

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // **AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2026** // **ISSUE 174**

Wānaka Recreation Centre celebrates 10 years!

Since opening on 7 July 2016, the centre has been at the heart of how Wānaka moves, plays and connects. From competitive swimmers to sport leagues, group fitness to social and competitive sport, learn to swim school and aquatic programmes, WRC has provided a year-round home for the Upper Clutha community.

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& INCLUSION
SURVEY**



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Your Council

Ever wondered how to contact your elected representatives for a chat about what's happening in your community?

We've listed your Councillors and the areas they represent, along with members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board, and their email addresses so you can get in touch.

There are also opportunities to pop along and see them in person at these regular sessions:

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

Join Arrowtown-Kawarau Ward Councillor Melissa White for a relaxed cuppa and chat at Arrowtown Library. **'Meet with Mel' sessions run 11.00am-12.00pm on the last Friday of every month.**

All welcome – tea and biscuits provided!



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT MAYOR JOHN GLOVER
John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

Arrowtown, Gibbston, Shotover Country, Lake Hayes Estate, Dalefield and Arthurs Point.



Councillor Heath Copland
Heath.Copland@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Melissa White
Melissa.White@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Samuel "Q" Belk
Samuel.Belk@qldc.govt.nz

QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm, Kingston, Frankton, Quail Rise, Kelvin Peninsula, Glenorchy, central Queenstown and Fernhill.



Councillor Matt Wong
Matt.Wong@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Gavin Bartlett
Gavin.Bartlett@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Stephen Brent
Stephen.Brent@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Jon Mitchell
Jon.Mitchell@qldc.govt.nz

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

From the top of the Crown Range and all of the Upper Clutha area including Lake Hāwea up to just beyond Makarora and including part of the Matukituki Valley in Mt Aspiring National Park.



Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith
Quentin.Smith@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Nicola King
Nicola.King@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Niki Gladding
Niki.Gladding@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Cody Tucker
Cody.Tucker@qldc.govt.nz

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA COMMUNITY BOARD



Simon Telfer (Chairperson)
Simon.Telfer@qldc.govt.nz



Kathy Dedo (Deputy Chairperson)
Kathy.Dedo@qldc.govt.nz



John Wellington
John.Wellington@qldc.govt.nz



Chris Hadfield
Chris.Hadfield@qldc.govt.nz

Councillor King

Councillor Gladding

Councillor Tucker



New Chief Executive appointed

James Stevenson-Wallace has been appointed QLDC Chief Executive, and will commence in the role on 5 October.

James has previously served as Chief Executive of Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and the Electricity Authority. Most recently, he was Director of Transformation for the newly established Bioeconomy Science Institute.

Prior to those roles, he held senior leadership positions at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry for Primary Industries, with responsibility for energy and natural resources, fisheries management, regional development and regulatory reform.

Mayor John Glover said James is a highly accomplished leader with an impressive track record across both the public and science sectors.

“His experience, strategic insight and ability to lead through change will be invaluable as our district continues to grow and respond to the opportunities and challenges ahead,” he said.

The Mayor also thanked Michelle Morss who has been Interim Chief Executive since February for her “outstanding contribution and dedication, and for her ongoing support as we work through the next period prior to the new CE coming onboard”.

It certainly feels like there’s been a lot on for Councillors and staff recently over and above ‘business as usual’ (whatever that was!).

We concluded our recruitment for QLDC’s next Chief Executive, agreed the wording of the much-vaunted City and Regional Deal – a partnership between QLDC, Central Otago District Council, Otago Regional Council and the Crown – and had to rapidly respond to Government’s Head Start plans for councils to amalgamate.

Pretty much uppermost in a lot of our minds are the increasing delays across our roading network. When simple things like school holidays, closing a side road for water upgrades or closing a key bridge during the day cause significant impacts, we know we are getting a fast forward view of our future.

That is why I announced the formation of a Mayoral taskforce on transport to explore what we can do now, what we need to bring forward and how we need to act differently. QLDC only manages a very small part of the picture but I feel we need to lead and bring together those who can help us achieve better outcomes.

Our district is rapidly growing – average around 5% a year – but the tools to fund and finance the infrastructure, including transport networks, are insufficient to keep pace with that growth.

The underlying premise of the Regional Deal is to partner with Government to unlock economic growth. Top of the agenda has to be a coordinated response to growth to ensure we grow smartly and grow well. We simply can’t afford to build communities without strong foundations.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover



Work, work, work – underway!

You may have seen quite a lot of infrastructure work happening across our district lately – here's a snapshot of a few of those projects.

UPPER CLUTHA WASTEWATER UPGRADES

Brrr! It's been chilly at Albert Town Bridge. Winter has been a particularly busy time. The bridge had been closed to vehicles during weekdays while crews connected the seismic-resilient pipe beneath it to the main pipeline. This required digging deep trenches at both ends of the bridge. But – good news! – just as this newsletter went to print, the major works were finished and the bridge reopened three days ahead of schedule.

These works are part of wider upgrades to Upper Clutha's wastewater network, which will ultimately increase the capacity and resilience of the wastewater systems serving Lake Hāwea, Albert Town and Wānaka.

We're close to having all the pipeline laid. Thank you to everyone for your patience while this work has been underway.



FRANKTON WATERMAIN RENEWALS

We're upgrading the water supply infrastructure along Frankton Road, including areas near Marina Drive, Sugar Lane, Perkins Road and Frankton Track.

The upgrade will improve the resilience and reliability of the district's drinking water network, reducing the risk of watermain failures and unplanned supply disruptions. It involves installing a new, larger watermain and replacing smaller water supply pipes and property connections.

Works will move progressively along the route, and not all areas will be affected at the same time. Some night works will be required, but Frankton Road will remain open throughout the project.



