

18/12/2025

RE: Mount Aspiring College Hostel Operations

Tēnā koe,

I write with regard to confirming the future intentions the College has for the MAC Hostel, and the demand to operate a hostel of this nature.

The Hostel Programme is renown in New Zealand as an independent living, outdoor education-focused programme which attracts students from across New Zealand to apply to the programme for their year 13 year, their final year of secondary schooling.

Each year, 30 places are awarded, and each year, the number of applicants is more than double the number of places available.

While the programme has significant benefits for the students who are successful in gaining a place, there are a number of benefits for local students.

- Diversification of the student population: Wānaka/Central Otago is the least diverse part of New Zealand (ethnically, socio-economically), and for our year 13 students, meeting 30 people from different parts of New Zealand with different experiences helps to diversify our student population and broaden the local students' knowledge and experiences as they meet new people.
- Academic Competition for Local Students: Students selected for the Hostel need to be independent, and be able and willing to manage their academic programme in an independent way. This means that the students who apply for the Hostel are mostly high-achievers, who create competition with local students. While there is not any 'actual' competition, it does make local students more aware of what they need to do to achieve top grades. There are a number of hostel students who take music and art, which helps these subject areas to maintain good student numbers at year 13.
- Pro-social/positive culture benefits: Local students get the opportunity to make friends with 30 new people. As a result, local students get to see their town and school through fresh eyes, as the local students get to know and integrate in with local families. This is particularly important as a number of year 13 students started MAC in year 7. The benefit of 'seeing the school and town through fresh eyes' is particularly important for wellbeing, as

students talk about and reflect on the things that they enjoy, are grateful for and the opportunities that they have had.

- College's Reputation: As a result of the Hostel Programme, the College has a fantastic reputation across New Zealand - this results in the College being known for academic results, music and performance, as well as outdoor pursuits and education outside the classroom opportunities. A number of parents and whānau move to Wānaka so that their child(ren) can benefit from being in the community and going to MAC (the college has sustained considerable roll growth over the past 5 years). It is not uncommon for past Hostel students to move to Wānaka to be in the community, and for their child(ren) to go to school here.

Given the significant benefits for local students, and the College, the Hostel will continue to operate as it currently does. There is, every year, significant demand for places at the Hostel. The Hostel adds a special dynamic to College life - with 30 students giving up their year 13 year in their current school to be a part of the Hostel programme.

If any further information is required, please get in touch with me.

Ngā mihi



Nicola Jacobsen  
Principal  
Mount Aspiring College



22 December 2025

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Att: Roger Davidson

## **MT ASPIRING COLLEGE FOUNDATION (FOUNDATION)**

We act for the Foundation.

We have been asked to provide this letter in support of approval by Council to the Foundation's conditional agreement with Council relating to the land referred to below.

The land owned by the Foundation on Plantation Road, Wanaka (contained in record of title OT17C/694) is subject to an encumbrance in favour of Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC).

In brief, the encumbrance records that if the land is sold or transferred, the vendor must pay the full market value of the land to Council.

The encumbrance renders the property largely unusable as security in this form because the encumbrance ranks above any subsequent mortgage that might be registered. The proceeds of any mortgagee sale would first be required to repay Council before the lender would receive a return.

In a Deed of Modification dated 22 April 1997, council agreed to enter a deed of priority giving first priority to a mortgage to the ANZ bank. The purpose of this security was to provide initial loan funds for the Foundation to establish the college hostel on the land and to build an outdoor pursuits confidence course.

Any further lending secured by a mortgage over the land will require council approval to the terms and purpose of such lending, with Council to execute a memorandum of priority to the benefit of the proposed lender. Anticipated application time and processing of this approval frustrates the Foundation's ability to utilise any value in the land for the charitable purposes it was established.

We expect most if not all lenders to demand a first ranking mortgage as security for lending.

Yours faithfully

**ASPIRING LAW**

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Director

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