

### Full Council

9 October 2025

#### Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [3]

**Department:** Community Services

**Title | Taitara:** Introduction of camping conditions at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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The purpose of this report is to request Council consent to the introduction of new conditions to manage camping at Luggate Red Bridge Reserve, under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 (exercising the delegation to Council by the Minister of Conservation). This report also provides an update on the planned Responsible Camping Programme for Summer 2025-2026.

#### **Executive Summary | Whakarāpopototaka Matua**

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In 2019 the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**QLDC or Council**) exercised the Minister's power (which it has been delegated) under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977 (**RA**) to "uplift the prohibition of freedom camping at Luggate Red Bridge Reserve".<sup>1</sup> Reflecting the increasing demand for freedom camping in the Queenstown Lakes District<sup>2</sup>, the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve (**the Reserve**) has become a popular camping site, with a 33 percent rise in visits<sup>3</sup> over the last year.

To address concerns such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, and inappropriate camper behaviour, this paper proposes new conditions to improve the management of freedom camping at the Reserve. These conditions include a maximum night stay and maximum number of vehicles. If the proposed conditions are approved, breaches of these conditions will be enforceable under the RA. These conditions will work alongside other enforcement tools provided by the Freedom Camping Act (**the FC Act**), ensuring that only self-contained vehicles are used for freedom camping on the site.

Permitting camping on a Recreation Reserve can support public access to outdoor recreation and enjoyment, at appropriate locations. Typically, this occurs in the Queenstown Lakes District on managed campgrounds that are subject to a lease under the RA. The Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is the only reserve in the district where freedom camping (no-cost camping) is allowed. The proposed conditions are intended to ensure this activity can continue, allowing both the community and visitors to benefit from the Reserve's recreational values.

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A for the Reserves Act 1977 Instrument of Delegation for Territorial Authorities, 12 June

<sup>2</sup> CamperMate app data, campsite overnight stays in the Queenstown Lakes District, July – June 2023-2024 vs. 2024-2025; indicates a 30% year-on-year increase in overnight stays at free campsites.

<sup>3</sup> CamperMate app data, Site visits to the Red Bridge Reserve, July – June 2023-2024 vs. 2024-2025.

It is recognised that the management of camping on the Reserve (through the proposed conditions) is separate to the proposed management of camping on other QLDC land under the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 (**the draft Bylaw**), or paid camping that occurs on Recreation Reserves that have been leased for this purpose. However, the proposed conditions have been assessed against the RA and will work in a holistic manner alongside the draft Bylaw, if it is adopted.

To support these conditions officers have identified a range of interventions, which will be progressively introduced and evaluated, including improved site layout and signage, an online registration system and physical controls such as a boom gate with plate-reader technology. At a minimum, interventions for this summer will include improved site layout and signage, while other measures will be scoped and costed. These measures will be piloted at the Reserve over the coming summers with the aim to manage site capacity, enhance compliance, and support sustainable camping practices which will ensure the reserve values and environment are sufficiently protected, as directed by section 17 of the RA.

The Responsible Camping Programme will continue to educate visitors through the summer ambassador roles and multi-channel communications, supported by enforcement when required.

Council is asked to note the report and to revoke the 2019 Ministerial Consent that uplifted the prohibition of camping on the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve and use the Ministerial Consent under section 44(1) of the RA to allow camping on the Reserve subject to conditions. Council is making this decision under the Reserves Act framework.

### Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

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That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report, including the update on the planned Responsible Camping Programme for summer 2025-2026;
2. **Revoke** the 2019 Ministerial Consent that uplifted the prohibition of camping on the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve; and
3. **Consent** under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 (exercising the delegation to Council by the Minister of Conservation), to allow camping on part of the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve subject to the following conditions:

Campers must:

- a. only camp using a certified self-contained motor vehicle, and may not use tents or any other structures for camping
- b. use one of the 50 marked motor vehicle spaces
- c. not stay more than three nights within any 30-day period

- d. not arrive in one of the marked spaces before 5:00pm
- e. leave any marked space before 10:00am on the day of departure
- f. ensure any motor vehicle and camping equipment or personal items are contained within one of the marked spaces
- g. not light fires
- h. comply with all the above conditions; and if a camper fails to comply with any of the above conditions, then their consent to camp under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977 at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is withdrawn for a 30-day period, and the camper may be subject to an infringement.

