



3 November 2025

Mike Theelen
Chief Executive
Queenstown Lakes District Council
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45 Pipitea Street
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Dear Mike,

Thank you for submitting your water services delivery plan (Plan) for Queenstown Lakes District Council on 1 September 2025.

The Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) has assessed your Plan in accordance with s 20(1)(b) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act). The assessment process for your Plan included:

- a financial and technical assessment, to confirm the Plan meets the financial sustainability requirements outlined in the Act; and
- a legislative assessment, to ensure that all requirements set out in the Act have been met.

The assessment was considered by a Panel consisting of senior representatives from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited, the Local Government Funding Agency, the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority, and the Department of Internal Affairs. The Panel also included an external observer, whose role was to ensure the integrity and consistency of the Panel discussion. The Panel was chaired by the Department's Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme.

Conflict of interest assessments were undertaken for all individuals involved in the assessment process.

Following the Panel discussion and on the recommendation of the Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme, I am pleased to inform you that I have accepted your Plan under s 20(1)(b) of the Act.

Next steps

As soon as is practicable, the Plan for Queenstown Lakes District Council must be published on the relevant Council websites. Once this has been confirmed, the acceptance decision and Plan assessment report will be shared with you and subsequently published on the Department's website.

The Department will be in contact with you over the coming months regarding next steps for monitoring the implementation of your Plan.

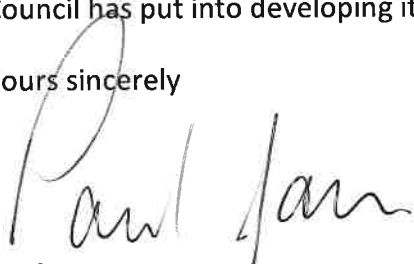
The Department would like to highlight the following aspects of your Plan that will be monitored during implementation:

- the water services council-controlled organisation's pricing strategy, including to ensure that growth pays for growth;
- the borrowing requirements and headroom;
- delivery of the capital programme; and
- delivery of the projects required to achieve regulatory compliance.

I note the planned investments in resilience improvements, and I encourage you to continue this work.

I would like to acknowledge the level of detail and time that Queenstown Lakes District Council has put into developing its Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul James', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul James
Secretary for Local Government