FRANKTON WASTEWATER UPGRADE

Crews have been busy installing wastewater pipe – 1,800 metres have been laid along Frankton Track, and 450 metres at Frankton Beach.

Each section of high-density polyethylene pipe is delivered to the construction yard in 15-metre lengths before being transported to site using a 4x4 vehicle and pipe dollies.

On site, the pipe is welded into sections between 30 and 60 metres long before being lowered into the trench and backfilled to restore the ground to its previous condition.

The project is on track for a temporary opening during the Queenstown Marathon, and the majority of construction works are expected to be completed by the end of the year.



ROBINS ROAD WASTEWATER UPGRADES

Robins Road reopened to southbound traffic using one lane on 10 August. At the time this newsletter went to print, the lane was expected to remain open for at least four weeks. This will depend on site conditions and construction progress but we're aiming to have the southbound lane open through the September school holidays.

While this is an important milestone, significant work remains and additional resources have been brought in to help complete the project. Three sections of pipeline have been completed so far, with a fourth section nearing completion.

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE FINISHED?

We expect construction to be completed in late November to early December. However, with four more sections still to be installed, ground or equipment issues could affect things.

There remains a risk that, if larger sections of pipeline need to be installed using open trenching as opposed to micro-tunnelling, construction could continue into the first quarter of 2027 and may require further road closures. Additional resources have been brought in to reduce this risk, however we want to be upfront about the uncertainty that remains.

We recognise that the length of this project and the changes to previously communicated dates have been frustrating. We'll continue to provide updates as significant milestones and traffic arrangements are confirmed so the community can plan ahead where possible

What has caused the delays?

Before construction started, investigations were carried out to understand the ground conditions as much as possible. However, once tunnelling began some known areas of soft soil and gravel became more challenging to work with than expected.

This has made it harder for the tunnelling machine to stay on the right path and keep alignment. The team has had to change the equipment and construction methods as the job has gone on.

There have also been delays because some of the tunnelling equipment broke down. Some parts had to be repaired or brought in from overseas, which took extra time.

You'll find more information on this project and a range of frequently asked questions at

[qldc.govt.nz/robins-rd-ww](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/robins-rd-ww)



Crews lowering manhole #5 into an 8m-deep hole.

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HOUSEMART
HOW SMART

Building the Long Term Plan

Formal consultation on a draft LTP is expected in March 2027

Councillors and staff are working together to develop the draft Long Term Plan 2027-2037 (LTP) through a series of workshops. During these sessions, Councillors review key elements of the plan, set the strategic direction, confirm priorities, and consider service levels across Council activities.

Workshops have been underway since February. To view materials from previous workshops, visit qldc.govt.nz/council-meetings

They're held in public, so you can pop along to listen in person at the Council Chambers (10 Gorge Road, Queenstown) or check out the recordings at

[youtube.com/@qldcinfo](https://www.youtube.com/@qldcinfo)

We'll keep you updated as the work progresses:



letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/ltp27



@QLDCinfo

Long Term Plan roadmap

WE ARE HERE

All sessions up to and including 19 August will already have taken place by the time this newsletter is published

