

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 20 October 2026
in the Armstrong Room, Lake Wānaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wānaka
commencing at 12.30pm

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

Present:	Mayor John Glover	Councillor Nicola King
	Councillor Gavin Bartlett	Councillor Quentin Smith
	Councillor Samuel Belk	Councillor Cody Tucker
	Councillor Stephen Brent	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Niki Gladding	
Apologies:	Councillor Heath Copland	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Melissa White	
In attendance:	James Stevenson-Wallace*	Michelle Morss
	Meaghan Miller*	Tony Avery*
	Peter Harris	Katherine Harbrow*
	Gareth Noble*	Sarah Russell (Technology Queenstown)
	Jan Maxwell	Kahli Scott
	Bex Woollard	James Mulcahy
	Pennie Pearce	Anita Vanstone
	Nick Brunsdon (Infometrics)	Rene Koehler (Startup Queenstown)
	Sophie Wiltshier (Startup Queenstown)	Jane Robertson
	Richard Barker (University of Otago)	
Media	None	
Public	None	

*Online

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<u>Economic Update</u> The purpose of this workshop was to brief elected members about activities within the Economic Futures team. Peter Harris (Economic Futures Manager) led the presentation. He invited industry representatives to speak to their contributions to the presentation. (Attachment A).	No actions were noted although officers advised that the Destination Management Plan was

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	The main points of discussion were as follows: • The district’s economy remains strong, with tourism continuing to recover beyond pre-Covid levels, while diversification efforts are beginning to show results through growth in technology, entrepreneurship, higher-value industries and the film sector. • There were updates from Tech Queenstown, University of Otago, and Startup Queenstown Lakes; all sought to build a stronger technology ecosystem, develop local talent and support startups whilst attracting investment and creating higher-value employment opportunities. • Officers outlined progress on destination management, economic diversification initiatives, energy resilience projects, food and beverage sector development, the diversification fund, community innovation programmes and creative industries promotion. • The film and events portfolio reported strong activity, including a major Netflix production filmed in the district, growth in local screen-sector capability, improved event booking systems, and ongoing work to strengthen Queenstown Lakes’ reputation as a desirable place to live, work, invest and create. <u>Attachments</u> <i>Attachment A: Economic Update</i>	reaching its three-yearly update and would be presented to Council over the coming months.				
2.	<u>Alpine Waters Transition Update and draft Statement of Expectations</u> PUBLIC EXCLUDED: It is recommended that this subject matter is discussed while the public is excluded. This recommendation is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows: <table><tr><th>Section and Grounds</th><th>Reason for this recommendation</th></tr><tr><td>7(2)(i) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</td><td>The draft Statement of Expectations is currently subject to negotiation between the parties. Public discussion would risk disclosing Council’s negotiating position and prejudice or disadvantage those negotiations. The public interest in openness has been considered but does not outweigh the need to protect the integrity of the negotiations at this stage. Relevant information can be released once that risk no longer applies.</td></tr></table>		Section and Grounds	Reason for this recommendation	7(2)(i) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	The draft Statement of Expectations is currently subject to negotiation between the parties. Public discussion would risk disclosing Council’s negotiating position and prejudice or disadvantage those negotiations. The public interest in openness has been considered but does not outweigh the need to protect the integrity of the negotiations at this stage. Relevant information can be released once that risk no longer applies.
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The workshop concluded at 4.39pm.