

Queenstown Lakes District

GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

Parties

The parties to this agreement are:

Queenstown Lakes District Council (the “Council”) and
Wanaka Community Board (the “Board”)

Purpose

This agreement aims to:

- Document the principles of partnership in governing the Queenstown Lakes District between the Council and the Board.
- Encourage communication, coordination and cooperation between the Council and the Board.
- Provide a mechanism for the Council and the Board to:
 - a) enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
 - b) 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

Protocols for Governance, Communication and Coordination

- The Council and Board agree that they have a joint responsibility for the good governance of the district and that the best interests of the communities of the district are served when the Council and Board work cooperatively.
- The Board will be consulted on significant policy and planning documents that impact on the Wanaka ward before the policies or plans are adopted as draft documents and notified for public comment. It is acknowledged that in some special circumstances, urgency may limit the applicability of this protocol.
- The Board and the Council will agree on levels of service to be provided in the Wanaka Ward. Where the agreed service levels differ from the district-wide service level adopted by Council then a rate differential may be applied to the Wanaka Ward to equalise the different level of service.

- Board concerns regarding operational performance will be communicated to the relevant General Manager in the first instance and subsequently to the Council's Chief Executive Officer if not resolved.
- The Council's Chief Executive Officer will ensure that the Board is provided with complete, timely and robust information, support and advice on which the Board can make its decisions. *This includes the provision of adequate staff support for Board activities.*
- Appropriately qualified members of the Board may be appointed to any Hearings Panel to consider resource consent applications. This will require that the Board maintain an impartial position on resource consent applications at all times.
- Both parties will ensure that appropriate training and development is provided for Councillors and Community Board Members to ensure they have the necessary skills to undertake their governance and policy making responsibilities within local government.
- Both parties acknowledge that good governance requires them to consider community views and provide a balance of the different views and the trade-offs necessary.
- As far as is practicable the Council will delegate governance to the Board over matters concerning the Wanaka ward. The Board will be consulted over any changes Council proposes to make to delegations to the Board.
- Delegations to the Wanaka Community Board underlie the spirit of partnership espoused by this agreement and any changes to delegations and the Governance Agreement should be considered in tandem with each other.
- Whether the Board is exercising its powers (either mandated or delegated) to make binding decisions on the community in areas of significance (as defined in Council's significance policy) it must follow the special consultative provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 in reaching its decision.
- Both parties agree that they will act consistently with the established Code of Conduct. Where the Board has been involved in reaching decisions made by Council then it will not publicly criticise those decisions.
- Both parties will ensure that where issues arise between them that they are communicated to the other party for action in the first instance.

Process

The Mayor ~~may will regularly~~ attend meetings of the Board to report on Council issues impacting on the Board but the Chief Executive and members of the senior management team will regularly attend Board meetings for this purpose. The Chair of the Board will attend Council meetings and report on Board issues impacting on the Council.

Administration

The Council’s Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the administration of this agreement.

Review of Agreement

The parties may consider and review this document at any time. Any proposal for change must be presented for consideration at the next available meeting of each party upon the request of any one of the parties. The request must be made in writing to the administrator and made at least two weeks before the next meeting date.

Both parties must ratify any proposed changes to this Agreement prior to them coming into effect.

This agreement will be placed on the agenda of the final meetings of both parties prior to the triennial election for the purpose of reviewing the document and recommending changes (if any) to the incoming Council and Board.

Authority

This agreement is signed on this ____ day of _____ [month/year] by the following.

[NAME]
Mayor
Queenstown Lakes District Council _____

[NAME]
Chair
Wanaka Community Board _____