



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL
PEDESTRIAN MALL DECLARATION
Beach Street between Camp Street and
Cow Lane, Queenstown
August 2016

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL FOR THE PEDESTRIAN MALL DECLARATION: BEACH ST, FROM CAMP STREET TO COW LANE, QUEENSTOWN

A. INTRODUCTION

Council proposes to declare the section of Beach Street from Camp Street to Cow Lane as a pedestrian mall in accordance with section 336 of the Local Government Act 1974.

In declaring a pedestrian mall, the Council must use the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA 2002").

This statement of proposal, prepared in accordance with section 83(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 ("the LGA 2002"), is required as part of the special consultative procedure.

Background/legislative framework

Beach Street's current legal status is that of a road.

The proposal to declare Beach St between Camp Street and Cow Lane as a pedestrian mall arose from DowntownQT's Downtown Commercial Strategy (August 2015) which was also broadly in line with the Council's Queenstown Town Centre Strategy. The reasons for pedestrianising the mall are discussed below in section C.

Council approved consultation and a hearings panel at its 29 October 2015 meeting to determine the support or otherwise for pedestrianisation. The consultation period commenced on 30 October and ended on 20 November 2015. General public consultation was facilitated through specific letters to Beach St properties, a leaflet drop to business in the town centre, a leaflet distribution to members of DowntownQT, and a public notice and other media stories in locally circulated papers. The Council also specifically consulted with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), NZ Police, St Johns Ambulance and the NZ Fire Service. The consultation period resulted in 107 submissions, along with feedback from the specific organisations. A hearing was held on 25 November 2015 and the panel's recommendations were reported back to the next Council meeting.

At the 17 December 2015 meeting, Council approved the temporary pedestrianisation of Beach Street between Camp Street and Cow Lane as a trial that would allow emergency vehicle access at all times, and goods service vehicles between 5am and 10am daily. The trial started 1 February 2016.

Regular reports on the trial have been reported back to Council. The final report with results was presented to Council at the 24 August 2016 meeting where approval was sought to start this special consultative procedure to declare Beach Street between Camp Street and Cow Lane a pedestrian mall. At the meeting Council was also asked to extend the temporary pedestrianisation of the street until the consultation and hearings process was resolved, a final determination could be made by Council and if declared as a pedestrian mall, the 1 month appeal period is completed.

Under the Local Government Act 1974 the Council has the power to designate a Pedestrian mall.

B. PROPOSAL

Declare Beach Street, between Camp Street and Cow Lane, in Queenstown, a pedestrian mall. The boundary of the pedestrian mall area is mapped in attachment 1.

The restrictions the pedestrian mall will impose on the mapped area include:

- a) The driving, riding or parking of any vehicle will be prohibited on all of the

pedestrian mall area.

- b) The restriction will remain in place at all times.

Emergency service vehicles are excluded from the restriction and may access the pedestrian mall area at all times.

Between the hours of 5am and 10am each day, goods service vehicles are excluded from the restriction and may access the pedestrian mall area.

C. REASONS FOR PROPOSAL

DowntownQT, in its Queenstown: Downtown Commercial Strategy (August 2015), suggests that pedestrianisation of some roads in the Queenstown town centre area will improve the pedestrian experience for visitors.

In relation to the “business community feedback” the strategy provides this insight:

In the Chamber of Commerce’s 2014 survey a number of respondents have suggested the need to consider creating pedestrian only, or ‘shared spaces’ in areas such as Upper Beach Street.

Upper Beach Street is recognised as a key portal into the town centre and faces the greatest challenges around peak period pedestrian congestion – and competition from vehicles.

Demand for pedestrianisation was countered by other businesses, predominantly in the service and hotel sector that have traditionally relied on vehicle access. Some stakeholder’s view removing vehicles and parking from streets as potentially detrimental to commercial performance and goodwill.

Pedestrianisation can be an agile and temporary solution to congestion issues, with results determining further actions as and when needed.

Hence, upper Beach Street (between Camp Street and Cow Lane) was seen as the best place to trial additional pedestrianisation in the Queenstown town centre.

Other benefits include removing the risk of vehicle versus pedestrian crashes along upper Beach St and providing more public space in the Queenstown town centre area for temporary events such as markets, performances and community events.

E. INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS AND OBTAINING COPIES

The Statement of Proposal will be distributed in accordance with section 83 LGA 2002.

Copies of this Statement of Proposal 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 Ardmore Street, Wanaka;
- b. any Council library within the Queenstown Lakes District; or

c. the Council website – www.qldc.govt.nz

G. RIGHT TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS AND BE HEARD

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

All parties wishing to make a submission should set out their views in writing and submit them to the Chief Executive, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Private Bag 50072, Queenstown no later than **5.00pm on Friday 7 October 2016**.

The Council will then convene a hearing (if required to hear submissions), which it intends to hold in November/ December 2016. Persons making submissions, who wish to be heard by the Council, will have the opportunity to present their submission in person at the hearing. Copies of submissions will be available on request from the Council.

The Council will give equal consideration 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 LGA 2002, 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 LGA 2002 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.

Mike Theelan
CEO

Attachment 1. Map of the proposed upper Beach St pedestrian mall

