

## Item 3: Future of Wānaka Lakefront Licence Holders

**SESSION TYPE:** Workshop

### **PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:**

The purpose of this workshop is to seek direction from the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board on the future location and operation of Wānaka lakefront reserve licence holders.

### **DATE/START TIME:**

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at 12.00pm

### **TIME BREAKDOWN:**

Presentation: 15 minutes

Questions: 15 minutes

### **PRESENTERS:**

Matthew Judd - Parks Property Planner

Roger Davidson - Property Director

#### **Prepared by:**



**Name:** Matthew Judd

**Title:** Parks Property Planner

30 April 2026

#### **Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Ken Bailey

**Title:** Community Services General Manager

1 May 2026

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

A	Future Wānaka Lakefront Licence Holders
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# Future Wānaka Lakefront Licence Holders

Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board Workshop

12 May 2026

# Purpose

- To seek direction on the future location and operation of Wānaka lakefront reserve licence holders.



# Background

- QLDC currently has 2 licence holders operating on the Wānaka lakefront (Lakeland Wānaka and Paddle Wānaka – Both licences are operated by the same operator – similar ownership).
- Lakeland Wānaka's current licence commenced on 1 December 2020 for a 5 year term, with 5 x 1 year rights of renewal. This is due for renewal again on 1 December 2026. Renewal is by mutual agreement of both parties.



# Background

- Paddle Wānaka currently has a 5 year licence that expires on 30 November 2026. There are no rights of renewal.
- Roy's Bay Recreation Reserve is covered by the Wānaka Lakefront Reserves Management Plan 2016.
- Commercial activity is anticipated by objective 5.2.2.1:  
*“Support commercial recreational activity where appropriate and where the impact and effect does not unreasonable limit the ability of the public to use and enjoy the reserves”.*



# Current licence locations

Paddle Wānaka

Lakeland Wānaka



# Situation

- Due to the aligned licence expiry / renewal, along with potential future development on the Wānaka lakefront, it is appropriate to look at the future of lakefront licence operation and location.
- Licences are issued for a defined physical location, allowing for long term temporary occupation to undertake commercial recreation activity. No permanent structures are permitted.
- QLDC receives revenue from these commercial activities.

# Potential future options

## 1. Status Quo

- Continue with existing licences at existing locations.

## 2. Downsize

- Keep the existing locations but reduce the size of the licence areas and amount of associated vehicles.

## 3. New Location

- Move the licence locations to alternative areas on the Wānaka lakefront. This could be within stage 4 or 6.

## 4. No lakefront commercial licences

- Not renew or issue new licences for these commercial activities on the Wānaka lakefront.

# Option 1 – Status Quo

## **Continue with existing licences at existing locations**

- Provides interest and activities on the Wānaka lakefront.
- Issues of congestion with the activities being undertaken within the busy waterfront area.
- Existing locations and vehicles can be visually prominent and imposing on the lakefront.
- May be some conflict with future lakefront development.

# Option 2 – Downsize

## **Keep the existing locations but reduce the size of the licence areas and amount of associated vehicles**

- Paddle Queenstown isn't permitted to have any vehicles on the Queenstown lakefront. They drop off their equipment and have a portable kiosk.
- Would reduce impact on other reserve users, possibly reduce congestion.
- Would make it more difficult for commercial recreation businesses to operate.

# Option 3 – New location

## Move the licence locations to alternative areas on the Wānaka lakefront. This could be within stage 4 or 6

- Would ease the congestion in the prime lakefront area.
- Reduce the impact on other reserve users of stage 4.
- Less attractive for commercial operators in areas with lesser foot traffic / visibility.



## **Not renew or issue new licences for these commercial activities on the Wānaka lakefront**

- Would ease the congestion in the prime lakefront area.
- Reduce the impact on other reserve users of stage 4 and visual prominence on the lakefront.
- Removes a key activity and point of interest from the lakefront.
- Removes income stream to QLDC.