

**QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN: PRIORITY AREA
LANDSCAPE SCHEDULES**

**MINUTE OF COMMISSIONERS
25 August 2023**

1. The Queenstown Lakes District Council (Council) has appointed a Hearing Panel, which comprises Commissioners Jane Taylor, Peter Kensington and Quentin Smith (the Commission), to hear all submissions and, after it has heard the submissions, to make recommendations on the Variation to the Proposed District Plan: Priority Area Landscape Schedules as to whether to accept or reject the submissions received and any amendments to the provisions of the Schedules.
2. The Council is then required to decide whether to accept or reject the Hearing Panel's recommendations.

Anderson Lloyd Memorandum dated 17 August 2023

3. On 17 August 2023, a Memorandum of counsel on behalf of submitters and further submitters represented by Anderson Lloyd was received (the Memorandum), requesting that the entire hearing date and timetable be postponed for a period of one month, or alternatively, if this is not practicable, a shorter extension of time for the filing of submitters' expert evidence, with consequential extensions to the dates for the filing of Council's rebuttal and expert conferencing (if required). Brief reasons for the request were advanced in the Memorandum.
4. The Hearing Panel has considered the request outlined in the Memorandum, and consulted with Council on the practicalities of the extensions of time requested in paragraphs 5 and 6. We have determined as follows:
 - (a) A deferral of the hearing date and timetable for a period of one month (as suggested in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum) is not practicable within any reasonable timeframe and, in our view, is not warranted. We do not consider the timeframes set out in our Minute dated 4th August 2023 to be unreasonable, nor are they in any way unusual in all of the circumstances. Further, we are not satisfied that any compelling reasons have been advanced that would justify such a material change to the hearing schedule.
 - (b) That said, we have carefully considered whether we could extend the timeframes as requested in paragraph 6 of the Memorandum so as to allow some further time for submitters' expert evidence to be filed. Working backwards from the start of the hearing on 16th October 2023, we have concluded that any (further) extension of time is not practicable, as it will unacceptably impact dates that have been scheduled closer to commencement of the hearing, together with the corresponding flow of information, which may result in insufficient preparation time for other participants, including the panel. We are also mindful that other landscape experts may by now have provisioned the dates indicated for expert conferencing set out in our Minute dated 4th August 2023 (if required), namely the week beginning 2nd October 2023.
5. Accordingly, we decline to make any further directions with respect to extensions of time. The dates set out in our Minute dated 4th August 2023 (as amended by our Minute dated 15th

August 2023), together with the dates advised in the Notice of Hearing dated 15th August 2023 stand.

6. Should any party have any queries in relation to this Minute or require any clarification in relation to the process for this hearing, please contact the Hearings Administrator at dp.hearings@qldc.govt.nz.



Jane Taylor

For the Commission

25 August 2023