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Amy Galloway  
**Title:** Responsible Camping Programme  
Manager  
18 September 2025

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Kenneth Bailey  
**Title:** General Manager Community Services  
19 September 2025

## Context | Horopaki

### Freedom camping in the Queenstown Lakes District

1. The popularity of freedom camping in New Zealand has significantly increased in recent years. It is estimated that the number of international visitors freedom camping rose from 10,000 to 123,000 in the decade between 2008 and 2018<sup>4</sup>.
2. The Queenstown Lakes District is the most popular camping destinations in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the most popular place for overnight 'free camping'. The total number of overnight campers over 2024 was 7,794, or more than double the number of overnight stays at the next most popular district.<sup>5</sup> Between July 2024 and June 2025 overnight stays at free campsites in the district increased 30 percent on the previous year.<sup>6</sup>
3. Recent resident sentiment research (Views on Tourism<sup>7</sup>) indicates a downward trend in how tourism is perceived across the district. Compared to the national average, residents in the district are significantly less positive about tourism. While many acknowledge its benefits, they also report experiencing adverse impacts. This tension is affecting tourism's social licence to operate. Many residents have voiced concerns about the impact of freedom camping through requests for service (RFS) and submissions to the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.

### Responsible Camping Programme

4. The purpose of QLDC's Responsible Camping Programme is to balance community interests with providing a positive visitor experience. The programme will run again during summer 2025-2026 and will continue to focus on educating visitors on how to behave appropriately, camp sustainably and follow local rules so that both residents and visitors can enjoy shared spaces.
5. The use of summer ambassadors over the peak visitor season provides an 'on the ground' friendly approach to education and behavior change, supported by enforcement when required. Supplementing this in-person engagement, the programme uses a range of tools to communicate with campers, including pamphlets, signage, radio, digital advertising, and website information. Guided by the Responsible Camping Strategy (**the Strategy**), the programme welcomes responsible campers and expects all visitors to respect the environment, contribute to the community, and enjoy the region sustainably.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism/tourism-projects/responsible-camping/responsible-camping-working-group/>

<sup>5</sup> CamperMate app, Overnight Stays at 'free camps', 2024. Note: this data only represents freedom campers who use the CamperMate app and the counts are dependent on a number of variables, including:

**Overnight Stays** - are recorded when an app user first detected within 500m of their previous day's last location on the following day. e.g. If an app user stays in the same location multiple times, each night is counted as an overnight stay.

**Free Camps Stays** - refer to overnight stays within a 200-meter radius of a free campground's GPS coordinates.

<sup>6</sup> CamperMate app data, campsite overnight stays in the Queenstown Lakes District, July – June 2023-2024 vs. 2024-2025.

<sup>7</sup> Destination Queenstown and Lake Wānaka Tourism, Views on Tourism Research (Angus & Associates). N = 525 Queenstown Lakes. Conducted between October 2023 and March 2024

6. Together with the Responsible Camping Programme, the Strategy guides how QLDC engages with campers who visit the district. Actions within the Strategy commit QLDC to explore opportunities for technology solutions that support the management of freedom camping to ensure that campers stay in the right places and act responsibly.

### **Luggate Red Bridge Reserve**

7. The Luggate Red Bridge Reserve was vested in Council in 2018. It was previously a Local Purpose (Gravel Extraction) Reserve administered by Contact Energy. It is now gazetted as Recreation Reserve and Historic Reserve.
8. The Reserve is enclosed on three sides (west, north and east) by state highway road corridor; and the Clutha River / Mata-Au to the south with views of the historic Red Bridge. There is a disc golf course and two Exeloo 'long drop' toilets. The historic elements of the Reserve comprise of three punt ferry cable anchor pits along the top of the riverbank, an access track to the river's edge below the anchor pit and a small section of stone walling on the access track which is likely to be part of an historic water race system.<sup>8</sup>
9. The definition of a Recreational Reserve is provided for in section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. [A Recreational Reserve should be] *for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.*<sup>9</sup>
10. Subject to Ministerial Consent, officers assessed the Reserve as a suitable site for camping due to its low ecological sensitivity, large size, and road accessibility. With the proposed conditions, camping can occur without harming the environment or disrupting recreational use. Its location also offers convenient access to nearby towns, making it an ideal base for visitors.
11. In 2018, a temporary freedom camping hub was trialled at the top part of the Reserve. This proved to be successful and was supported by the Luggate Community Association. The primary benefit of controlled freedom camping at this site was less illegal camping activity throughout the adjacent area.
12. In 2019, the Council exercised the Minister's powers under section 44 of the RA and uplifted the prohibition on freedom camping in part of the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve (main carpark area). This allowed part of the Reserve to be used for freedom camping but did not include any specific conditions to control this activity on the site. Camping remains prohibited on the rest of the Reserve in accordance with section 44 of the RA. See Attachment B for a map of the permitted area.

