

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL****FREEDOM CAMPING CONTROL BYLAW 2018 and ARROWTOWN-LAKE HAYES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 AMENDMENT****INTRODUCTION**

This summary of the statement of proposal has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002).

THE PROBLEM

Queenstown Lakes District is a significant tourist destination and home to approximately 30,000 residents. There has been significant growth in our community and in the number of visitors to our district, which includes an increase in the number of freedom campers. Freedom camping numbers have increased dramatically in the past two years at specifically at the Shotover Delta and Lake Hayes Reserves. This has resulted in overcrowding, restricted public access and enjoyment of the reserves and public health issues. Queenstown Lakes District Council was receiving many complaints from the public about freedom camping particularly in these two locations.

The current Freedom Camping Control Bylaw 2012 (the bylaw) does not regulate freedom camping at the Shotover Delta and on the Lake Hayes Reserves. The Lake Hayes reserves are covered by the Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Reserve Management Plan. In February 2018, as a 'temporary' measure to address issues associated with freedom camping, Council agreed to install lockable gates to restrict vehicle access to the Lake Hayes and Shotover Delta reserves. This was a short term solution to address the urgent issues at these two locations, while the Council prepares a long term Responsible Camping Strategy that will address all camping across the whole district. This Responsible Camping Strategy is likely to recommend a comprehensive review of the Freedom Camping Control Bylaw commencing 2019.

This review of the current Bylaw and amendments to the Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Reserve Management Plan is to address the immediate issues at the two areas for the coming busy summer season. This is to ensure transparency and consistency in regulating freedom camping across local authority areas in the district.

THE PROPOSAL

In response to the immediate issues at Lake Hayes Reserve and the Shotover Delta until the outcomes of the Responsible Camping Strategy are known, Council has determined that:

- The current Freedom Camping Bylaw should be amended by updating the maps to include the Lake Hayes Reserve and the Shotover Delta Reserve in the areas where freedom camping is prohibited; and
- The Lake Hayes Reserve Management Plan be amended by amending policy 17.1 as follows:
- *17.1 Freedom Camping is permitted in the Reserve only to the extent allowed in Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw Policy 17.2 should be deleted from the Lake Hayes Reserve Management Plan.*

A combined approach of the above actions will result in a consistent, transparent means by which freedom camping is regulated throughout the district (eg the bylaw). Council considered other alternatives, such as regulating under the Reserves Act, but Council's preference is to regulate freedom camping through its freedom camping bylaw given the better enforcement mechanisms under the Freedom Camping Act (notably infringement notices).

TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

The following dates represent the key times in the consultation programme:

26 July 2018	Council resolves to undertake public consultation regarding the proposed bylaw and Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Reserves Management Plan 2013
28 July 2018	Advertisement in Otago Daily Times, Southland Times and Wanaka Sun.
31 August 2018	Submissions close
20 – 24 September 2018	Submissions heard by a subcommittee of Councillors (to be confirmed).
25 October 2018	Council considers outcome of consultation process and decides appropriate course of action.
3 November 2018	Public notice of final decision (if Council resolve to adopt the bylaw and management plan) The Bylaw and management plan come into effect subject to the above.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS AND OBTAINING COPIES

Copies of this proposal, the draft Bylaw and the supporting reports may be inspected, and a copy obtained, at no cost, from:

- a) Either of the Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown or the Wanaka Service Centre, 47 Ardmere Street, Wanaka
- b) Any Council library within the Queenstown Lakes District.
- c) The Council website – www.qldc.govt.nz

RIGHT TO MAKE A SUBMISSION AND BE HEARD

Any person or organisation has a right to be heard in regard to this proposal and the Council would encourage everyone with an interest to do so.

The Council would prefer that all parties intending to make a submission set those submissions out in writing and email them to services@qldc.govt.nz or submit them to QLDC, Private Bag 50072, Queenstown, no later than 31 August 2018. The Council will then convene a hearing, which it intends to hold between 20 – 24 September 2018, at which any party who wishes to do so can present their submission in person.

Equal weight will be given to written and oral submissions.

The Council will permit parties to make oral submissions (without prior written material) or to make a late submission, only where it considers that special circumstances apply.

Every submission made to the Council will be acknowledged in accordance with the Act, will be copied and made available to the public, and every submission will be heard in a meeting that is open to the public.

Section 82 of the Local Government Act sets out the obligations of the Council in regard to consultation and the Council will take all steps necessary to meet the spirit and intent of the law.

MAKING AN EFFECTIVE SUBMISSION

Written submissions can take any form (e.g. Email, letter). An effective submission references the clause(s) of the draft Bylaw you wish to submit on, states why the clause is supported or not supported and states what change to the clause is sought.

Submissions on matters outside the scope of the Bylaw cannot be considered by the Hearings Panel.

Mike Theelen
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Attachment 1: Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Council Freedom Camping Control Bylaw 2018.

Attachment 2: Proposed amended Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Reserve Management Plan 2013