JUNE

30 JUNE

Infrastructure Strategy

- Growth
- Asset Management
- Climate Resilience
- Investment Priorities

9 JULY

Infrastructure Strategy

- Waste
- Social Infrastructure
- Future Investment Priorities

JULY

16 JULY

Rates, Revenue & Service Planning

- Funding
- Levels of Service
- Performance Measures

14 JULY

Infrastructure Strategy

- Transport Planning & Investment

AUGUST

18 AUGUST

Rates, Revenue & Financing

- Funding Options
- Visitor Economy
- Growth Funding

19 AUGUST

Capital Programme

- Project Priorities
- Investment Options
- Financial Impacts

SEPTEMBER

3 SEPTEMBER

Expenditure

- Financial Assumptions
- Operating Costs
- Affordability

17 SEPTEMBER

Revenue

- Funding Options
- Policies
- Development Contributions

29 SEPTEMBER

Capital and Operating Expenditure

- Services Budgets
- Capital Projects
- Financial Modelling

OCTOBER

13 OCTOBER

Refinement

- Funding Options
- Policies
- Consultation Topics

29 OCTOBER

Refinement

- Capital Projects
- Operating Expenditure
- Financial Metrics

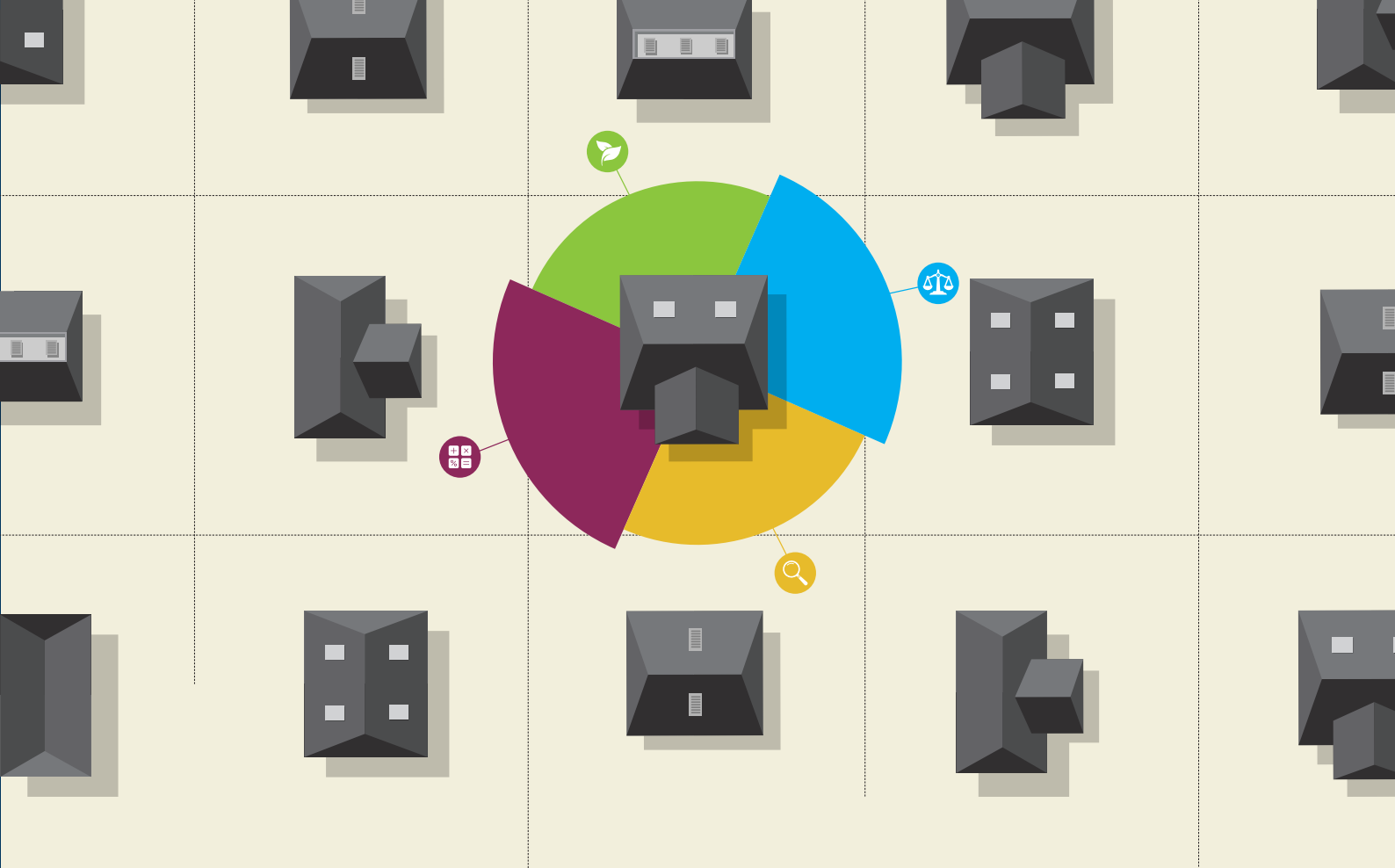
NOVEMBER

19 NOVEMBER

Final Review

- Financial Strategy
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Key Policies

Dates and topics are indicative only and subject to change.



Your rates, your say

How should the cost of delivering services, facilities and essential infrastructure be shared across our communities? And how can we make sure our funding approach remains fair, transparent and fit for the future?

These are some of the key questions at the heart of our work to review the Revenue and Financing Policy.

This important review is part of our work to build the LTP as outlined above. It will take a fresh look at how Council funds its activities and whether current funding arrangements continue to meet the needs of our growing district.

The review will cover off:



**FAIRNESS
AND EQUITY -**
who pays and who
benefits



**RATING
STRUCTURE -**
how rates are
applied



TRANSPARENCY -
clearer information
on what people are
paying for and why



SUSTAINABILITY -
is the model
fit-for-purpose
as we grow

We'll share regular information about progress over the next few months and expect to formally consult the community on options in March 2027.

Stay up-to-date at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/rates-review or keep an eye on our social media channels.

Local government reform latest

QLDC TO WORK WITH DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL

At a Full Council meeting on 3 August, QLDC resolved to work with Dunedin City Council (DCC) to develop a Head Start proposal which was then submitted ahead of the Government's 9 August deadline.

The decision followed several months of collaborative work undertaken through the Otago Mayoral Forum, including independent analysis, community engagement, and discussions with Ngāi Tahu and neighbouring councils.

Under the proposed model, Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts would form an Inland Otago Unitary Authority, while Dunedin, Clutha and potentially Waitaki districts would form a Coastal Otago Unitary Authority (subject to final boundaries being confirmed).

A shared regional services structure could be developed to manage council functions requiring scale, specialist capability and regional coordination.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover said the decision recognised the need to actively participate in shaping the future of local government in Otago while keeping options open for the district.

"It does not represent a final decision on any future council structure. Any significant changes to governance arrangements would require substantial further analysis, community consultation and Government consideration," he said.

DCC and QLDC said the separate entities would build on the strengths of Otago's two largest centres, Dunedin and Queenstown, which together provide the region's largest concentration of population, infrastructure capability, planning expertise, regulatory capacity, specialist services, educational institutions, economic activity and investment attraction.

Dunedin Mayor Sophie Barker and Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover said they hoped central government would recognise the deliberately evolutionary nature of their Head Start proposal, which provides a framework for simplifying governance, strengthening regional capability and future proofing growth options for the wider region.

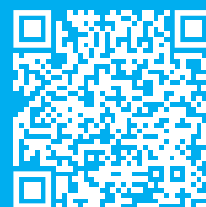
Read the proposal and keep up to date with the latest developments at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/the-future-of-local-government

What is Head Start?

The Government's voluntary Head Start pathway enables groups of councils to develop locally led proposals for new governance arrangements. Councils that do not participate, or whose proposals are not approved, will move through the Government-led Backstop process following the 2028 local elections. Proposals will be assessed against criteria including governance simplification, economies of scale, deliverability and the maintenance of local representation.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO
USE AND ENJOY THE SUNSHINE BAY
RESERVE IN THE FUTURE?

We've developed a draft development plan that explores how the reserve could be enhanced over time while protecting the natural and cultural values that make this place special.



Share your feedback at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz, by Monday 31 August.

Proposed changes to freedom camping in Wānaka

Have your say before 31 August.

