

Queenstown Lakes severe weather update

Update #1: 23 October 2025, 10:00am

Issued to: Queenstown Lakes CRG Network



Kia ora koutou,

Just a quick update from us as we head into the incoming weather event...

Firstly, thank you all so much for being AWESOME! We know that you've been hard at work prepping and sharing information with your communities and we really appreciate your support. It's been a fantastic help to everyone who's coordinating the planning and response for the district.

A special shoutout to those most likely to be affected — the Glenorchy CRG has been preparing since Monday, and the Kingston crew wrapped up training last night and is ready for action.

The current situation

- A Heavy Rain Warning is in place until 2pm today, Thursday 23 October.
- Lake Wakatipu is at 310.7m, forecast to peak at 311.2m on Friday morning — just below the 311.3m level where stormwater system inundation begins. Minimal impact is expected, though strong onshore winds may cause wave run-up.
- Glenorchy Lagoon peaked at 312m overnight and is now receding. However, further rain may raise it above 312.6m late Thursday night or Friday morning, potentially causing localised flooding in the northwest part of the township.
- Lake Wānaka is currently at 278.6m and forecast to reach 279.3m by Friday morning — still below the 280.0m threshold where water begins to flow over Ardmore St. No significant impact on the business community is expected.
- Rivers in the Wakatipu and Upper Clutha catchments have peaked and are now receding, though flows remain elevated.

What's happening behind the scenes

Emergency Management Otago, QLDC and ORC have been working closely together to assess the warnings and activate plans. The Emergency Operations Centre is operational and in the last 24 hours has moved from 'monitoring' to 'coordination' mode. Actions include:

- A dedicated QLDC webpage is now live to serve as the hub for all updates: qldc.govt.nz/community/emergency-management/weather-event-october-2025
- Close coordination with Glenorchy and Kingston communities on response and welfare planning.
- Targeted messaging sent to at-risk lakefront businesses via Destination Queenstown, Lake Wānaka Tourism, and local Chambers of Commerce.
- All subcontractors are on standby; equipment is fuelled and ready.
- Veolia crews have inspected drains and are on standby for known hotspots. Sandbagging operations are ready as a precaution.
- Emergency Management Otago has issued tailored Otago Gets Ready alerts to Kingston and Glenorchy subscribers. A general district-wide update has also been sent.
- Emergency Management Advisor Craig Gibson is providing advice and reassurance via MoreFM broadcasts.

Here's how you can help

- Please keep sharing official information and point people back to QLDC's dedicated webpage for the latest updates: qldc.govt.nz/community/emergency-management/weather-event-october-2025.
- Let us know what's happening in your communities or whether you need support — the contact channel for CRG status report updates is intel-eoc@qldc.govt.nz. If there is risk to life, please call 111.
- Keep up the reassurance messaging and encourage people to sign up to the following to help them stay informed:
 - [Sign up to Otago Gets Ready](#) for official emergency text/email updates and advice from Emergency Management Otago, tailored to your neighbourhood. You can also help by privately listing any resources you have, like a 4WD, Starlink, or first aid training. If you have specific needs (such as health, mobility, or language support), you can include those too, so responders know how to assist you if needed.
 - Follow [the QLDC Facebook page](#) and the [Emergency Management Otago Facebook page](#) for updates.
- Send me any photos of your team in action — we'd love to share them to encourage others.

We've got this!! Stay safe out there and keep in touch.

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