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<sup>8</sup> RED BRIDGE FERRY RESERVE DESIGN STATEMENT FOR LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT prepared for the Queenstown Lakes District Council and Luggate Community Association by Anne Steven Registered Landscape Architect Wānaka August 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Reserves Act 1977 Section 17 Recreation Reserves

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1977/0066/latest/DLM444605.html>

13. Previously the only enforcement mechanism available to manage camping within the designated camping area on the Reserve has been under the FC Act and associated bylaw. Infringement offences under the RA came into effect on 3 February 2020 through the Reserves (Infringement Offences) Regulations 2019. These regulations prescribe penalties for infringement offences under the RA. However, QLDC did not operationalise the infringement process for illegal camping on reserves until December 2024.
14. Since 2018, 144 infringements have been issued at the Reserve, or near the Reserve, under the FC Act, to campers found breaching previous freedom camping bylaws or the FC Act.<sup>10</sup> By introducing the proposed conditions for camping in the designated area of the Reserve, Council will be able to infringe a camper who breaches the recommended conditions.
15. The draft Bylaw does not include reserve land. Councillors expressed a preference through the draft Bylaw development process to manage activities on reserves under the RA.
16. The Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is the only reserve in the district where no-cost camping is allowed. The proposed conditions are intended to ensure this popular activity can continue, allowing both the community and visitors to benefit from the Reserve's recreational values.

#### **Community feedback and officer observations**

17. Between August 2023 and May 2025 22 RFS (15 customers) were raised in relation to freedom camping at the Reserve. Concerns noted included human waste and sanitation issues, littering, overcrowding, non-self-contained vehicles and environmental degradation. Alongside the need for increased enforcement and better signage some customers voiced frustration that the site is poorly managed and freedom camping negatively impacts the local community.
18. Recent analysis by Council's Parks officers has confirmed that the Reserve camping area is suitable for a maximum of 50 vehicles. Over the past two summers, with no controls in place, the site has been significantly overused, with vehicles parking inconsiderately and spilling onto surrounding land. This surrounding land is not classified as reserve and is not owned by QLDC. To help control this issue the draft Bylaw proposes that a small area of NZTA land to the north of the Reserve be identified as prohibited for freedom camping under the draft Bylaw.<sup>11</sup> ~~OBJ~~ This prohibition is proposed to be managed under the draft Bylaw in accordance with section 11 of the FC Act.
19. Consultation on the Bylaw produced several submissions on freedom camping at the Reserve (which were out of scope for the draft Bylaw development process), citing the need for more 'designated' freedom camping spaces like this. Some submitters noted it is well-used, has

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<sup>10</sup> These infringements were issued to vehicles on the Luggate-Tarris Road and Kane Road. The Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is located within this area. Most of these infringements were for freedom camping in a non-self-contained vehicle.

<sup>11</sup> NZTA land can be identified as 'local authority area' for the purposes of a freedom camping bylaw. Refer to Attachment B for map of the Reserve and adjacent NZTA land included in the draft Bylaw.



appropriate facilities (toilets) and is away from residential areas, which they considered preferable to freedom camping in urban sites.

20. However, some submitters provided feedback that the Reserve camping area is overcrowded, poorly managed and subject to inappropriate behaviour by campers resulting in environmental degradation and impeded community access. Issues at the Reserve have also been observed and reported by the summer ambassadors and through RFS. (See Attachments B and C for further information about camper behaviour on the Reserve).