WHAT'S PROPOSED?

1

Permanently prohibit freedom camping at the Allenby Place carpark.

WHY?

Community concerns have been raised about impacts on access, safety, and use of the area by residents and visitors. Council is proposing that changes are needed to address these concerns.

2

Restrict freedom camping at the Beacon Point Road carpark during December, January and February each year.

WHY?

The carpark experiences high demand from residents and visitors during peak periods. Council is considering whether restricting freedom camping during the busiest months would help to protect access and improve safety.

3

Increase designated freedom camping spaces at the Wānaka Recreation Centre from 18 to 21.

WHY?

If freedom camping opportunities in the Wānaka area are reduced elsewhere, Council is proposing to add some additional capacity at the Wānaka Recreation Centre.

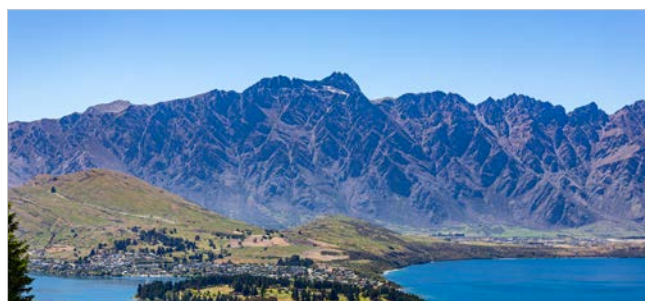
You're welcome to provide feedback on the 2025 Bylaw or other locations. While it will be shared with Council for consideration, it will not result in further changes to the Bylaw as part of this consultation process.

The easiest way to make a submission is by completing the online form at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/proposed-amendments-fc-bylaw-2025.

Scan to find out more.



We want to hear your views before making a final decision – submissions close 31 August.



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Wānaka Recreation Centre celebrates 10 years!

Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC) was opened on 7 July 2016 which means we're celebrating 10 years of operation this year!

The community has supported WRC to the tune of two million visits since opening, which is incredible.

To celebrate the occasion, we're organising a big community event to take place on 13 February 2027 and a video campaign to highlight some of the

stories of the centre and the people that make it a special place.

Make sure you save the event date in your calendar and visit [📍 qldc.govt.nz/10years](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/10years) to see some great stories of just how the WRC has supported the community in its 10 years.

10

YEARS

2

MILLION STORIES

13

FEBRUARY 2027

EVENT CELEBRATION.
SAVE THE DATE!



Penny Batchelor, recreation programmes coordinator, giving a big happy birthday to Wānaka Recreation Centre. Find more videos at [📍 qldc.govt.nz/10years](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/10years)

Arrowtown pool goes electric!

Exciting news for swimmers as Arrowtown Memorial Pool is getting a much needed energy upgrade. The old LPG boiler is being replaced with a new electrified heat pump water heating system.

It's a wonderful result and likely to be up and running for summer fun. The pool is expected to open on the final weekend of November.

Stay up to date with the project and the official opening date for the pool via QLDC Sport & Recreation's website and social media channels:



@QLDCSportRec



@QLDCSport



qldc.govt.nz/recreation

Save with a 10-visit pass at Paetara!

The best way to enjoy the many programmes run at Paetara Aspiring Central is to save with a 10-visit pass.

PROGRAMME PASS

This includes Pickleball, Table Tennis and Badminton

Pass cost:

\$58.50

You save:

\$6.50

STUDIO PASS

This includes Yoga and Zumba classes

Pass cost:

\$121.50

You save:

\$13.50

FIT PASS

This includes Friday Spin and Pilates

Pass cost:

\$139.50

You save:

\$15.50

Check out our full timetable for more information at www.qldc.govt.nz/pac



'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be good to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



RED CARPET FOR WINTER ATHLETES

Wānaka Snowsports Club's 'Dropping Inn-The Pinnacle' event in early August was a community celebration of a hugely successful northern hemisphere season. More than 300 locals packed out the Lake Wānaka Centre to applaud the triumphant return of their homebred heroes. Athletes attending included 2026 Winter Olympic medallists Zoi Sadowski-Synnott and Luca Harrington, Fin Melville-Ives who won the World Freeski Halfpipe Crystal Globe, Luke Harrold who won the 2026 Freeski Snow League, World Freeride Tour champion Ben Richards, and 2026 Winter Paralympics medallist Adam Hall. Adam and Zoi received Mayoral citations for their outstanding achievements (see page 20).



AIRPORT'S RECORD UPGRADE

Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC), in which QLDC holds a 75.01% majority shareholding, has started its largest ever infrastructure investment programme. The \$65M airfield upgrade includes construction of a long-awaited heavy taxiway and a complete overlay of the main runway. Other big projects include a major expansion and upgrade of the airport terminal, new baggage-handling facilities, and a new head office building. Pictured at the ceremonial sod-turning (L-R): QAC Chair Simon Flood and Chief Executive Shane O'Hare, Mayor John Glover, Associate Minister of Transport and Minister for the South Island James Meager, Southland MP Joseph Mooney, and Kāi Tahu representatives Paulette Tamati-Elliffe and Komene Cassidy.

NATIONS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE



A little slice of Argentina came to Queenstown Memorial Centre on 9 July, with around 450 people gathering to celebrate their country's Independence Day at a lively *peña*. From homemade empanadas, dancing a chacarera or a zamba to singing the national anthem, the event was a joyful celebration of culture, community and connection. It was also a chance for Argentinians living here to reconnect with their roots, share cherished traditions, and extend a warm welcome to members of the wider community.



