 2025 annual small community association visits have been completed; Upper Clutha community association chairs met with the Chair of the Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board on Wednesday 21 May, providing an opportunity to connect and network, provide updates on what's happening in their community and share ideas.

Heritage Incentive Grant 2024-2025

20. This is the first time we have run this as a grant process with fixed deadline for application, rather than keeping this as an open process throughout the year. This was run as a ‘funding round’ to encourage uptake and build awareness of the grant. Four applications were received, and all applicants met the fund criteria (Category 1, 2, and 3 historic buildings, sites and objects (including trees) as listed in the Inventory of Protected Features (Appendix 3) in the District Plan; financial assistance requested for professional advice, building or resource consents, routine maintenance). Funding is capped at the following maximum: Category 1 = \$4k, Category 2 = \$3k, Category 3 = \$1.5k).

Recommendation for retrospective approval of 2024-2025 Heritage Incentive Grants

21. Applications can be made for the Heritage Incentive Grant by anyone wanting to preserve or enhance listed heritage assets (natural and built) in the Queenstown Lakes district. Applications can be made for the following financial assistance: professional advice, consents, maintenance and enhancement.

22. Financial assistance will only be granted to Category 1, 2, and 3 historic buildings, sites and objects (including trees) as listed in the Inventory of Protected Features (Appendix 3) in the District Plan. Funding is capped at the following maximum: Category 1 = \$4k, Category 2 = \$3k, Category 3 = \$1.5k).

23. This is the first time QLDC have run the Heritage Incentive Grant process with a fixed deadline for application, rather than keeping this as an open process throughout the year. This was run as a “funding round” to encourage uptake and build awareness of the grant, which was successful. The funding round closed on 30 April 2025, and six applications were received. All applicants met the fund criteria and approved funding allocations will be paid out by July 2025 (from the 2024-2025 budget).

24. The approved applications are:

Applicant	Location	Asset name	Description of request	Amount requested (incl. GST)	Amount allocated (excl. GST)
Melanie Hill	Arrowtown	Preston’s Cottage	Maintenance to roof and leaking skylight on a Category 3 listed historic stone cottage	\$4,645	\$1,500
Phillipa Cull	Glenorchy	Glenorchy Community Church	Painting of heritage church exterior and stained-glass windows	\$13,363	\$1,500

Queenstown Heritage Trust	Queenstown	Williams Cottage	Historic villa: Painting and general maintenance	\$9,787	\$4,000
Kevin Marlow	Arrowtown	Macetown Road	First-year contribution toward ongoing road maintenance of Macetown Road heritage feature	\$15,180	\$1,500
Bruce Patton	Arrowtown	St John's Church	Plaster repair, minor exterior restorations and painting	\$7,240	\$3,000
Bruce Patton	Arrowtown	Sequoia Heritage Trees, St John's Church	Remedial tree pruning	\$3,967	\$3,000
Total					\$14,500