

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Thursday 16 April 2026 in
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road Queenstown, commencing at 1.00pm

A recording of this workshop can be found on the QLDC website.

Present:	Mayor John Glover (Chair)	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk
	Councillor Stephen Brent (left @ 3.45pm)	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Cody Tucker	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Melissa White	Councillor Nicola King (online)
	Councillor Quentin Smith (online)	WUCCB member John Wellington (online)
Apologies:	Councillor Gavin Bartlett (on leave)	Councillor Heath Copland (on leave)
	Councillor Niki Gladding	
In attendance:	Michelle Morss	Katherine Harbrow
	Ken Bailey	Marie Day
	Pennie Pearce	Amy Galloway
	Carrie Williams	Carrie Edgerton
	Alyson Hutton	Kacie English
	Bill Nicoll	Corinne Frischknecht
	Kirsty Pope	Cameron Wood
	Roger Davidson	Tilly McCool
	Alice Milne	Sian Swinney
	Anthony Hall	Jane Robertson
	Ben Scott	
Media	None	
Public	Two members of the public	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Responsible Camping Summer Debrief</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop is to present information on the Responsible Camping programme, including operation of the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 in its first year of operation over the summer period and to provide an outline of possible future work for Council discussion.</p> <p>Ken Bailey (General Manager, Community Services), Carrie Williams (Policy Manager) Marie Day (Community Partnership Manager) and Amy Galloway</p>	<p>Officers to return to the Council meeting scheduled for 25 June 2026 with options for the Allenby Place and Beacon Point</p>

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	<p>(Responsible Camping Programme Manager) spoke to the presentation and responded to questions.</p> <p>The following main points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping numbers in the Queenstown Lakes District were high; there were about 9,000 recorded check-ins but estimates suggest that actual use is much higher, highlighting the enforcement challenge with such high numbers and officers having to work with inaccurate data. • Managing freedom camping including bylaw development, site assessment and enforcement over the summer has cost about \$790,000 to date. Allocating more resourcing to the activity is not an option. • The Freedom Camping Act 2011 ('the Act') was originally enacted to respond to visitors during the 2011 Rugby World Cup, but it did not anticipate the volume of campers wanting to use the facilities as experienced in this district. The Act needs to be amended, and officers were directed to explore stronger advocacy to the government seeking legislative change • Other possible ways of managing freedom camping included technology solutions such as gates with number plate recognition, pay-per-use facilities, offering other low-cost camping options on Council land and updating the Responsible Camping Strategy. <p><i>Attachment A: Responsible Camping Summer debrief and discussion of next steps PowerPoint</i></p>	<p>restricted freedom camping areas.</p>
2.	<p><u>Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA) 2025</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop is to respond to a requirement under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) to release a Housing and Business Capacity Assessment (HBA) ahead of the next Long Term Plan.</p> <p>Cameron Wood (Strategic Planner Future Development), Alyson Hutton (Planning Policy Manager) and Corinne Frischknecht (Senior Policy Planner – Urban Development) presented the item.</p> <p>The following main points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBA must be updated every three years to ensure there is sufficient housing capacity across the short, medium, and long term. 	None

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queenstown Lakes District faces exceptional growth, with Council population projections historically exceeding Statistics NZ estimates, prompting the continued need for custom population modelling. • Under-projection risks under-investment in infrastructure and although projections will never be perfect, they need regular review. • The assessment considers both demand and supply, including dwelling types, development feasibility, and infrastructure constraints, noting that supply alone does not guarantee affordability. • The tool helps to inform the District Plan and Long Term Plan and may need alignment with future Resource Management Act replacement legislation and collaboration with other Otago councils. <p><i>Attachment A: Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment 2025 (HBA) PowerPoint</i></p>	
3.	<p><u>Energy Roadmap</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop is to brief elected members on progress of the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Energy Steering Group and the development of a QLDC Energy Roadmap.</p> <p>Bill Nicoll (Resilience & Climate Action Manager) and Roger Davidson (Property Director) presented the item.</p> <p>The following main points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Energy Roadmap proposes a strategic approach to energy use, as Council has one of the district’s largest energy footprints and spends about \$6 million annually, with heavy reliance on LPG. • Council is at the centre of an energy system transition, facing rising line charges, peak-demand penalties, and shifting market rules, alongside new opportunities. • The energy contract is being renewed at present and as well as achieving a good price, it also represents a strategic opportunity. 	None

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key focus areas include LPG-to-electricity conversions, energy resilience, renewables, and storage solutions such as batteries and vehicle-to-grid technology. • 2026 is proposed as a foundation year, with scaling, optimisation, and potential revenue generation planned for 2027–2029. <p>Attachment A: Briefing Memo Attachment B: Energy Roadmap presentation</p>	
4.	<p><u>Alcohol Licensing</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop is to discuss and clarify alcohol licensing matters, the role of the Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Committee (DLC) and other alcohol related matters.</p> <p>Katherine Harbrow (General Manager, Assurance, Finance & Risk), Anthony Hall (Regulatory Manager) and Sian Swinney (Manager, Alcohol Licensing) presented the item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, each council must appoint a DLC, which operates as a Commission of Inquiry with defined statutory powers. • DLC members are appointed through a public expression of interest process for up to five years, with hearings having quorum requirements and clear conflict-of-interest rules. • Local Alcohol Policies (LAPs) are legally complex, time-consuming, and frequently litigated, with many councils abandoning or restarting attempts due to public appeals or council elections. • Queenstown Lakes has high licensing demand, with 518 licences and over 2,000 certified managers, creating administrative and regulatory pressure. <p>Attachment A: Alcohol Licensing and the District Licensing Committee PowerPoint</p> <p>Attachment B: Selecting and appointing district licensing committees: A guide for councils</p>	None

The workshop concluded at 4.33pm.