The Queenstown Association of Migrants Pinoys Inc. (QAMPI) brought a burst of colour, music and flavour to its second Philippines Independence Day celebration on 20 June, also held at the Memorial Centre. The half-day event was packed with cultural performances, delicious Filipino food and plenty of smiles, with guests from other migrant communities helping make the celebration even more vibrant. From sharing favourite dishes to showcasing traditions, the day was a powerful reminder of culture, connection and community spirit. Judging by the fantastic turnout, this much-loved event will only get bigger and better!



WARBIRDS A SUSTAINABLE FAVOURITE

Huge congratulations to Warbirds over Wānaka which recently took out the People's Choice Award for New Zealand's Most Favourite Event at the NZ Event Association Gala Awards Dinner in Auckland. This completed a hat trick for the biennial airshow which won the same gong in 2024 and 2018. Organisers teamed up with Wastebusters this year to reduce the event's environmental impact. Overall, the amount of rubbish going to landfill was 30% down on 2024. Around half of this was due to 1.55 tonnes of food waste being converted into compost – a first for Warbirds. QLDC provided an Events Fund grant of \$25,000 to Warbirds specifically to support improvements in waste management before, during and after the airshow. [Image credit – Geoff Marks].

A timely reminder to get ready

If the quake felt in our district on 16 July prompted you to check your emergency kit, pull out your household plan, or simply stop and think “what if?”, you weren’t alone. It was a good reminder that while we can’t predict emergencies, we can prepare for them.

Knowing what to do during an earthquake can save lives. Remember to Drop, Cover and Hold, be prepared for aftershocks, and check for hazards once it’s safe.

If you’re on the foreshore of one of our deep-water lakes (Whakatipu, Wānaka or Hāwea) then the ‘long strong get gone’ message also applies, just like for tsunamis on the coastline. Deep water lakes can have strong waves, known as ‘seiches’, after a major quake so it’s important to be aware of this risk.

The shake also highlighted the importance of being connected to your community. In a large-scale emergency, help will come, but it may take time. The more prepared and self-sufficient we are, the better we can support ourselves and those around us.

That’s where Community Resilience Groups (CRGs) come in. Local volunteers help keep their neighbourhoods connected, informed and ready to support one another until wider

During an earthquake you should...

GET READY
.govt.nz

If you are able...

Drop



Cover



Hold



Using a Cane...

Drop



Cover



Hold



Using a Cane...

Sit



Cover



Hold



Using a Walker...

Lock



Cover



Hold



Using a Wheelchair...

Lock



Cover



Hold



emergency response arrives. Across the district, QLDC and Emergency Management Otago are working with communities to build a strong CRG network, with 18 groups currently active or getting started.

CRGs are always looking for new members. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to help your community.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW TO PREPARE:

National Emergency Management Agency –
getready.govt.nz

Emergency Management Otago –
otagocdem.govt.nz/get-your-home-ready

Connect with your local Community Resilience Group
qldc.govt.nz/crg

Sign up for our community text alert service:
qldc.govt.nz/text-alerts

Free online learning for non-profits

huddl



FIND OUT MORE:

📍 threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz/the-learning-space

📍 huddl.nz/the-learning-space

Need help with funding, governance, planning, or growing your organisation? The Learning Space is a free online learning platform for community groups, charities, not-for-profits and creatives

across Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago.

Delivered by huddl and Three Lakes Cultural Trust with support from QLDC and DIA Lotteries Funding, the platform is available

24/7 and offers practical resources and bite-sized learning modules to help volunteers, board members, leaders, and team members build skills and confidence when it suits them.

We're also pleased to welcome Jennifer Huddleston as the new project lead for huddl. Jennifer will be supporting and championing The Learning Space, along with training and mentor programmes across the region.

Got a bold idea to diversify our economy?

APPLICATIONS FOR OUR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION FUND 2026-2027 ARE OPEN UNTIL 30 SEPTEMBER.

If you have an idea for a collaborative project that could create new business and career opportunities, while strengthening the resilience and diversity of our local economy, now is the time to get started.

Whether you're exploring a new concept, testing an idea, undertaking research, or bringing partners together around a shared vision, this fund could help turn your project into reality. Organisations from across Aotearoa New Zealand are eligible to apply provided the project involves collaboration with at least one organisation, business or community group based on our district.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Submit an Expression of Interest before 31 August to receive guidance on fund objectives, eligibility and preparing an application.

Email any questions to economicfutures@qldc.govt.nz

Find out more at 📍 qldc.govt.nz/edf

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From the Chambers

There's always plenty going on at our Council and Committee meetings, here's a snapshot of some recent happenings.

PARKING CHANGES DUE FOR WĀNAKA

The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board recently approved a suite of parking changes designed to improve safety and accessibility. Among the changes are formalised mobility parking bays on Ardmore Street and at the Wānaka Watersports Facility.

Campervans also feature in the proposed new parking plans. New restrictions aim to stop oversized vehicles from spreading across footpaths at Wānaka Marina, while existing campervan controls along Ardmore Street will be formalised.

Meanwhile, with visitors to Mt Iron expected to increase, new controls will be introduced around Hidden Hills Drive and Highfield Ridge to prevent grass verges and cul-de-sacs from becoming unofficial parking lots.

Changes will only be enforced once new signage is in place and following a period of public education. You can find aerial maps at this handy shortlink to the relevant agenda item:

 tinyurl.com/2v2dyc92

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUESTS: A QUIET SUCCESS STORY

Behind the scenes at QLDC, the Official Information team has been having a remarkably busy year—and quietly delivering some impressive results.

Between July 2025 and the end of May this year, Council processed 331 requests under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). The good news? We responded to an impressive 98.5% within the statutory 20-working-day timeframe, with an average completion time of just 12.7 days.

And things are definitely getting busier. The number of requests to date is already ahead of the total number in 2025 of 284 requests, which was 90 more than we received in 2024.

Of the recent requests, 98 were publicly released in full with a further 158 released in part. This reflects the team's ongoing work to balance openness with legal obligations around privacy, commercial sensitivity and good public administration.