### **Ministerial Delegation**

21. Section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 prohibits the use of a reserve for permanent or temporary personal accommodation, unless it is permitted by one of the means referred to in that section.
22. The power to grant consent under section 44 has been delegated by the Minister of Conservation to territorial authorities, in an instrument of delegation dated 12 June 2013. The delegation includes the ability to grant “consent to the use of a reserve for temporary or permanent personal accommodation”<sup>12</sup>.
23. The power delegated to Council to give consent under section 44 of the RA includes the power to set conditions, as provided for by section 121 of the RA. The Council can therefore allow camping at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve subject to terms or conditions, and the conditions can take effect using the mechanisms provided within the RA. Any terms and conditions should align with the purpose of the reserve and any other relevant policies.
24. Given the popularity of freedom camping in this area (for both domestic and international visitors), and the impact that this activity can have on the environment and local communities, it is crucial that it is managed effectively. The proposed conditions are intended to ensure this popular activity can continue at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve, allowing both the community and visitors to benefit from the reserve’s recreational values.
25. The conditions proposed for camping on the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve are as follows.

Campers must:

- a. only camp using a certified self-contained motor vehicle, and may not use tents or any other structures for camping;
- b. use one of the 50 marked motor vehicle spaces;
- c. not stay more than three nights within any 30-day period<sup>13</sup>;

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<sup>12</sup> This is the way the power is expressed in the Schedule to the instrument of delegation.

<sup>13</sup> A camper is permitted to stay at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve designated camping area overnight for a maximum period of three nights. A camper is not required to move their vehicle from the period they arrive in the location for three nights; however, they must leave the space before the departure time condition applied after the third night. A

- d. not arrive in one of the marked spaces before 5:00pm;
- e. leave any marked space before 10:00am on the day of departure;
- f. ensure any motor vehicle and camping equipment or personal items are contained within one of the marked spaces;
- g. not light fires; and
- h. comply with all the above conditions; and if a camper fails to comply with any of the above conditions, then their consent to camp under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977 at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is withdrawn for a 30-day period, and the camper may be subject to an infringement.

26. Condition (h) requires campers to comply with all other conditions listed. Any breach of these conditions may result in an infringement, as the consent to camp will have been withdrawn. The camper will be allowed to return and camp at the Reserve after a 30-day period, subject to their compliance to the conditions for any further camping.

27. The proposed conditions aim to retain the primary purpose of the Reserve which is to provide areas for recreation and enjoyment of the public. They aim to balance public access with environmental protection and community wellbeing, especially during peak camping periods (i.e. between November and April each year) when overcrowding and inappropriate camper behaviour have been reported.

28. Consistent with the RA and the purpose of the Reserve, reasons for the proposed conditions at the Reserve include:

- a. By limiting vehicle numbers to 50 and including maximum night stay and times of operation the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the Reserve, providing open space for public enjoyment and providing access for recreation, including the disc golf course, picnics and walking access to the historic elements and the Clutha River / Mata-Au.
- b. Ensures camping is concentrated in designated areas preserves open space for community use and minimises environmental impact by limiting encroachment into sensitive areas, such as the historic elements of the Reserve.
- c. The implementation of times of operation for camping aims to reduce congestion and conflict with day users, supporting protection of the Reserve.

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camper is not permitted to stay overnight at the Reserve designated camping area for a fourth night within a 30-day period.



- d. Allowing for three nights in a 30-day period ensures the turnover of space and availability for other users, maintaining equitable access while protecting the Reserve from overuse. It also prevents long-term occupation, preserving the Reserve's recreational purpose and ensuring fair access for all. Officers consider three nights to be a manageable period to allow for suitable recreational access to the Reserve for freedom campers.
  - e. Prohibiting fires will reduce wildfire risk and protect the natural environment, especially in the hot summer months and in areas of the Reserve with dry vegetation.
29. If a camper were to breach the proposed conditions for camping on the Reserve, they would contravene section 44 of the RA (no valid consent to occupy the Reserve) and an infringement of \$800 could be issued on that basis under section 105B of the RA.
30. The enforcement of self-containment certificates (valid warrants), rubbish dumping and damage to the environment will continue to be regulated under the FC Act.<sup>14</sup>
31. It is recognised that the management of camping on the Reserve (through the proposed conditions) is separate to the proposed management of other QLDC land proposed the draft Bylaw. However, the conditions have been assessed against the RA and will work in a holistic manner alongside the draft Bylaw, if this is adopted. The Reserve camping conditions are consistent with the draft Bylaw which will help to promote understanding and may assist with compliance.

