

Item 1: International Visitor Levy, MBIE Funding, New User-Pays Public Toilets

SESSION TYPE: Workshop

PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:

This workshop seeks direction from elected members on whether Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) should proceed with the International Visitor Levy (IVL) funding opportunity and trial a new level of service by introducing user-pays public toilet facilities at selected locations.

In June 2026, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) confirmed that \$1.300 million of IVL funding had been awarded to QLDC for the installation of new user-pays public toilets. The funding is subject to a formal funding agreement and requires QLDC to provide \$500,000 in co-funding. A key condition of the funding is that the toilet facilities must operate on a user-pays basis.

The recommended approach is to focus on locations with predominantly visitor and tourist use. This workshop seeks direction from elected members to proceed with the funding opportunity and trial user-pays toilets at these four locations, recognising that this would be the first user-pays public toilet service operated by QLDC.

DATE/START TIME:

Tuesday, 6 October 2026 at 10.00am

TIME BREAKDOWN:

Presentation: 15 minutes
Questions: 15 minutes

PRESENTERS:

Briana Pringle (Parks Planning Manager)
Dave Winterburn (Parks Manager)

Prepared by:



Name: Briana Pringle
Title: Parks Planning Manager

21 September 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey
Title: Community Services General Manager

22 September 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

A	Presentation Slides - International Visitor Levy, MBIE Funding New User-Pays Public Toilets
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INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEVY (IVL) – MBIE FUNDING NEW USER-PAYS PUBLIC TOILETS

OCTOBER 2026 PRESENTATION

MBIE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEVY (IVL) FUNDING OFFER

The opportunity is conditional

MBIE confirmed the funding in June 2026, with a public announcement in July 2026.

\$1.300m

MBIE funding awarded

towards new user-pays public toilets
across the region

\$500k

Council co-funding

required as part of the funding
agreement

USER-PAYS

Condition

funding depends on the toilets
operating as user-pays

Direction is sought on whether QLDC should proceed with the funding opportunity and trial a new level of service.

DIRECTION SOUGHT

Should QLDC proceed with the funding opportunity?

- Proceed with the \$1.300 million IVL funding opportunity
- Accept the user-pays condition for a four-location trial
- Prepare a Council report confirming the locations and level of service
- Proceed with planning, feasibility, consents and funding-agreement negotiations



USER-PAYS AS A TRIAL

A new level of service for the district

QLDC does not currently operate user-pays Council toilets.



FIRST FOR QLDC

The four sites could be treated as a trial rather than a district-wide change.



FUNCTIONALITY

User-pays can be switched off



COMMUNITY ACCESS

Accessible community toilet facilities are located near the proposed high-tourist-use areas.



COMPARATOR

Mackenzie District has two visitor-focused user-pays facilities: Hamilton Drive, Tekapo and Lake Pukaki.

PROPOSED TRIAL LOCATIONS

Four sites with a strong visitor focus

Final locations would be confirmed through a formal Council report.



01

Stoney Creek, Wānaka (Stage 6)

Visitors to the Wānaka Tree

02

Wānaka Recreation Centre, 3 Parks

Freedom camping

03

Athol Street, Queenstown

Bus interchange

04

Lake Hayes Showgrounds Reserve

Visitor and recreation destination

Location feasibility, servicing, consenting and detailed design would be progressed through the next phase.