NEW KAWARAU RIVERSIDE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

After nearly three years of planning, consultation, listening, tweaking and the occasional healthy debate, the Kawarau Riverside Reserve Management Plan (RMP) is ready to make its way from draft to reality.

The journey began in November 2023, with early community engagement in 2024, formal consultation early this year and submission hearings in April. Along the way, residents, stakeholders, recreation groups and Kāi Tahu all helped shape the final document.

So, what's changed? Quite a bit! The RMP now includes a strengthened mana whenua section with additional cultural context – a nod to the area's historic ferry reserve – and a new policy that firmly parks freedom camping elsewhere.

Additional ecological policies encourage both native and carefully selected non-invasive plantings, while recognising and giving

effect to Kāi Tahu values. Pedestrian priority has also been added to planning for the Ivan Young Zoological Reserve which remains an important part of the area.

In short, the new plan is a roadmap for protecting and enhancing these treasured riverside reserves, ensuring they remain welcoming, well-managed and enjoyed by future generations. The RMP will be presented for final approval at the Council meeting on 27 August.

DOG CONTROL POLICY & BYLAW REVIEW

NEARLY TIME TO UNLEASH YOUR FEEDBACK

Mark your calendars for 12 October – that's when we plan to open submissions for our Dog Control Policy and Bylaw formal consultation for one month.

Before we let the dogs have their say (they're very persuasive, but unfortunately they can't fill out a submission form!), we need to make sure our rules continue to work for everyone – including dogs, their owners, and the wider community.

Last year, we began reviewing our current policy and bylaw to ensure they continue to support responsible dog ownership, protect public safety, and reflect the unique needs of our district.

WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US ALREADY

Last year, we asked the community what is working well and what could be improved. This included focus groups in Queenstown and Wānaka, as well as an online survey that received **844 responses**.

Overall, the feedback showed that many people feel the current rules are working well. There was strong support for existing leash requirements and for controls to be put in place to protect our most sensitive environments.

You also told us about areas that could be improved, including the importance of dogs being under effective control when off leash, safety on busy shared trails, dog waste concerns, and the need for rules to be clear and easy to follow.

Sniff out the details at

 letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/dog-control-bylaw



Get me via email

This newsletter is mailed to our local residents and out-of-town, NZ-based ratepayers six times a year. If this means you, and you still want to receive a hard copy, then sweet as – you don't need to do anything.

But if you'd like to join the thousands of people who prefer to receive a digital copy via email then it's easy to switch. Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with the word "newsletter" as the subject and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list.

We'll send you a website link six times a year to view/download all future issues instead (and won't spam you with anything else!). You'll be helping us reduce the number of copies we print and distribute.

And remember, every issue is also on our website

 qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai

AT A GLANCE:

Dog ownership nationally is guided by the **Dog Control Act 1996** under which every council must have a Dog Control Policy and a Dog Control Bylaw to support how that policy is implemented.

QLDC's **Dog Control Policy 2020** sets out how dogs are managed across the district.

QLDC's **Dog Control Bylaw 2020** puts local rules into action.



Funding recipients confirmed

Grants were awarded in July for a wide range of local initiatives, events and community driven projects through four annual Council funds.

We're proud to support our amazing local groups and inspired projects that contribute to the wellbeing of our communities and the places we care about.

COMMUNITY

FUND

\$208,000 to support 30 not-for-profits, charities and community groups working to enhance local wellbeing:

Central Lakes Family Services
Central Otago Budgeting Services Inc.
Hanleys Farm Community Garden Association Incorporated
Headlight Trust
Ikatan Masyarakat Indonesia di Queenstown (IMIQ)
KiwiHarvest
KnowYourStuffNZ Charitable Trust
Māori Women's Welfare League – Whakatipu-Wai-Māori
Mental Hunts Charitable Trust
Mint Charitable Trust
Ngā Uri Whakatipu Charitable Trust
Otago Multiple Sclerosis Society
Parent to Parent NZ Incorporated
Pivotal Point Charitable Trust
Predator Free Wānaka
QT Community Cats
Queenstown Association of Migrants Pinoys Incorporated
Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust
Red Frogs NZ
Rotary Club of Mount Aspiring Incorporated
Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust
Tāhuna Glenorchy Dark Skies Group
Te Kura Whakatipu o Kawarau Friends of School Association
The Weekday Challenge
Tucker Beach Wildlife Trust
Upper Clutha Senior Citizens Inc.
Victim Support New Zealand Inc. Manaaki Tāngata Aotearoa Manatōpū
Wakatipu Toy Library Incorporated
Whakatipu Community Hub Charitable Trust
Women's Shed Aotearoa

More info qldc.govt.nz/community-fund

EVENTS

FUND

\$250,000 was awarded to support waste reduction at sports, arts, cultural and community events:

Wānaka A&P Show
Challenge Wānaka
Ironman Queenstown Marathon
Arrowtown Autumn Festival
Motatapu
Lake Hayes A&P Show
ProjectA – Street & Digital Art Festival
New Zealand Open
Miharo Central Lakes Polyfest
Wānaka Festival of Colour
Global Games
RIPE - Wānaka Wine & Food Festival
The Valley
Queenstown Multicultural Festival
NZ Mountain Film Festival

More info

qldc.govt.nz/events-fund

HERITAGE

INCENTIVE GRANT

\$3,000 to support owners of heritage listed assets (natural and built) in the district:

Preservation of a Category 2 listed heritage building on a private residential site in Wānaka

More info

qldc.govt.nz/ach-funds

WASTE MINIMISATION

COMMUNITY FUND

\$60,000 to support passionate locals taking action to reduce waste and promote the sustainable use of resources:

Arrowtown Promotion & Business Association (APBA) - Arrowtown Community & Visitor Waste Reduction Initiative
APBA - Arrowtown Restaurant Waste Reduction Initiative
Cook Brothers Construction - Building Smarter, Wasting Less
IRONMAN New Zealand - DishRupt Queenstown Marathon
KiwiHarvest – KiwiHomeHarvest
KiwiHarvest - Souperhero Household Food Waste Education Programme
Protect Our Winters NZ - Winter Gear Repair Night
Restaurant Association of New Zealand - Kai Keepers: Food Waste Reduction & Diversion Toolkit
Wānaka Community Workshop - Women and Wood Workshop
Without Waste - Pilot Project for Integrated Construction Waste Engagement & Diversion

More info

qldc.govt.nz/wmcf

LUGGATE AND GLENORCHY – YOUR BIN DAY HAS CHANGED!