### **Improvements to the freedom camping site**

32. Officers plan to implement physical controls to limit overcrowding, including marked spaces and technology such as a registration system and a boom gate with plate-reader to improve compliance, monitoring and enforcement in relation to site numbers and turnover of site users.
33. An online registration system would enable real-time monitoring of site usage and compliance with maximum numbers. It would provide data for enforcement and planning. Time restrictions and maximum night stays would be implemented as users of the freedom camp would need to register and book.
34. Officers plan to install a second carpark on the Reserve for day-users only (camping not permitted). The camping area parking spaces will be open to day-users between 10:00am to 5:00pm, where available. The boom gate will be open during these hours. Further investigation of how to minimise conflict between campers and day-users will be required before this technology is implemented.
35. To educate campers on expected behaviors improvements will be made to Reserve signage, including clear instructions for waste disposal, protection of the waterways nearby, and where to go for more information. Online and printed resources will also be available.

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<sup>14</sup> **Freedom Camping (Penalties for Infringement Offences) Regulations 2023**  
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0136/latest/whole.html>

36. Continued in-person engagement with campers will be undertaken by the summer ambassadors and supported by enforcement as required.
37. If approved, the proposed conditions, site improvements and technology will be closely monitored and evaluated.

#### Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

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38. Option 1 Do not impose any new conditions at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve camping area under the Ministerial Delegation. Retain the current consent that camping is allowed without conditions on part of the Reserve (see Attachment B for the defined area).

##### *Advantages:*

- Retains status quo.
- Limited impacts to budget.
- Self-containment standards can be regulated under the FC Act.
- The absence of conditions would be supported by submitters who seek more permissive freedom camping.

##### *Disadvantages:*

- Council will have limited regulatory tools to enforce conditions that support well-managed freedom camping on this Reserve.
- Overcrowding at the site is likely to continue, resulting in added pressure on infrastructure and limiting community access.
- Risk of a further decline of social license for freedom camping caused by uncontrolled camping at the site.
- Enforcement challenges will remain, and the only mechanism to regulate freedom camping on the Reserve will be under the default position of the FC Act.
- Council would not be responding to community expectations for regulated and well-managed freedom camping at the Reserve.

39. Option 2 (Preferred) Using the Ministerial Delegation, revoke the existing 2019 Ministerial Consent that uplifted the prohibition of camping on the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve, and issue a new Ministerial Consent under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977, to allow camping on part of the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve subject to conditions (see Attachment B for the defined area).

*Advantages:*

- Retains and reinforces the primary purpose of the Reserve which is to provide areas for recreation and enjoyment of the public, while protecting the natural environment.
- Allows a regulatory framework for responding to instances of those engaging in behaviours that degrade environmental values and public access associated with Recreation Reserves.
- Increased turnover of campers using the site will allow for more equitable access for all users.
- Continues to provide a safe and defined area for campers that is monitored. By providing this camping area it could reduce illegal freedom camping in other areas nearby.
- Council would be responding to community expectations for regulated and controlled freedom camping at this location.

*Disadvantages:*

- There are costs and staff time associated with implementation and management of physical barriers, signage and technology to support these conditions.
- Limiting vehicle numbers and introducing maximum night stay may result in a displacement of campers to other areas.
- Some people may not support limiting vehicle numbers and introducing maximum night stay.

40. Option 3 Using the Ministerial Delegation, revoke the existing 2019 Ministerial Consent that uplifted the prohibition of camping on the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve, with the effect that camping will no longer be permitted.

*Advantages:*

- Day user public access to the Reserve and public enjoyment of the entire Reserve will be supported.
- By prohibiting camping, many of the adverse effects experienced on the Reserve would be mitigated or removed.

*Disadvantages:*

- Not allowing any camping on the Reserve may lead to an increase in illegal camping at this location, or other reserves (by displacement of campers to other areas).

- The area is popular for camping activity and would remove/prohibit a form of recreational activity that is considered appropriate (subject to conditions) on this Reserve.

41. This report recommends **Option Two** for addressing the matter because permitting camping on the Reserve, with the conditions proposed, provides a safe and defined area that is monitored for campers and will reduce the impacts of freedom camping in nearby areas, and provide access opportunities for all users.

### Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

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#### **Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi i kā Whakaaro Hiraka**

42. Council is being asked to exercise the Minister's consent under the RA, and therefore the Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**) considerations in relation its significance and engagement policy do not apply. Nonetheless, these are traversed below for completeness.

43. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 because freedom camping and related issues are a matter of importance to the community. With perceived issues caused by freedom camping ongoing and likely to increase as visitor numbers grow there is high community interest for residents and locals who are affected by this activity.

44. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are:

- a. QLDC residents/ratepayer;
- b. Kāi Tahu;
- c. Campers and visitors to the district;
- d. Regional Tourism Organisations;
- e. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi;
- f. The Minister of Conservation;
- g. New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) and other camping special interest groups; and
- h. Commercial camping service operators.

45. While management of the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve as a camping area was not part of the draft Bylaw consultation process, Council did receive a range of comments from submitters about use

of the site. Community RFS about freedom camping on the Reserve were also considered in the drafting of this report.

46. The Luggate Community Association is a key stakeholder with a significant interest in the use of the Reserve. Council officers met with the Chairperson of the Luggate Community Association on 10 September 2025 and discussed the proposed conditions and introduction of management tools to the Reserve.

### **Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka**

47. Council officers engaged with Kāi Tahu about the management of freedom camping through the development of the Responsible Camping Strategy 2022-2027, and through the process of developing the draft Bylaw.

### **Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka**

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48. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10002 Erosion of social cohesion within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating.
49. The approval of the recommended option means Council, using the Ministerial Delegation, will impose specific conditions which, if breached, would render camping unauthorised under the Reserves Act 1977. This approach enables targeted enforcement while allowing the Reserve's recreational purpose to be maintained and will help to mitigate this risk.

### **Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea**

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50. The successful implementation of technological solutions, signage and infrastructure to manage freedom camping at the Reserve is anticipated to be \$30,000 to \$60,000, dependent on the final scope of the project. Project elements will be phased where possible to ensure costs can be managed within current budgets, and to evaluate the success of each stage. These proposed operational controls will support any new conditions consented on the Reserve. However, they are not a direct cost implication of the Council agreeing to the proposed conditions.
51. Costs associated with the Responsible Camping Programme, such as vehicle hire, printed resources and summer ambassadors, will be managed under current 2025-2026 budgets (\$400,000). The draft 2026-2027 Annual Plan budget process officers have proposed that budgets for the Responsible Camping Programme are set at the same level as the current year. This is to ensure the current level of service is maintained.
52. The cost of enforcement of the Reserve will be dependent on conditions, service levels, and rates of noncompliance, with a goal of achieving cost neutrality through infringement revenue.

### Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

53. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Vision Beyond 2050: Our Strategic Framework | Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Responsible Camping Strategy 2022-2027
- Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025
- Significance and Engagement Policy 2021
- Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy 2021
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021
- Future Parks and Reserves Provisions Plan 2021
- Travel to a thriving future - A Regenerative Tourism Plan.

54. The recommendations are consistent with the principles set out in the above policies.

55. This matter (introducing conditions at the Reserve) is part of the Responsible Camping Programme and is included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan. The 2024-2034 Long Term Plan provides for operational expenditure relating to Responsible Camping Programme for years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 only. However, any proposed costs for the introduction of new conditions at the Reserve will be managed within current LTP budgets.

### Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

56. Under Section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977, camping is prohibited on reserves unless:

- It is provided for in a Reserve Management Plan (RMP), or
- In areas set apart by the RA for ranger / officer accommodation or where the classification of the reserve requires sleeping accommodation, or
- In camping grounds set apart under the appropriate provisions of the RA, or
- The Council exercises its delegated Ministerial Consent to uplift the prohibition.

57. This delegation was granted to territorial authorities in 2013 and previously exercised by QLDC in 2019 to enable camping at the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve.



58. Council must ensure that any conditions that are imposed under the Ministerial Delegation are appropriate, relevant, and reasonable, and consistent with the purpose of the reserve and any applicable policies.

### Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

59. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

60. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Annual Plan 2025-2026;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

### Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Reserves Act 1977 Instrument of Delegation for Territorial Authorities
B	Map of the Luggate Red Bridge Reserve
C	Summer Ambassador Observations
D	Request for Service (RFS) referencing the Luggate Red Bridge