To help keep kerbside rubbish and recycling collections running smoothly as more homes are added to the network, collection days are changing for some residents in Luggate and Glenorchy.

PROPERTIES WEST OF MOKE LAKE ROAD HAVE MOVED FROM FRIDAY TO WEDNESDAY COLLECTIONS.

Check the online map to confirm your collection day at qldc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling-collection

Glenorchy

Lake Whakatipu

Queenstown

PROPERTIES IN AND AROUND LUGGATE HAVE MOVED FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY COLLECTIONS.

Albert Town

Check the online map to confirm your collection day at qldc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling-collection

Luggate

Remember to have your bins out the night before or on the morning of your collection day before 7.00am. Then please roll your bin back into your property after collection.

RUBBISH AT REMEMBERING?

Sign up for free text or email collection reminders at reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz.



HOLIDAY HOME MANAGEMENT *Sorted.*

We offer all-round service from marketing, guest interaction, cleaning to property maintenance, giving our clients a complete handsfree, stress free experience. Contact us for a free assessment of your property's rental potential.

Ask us about our latest referral program.

 **LUXE STAY**
Queenstown • New Zealand

+64 21 126 3900 | hello@luxestay.co.nz | www.luxestay.co.nz

Mayoral citations for snow sports heroes

Two of New Zealand's greatest snow sports athletes – para alpine ski racer Adam Hall and snowboarder Zoi Sadowski-Synnott – have received Mayoral Citations in recognition of their achievements and as inspirational figures in our community.

Adam and Zoi are both based in Wānaka and had hugely successful northern hemisphere seasons, winning silver medals at the 2026 Winter Paralympic and Olympic Games respectively. They joined other returning local athletes at a special community celebration in early August hosted by Wānaka Snow Sports Club with support from Cardrona–Treble Cone, Snow Sports NZ and QLDC (see page 13).

Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith presented the citations at the event on behalf of the people of the Queenstown Lakes District.

You can read the citations in full on our website:
qldc.govt.nz/news

ADAM HALL



ZOI SADOWSKI-SYNNOTT



Image credits -
Snow Sports NZ

summit 2026 wao



Wao Summit is a five-day festival of how we can better understand change, navigate complexity and shape a thriving future.

Bringing together world-leading thinkers, local innovators and passionate communities across Queenstown and Wānaka, the Summit combines inspiring keynote speakers, immersive field experiences, practical workshops and powerful conversations that turn big ideas into real-world action.

Each themed day explores a different piece of the resilience puzzle, from the wisdom of nature and regenerative business to better buildings and resilient food systems. Together, they reveal that the future isn't something we predict. It's something we create.

Learning from Te Taiao, Better Business, Better Building, Food Resilience.

EARLY BIRD TICKETS
ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL
13 SEPTEMBER.



Throttle-powered
300W+



**NICE BIKE.
WRONG PLACE.**

E-motorbikes are not permitted on public roads, trails and reserves.

You could be fined up to \$400.

Parents and guardians may also be liable. Call the Police on *555 to report illegal use.

Scan the code or visit
📱 qldc.govt.nz/emotorbike

FOR MORE INFO:



qldc.govt.nz/emotorbike

**bike
wānaka**



qmtbc
QUEENSTOWN MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB NZ

**Queenstown
Trails**

**NEW ZEALAND
POLICE**
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

**QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Tackling rabbits

We've kicked off our winter rabbit control programme on council reserves across the district.

Success relies on neighbouring landowners working together, and QLDC continues to collaborate with residents, community groups and other organisations.

Winter is the most effective time as rabbits' breeding cycle slows. Regular poisoning operations alongside night shooting and fumigation of burrows are all important tools at this time of year.

Well-maintained rabbit-proof fencing also plays a key role in preventing them moving into reserves and damaging community spaces. You can help by ensuring gates are properly closed behind you.

For up-to-date information on pest control operations and alternative trails to walk your dog:



@QLDCinfo



qldc.govt.nz/pest-control

Clean Up Week



Join Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean Up Week from 18–25 September by grabbing your friends, whānau, school, workplace or community group and picking up litter in your neighbourhood. Borrow a free litter kit from Council libraries in Queenstown, Frankton or Wānaka and register your clean-up with Keep New Zealand Beautiful. For more info visit 📍 knzb.org.nz/programmes/clean-new-zealand-beautiful

A more accessible and inclusive district

Can you easily access information, use public spaces, attend events, or have your say on local issues? QLDC wants to hear about your experiences through our new Accessibility and Inclusion Survey.

We're seeking feedback from disabled and neurodivergent people, people with access needs, older residents, parents with young children, carers, whānau, visitors, and anyone who has experienced barriers to participating in community life.

Tell us what's working well, where barriers exist, and what changes would make the biggest difference.

Your feedback will help inform future priorities, refresh QLDC's Disability Policy, and support practical improvements across Council services, facilities, information, and engagement.

Have your say by completing the survey at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz



Survey open until 20 September.



Takes 10–20 minutes.



You can also give feedback in other ways, including by phone or in accessible formats.

Scan to take part.



Regulatory's busy year

Whether it's a roaming dog, a blocked driveway or a noise complaint, QLDC's Regulatory team is working behind the scenes to help keep our district safe and running smoothly.

In the last financial year, we responded to more than 8,300 requests for service – around 23 every day.

Parking issues made up the largest share, followed by animal control, noise complaints and monitoring activities. Nearly a third of requests came through the Snap Send Solve app (see below).

Not every situation requires the same response. The team works hard to find the right balance between education, support and enforcement, based on the nature and severity of each issue.

While enforcement is important when stronger action is needed, education comes first. From school visits and responsible dog ownership campaigns to free community events, the team focuses on helping people understand their responsibilities and preventing problems before they happen. Applying a consistent and proportionate response helps maintain fairness, accountability and community trust in the regulatory function.

The Snap Send Solve app is a great way to report non-urgent issues like potholes, damaged trees and litter. It's simple and free to use.

For more info visit qldc.govt.nz/fix-it



Download to Snap!

Find it on 



Bird Flu – how our region is preparing

Otago Regional Council (ORC) is preparing for bird flu arriving in Otago, working alongside national agencies, QLDC and other district councils in the region.

KEY FACTS:

Bird flu, also known as avian influenza, is a highly contagious viral disease. It mostly affects domestic and wild birds.

As of 15 July, one case of bird flu had been detected in New Zealand. ORC is monitoring the situation and following the lead of Biosecurity New Zealand.

The risk to human health is considered low. In countries where the current H5N1 strain of bird flu is present, human infection has generally only occurred in people who have had a lot of contact with infected birds or other infected animals.

ORC will keep communities informed as the situation develops.

What should I do if I find sick or dead birds?

Do not touch them. Keep children and pets away. Call MPI's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

What information should I give MPI? Location, date and time, number of birds, species if known, and photos taken from a safe distance (without touching the birds).

Should I move or dispose of the birds myself?

No — do not touch, move or dispose of sick or dead birds unless MPI or another authorised agency has given specific advice.

What if there's only one dead bird? Don't touch it and keep children and pets away. MPI reporting is especially important for three or more sick or dead birds in one place.

Are Otago's regional parks and reserves still safe to visit? Yes. They remain open unless signs or updates say otherwise. Keep your distance from sick or dead birds, keep dogs on leads near birdlife, and follow any signage or instructions.

What will ORC do if bird flu is detected in Otago?

ORC's Otago H5N1 Coordination Group brings together ORC, the five Otago district councils, DOC, Fish & Game, mana whenua/rūnaka, MPI, Health NZ and LINZ to coordinate any regional response. This may include local updates, signage, managing access on ORC land, and sharing information across agencies — but on-the-ground response for most areas sits with the relevant district council or landowner.

Is chicken or eggs safe to eat? Yes. Properly cooked poultry and eggs are safe. Refer food safety questions to Health New Zealand.

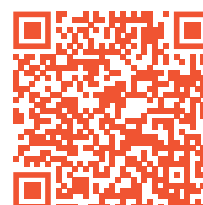
What if someone feels unwell after touching a sick or dead bird? Advise them to contact Healthline on 0800 611 116 or their health provider.

Where can people get more information?

Ministry of Primary Industries
(national reporting and advice):

ORC
(regional updates):

DOC
(native species and marine mammals):



Register with Let's Talk
and receive our monthly
consultation newsletter!



Let's Talk – we'd love to hear from you

Our Let's Talk website makes it easy to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the projects and plans that matter to you and your community. There's lots of important stuff coming up this year, so head along to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz and keep an eye on what's out for feedback or consultation. And if you register with the site, we'll send a monthly update straight to your inbox so you'll never miss a chance to have your say. We also provide a snapshot right here, on the back page of every edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW 2025

Status: Submissions close 31 August.
Go to page 9 for details.

SUNSHINE BAY RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Status: Feedback closes
31 August. See page 8.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION SURVEY

Status: Feedback closes 20 September.
Go to page 22 for details.

UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:

FUTURE OF OUR WHAKATIPU LAKEFRONT RESERVES

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/
frankton-arm-and-sunshine-
bay-reserve-management-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/frankton-arm-and-sunshine-bay-reserve-management-plan)

CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATION

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/cab

MANAGING POP-UP STALLS IN THE FUTURE

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/
managing-pop-up-stalls](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/managing-pop-up-stalls)

SPEED LIMIT CHANGES

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/
safer-speeds-2026](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/safer-speeds-2026)

WHAT'S COMING UP:

DOG CONTROL BYLAW

Formal consultation expected later
in 2026. See page 17.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN WĀNAKA STRUCTURE PLAN

Early stakeholder engagement underway.

COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MANAGEMENT PLANS

Engagement expected to start
later in 2026.

FIND FULL DETAILS OF ALL THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

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QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand
Alpine Health & Fitness
Indoor Courts
Sports fields
Phone: 03 450 9005

WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
Indoor Courts
Phone: 03 443 9334

PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts
Studio
Phone: 03 450 1721

VENUES

For more information on
our venues please head to
qldc.govt.nz/venues

LIBRARIES

For library opening hours
and locations please head to
qldclibraries.govt.nz

TRANSFER STATIONS

Whakatipu: 110 Glenda Drive
Frankton Industrial Area
Phone: 03 348 5126

Upper Clutha: Cnr of Ballantyne
& Riverbank Roads
Phone: 03 348 6125

HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of
waterway rules by phone
03 441 0499 or email
services@qldc.govt.nz
In an emergency on the water
always **call 111**

Let's Talk Kōrero Mai is published bi-monthly
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EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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