



22 December 2020

Via email: [planning@otago.ac.nz](mailto:planning@otago.ac.nz)

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **VISION 2040: A DISCUSSION PAPER**

Thank you for the opportunity to present our feedback on the University of Otago's Vision 2040 discussion paper. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) looks forward to the development of the Vision and considers this strategy to be an exciting opportunity for the University, a key Otago institution to continue to develop strong bonds throughout the whole of the Otago region as well as further afield, nationally and internationally.

The Queenstown Lakes community's Vision Beyond 2050 document echoes many of the values of the University of Otago. QLDC recognises the importance and relevance of the proposed guiding principles of the University's Vision of Honouring the Treaty Partnership, Sustainability, Social Responsibility and Academic Freedom. As a local territorial authority, QLDC can see immense worth in the practical steps that can be taken to give effect to these principles and the benefits that these can have to the Queenstown Lakes District as well as the wider University community.

QLDC also recognises the great number of opportunities the district can offer the University for research on diverse issues such as growth, climate and carbon action, tourism, as well as many other areas of study. The unique landscape and heterogeneous community is accessible for researching a range of key issues on the University of Otago's doorstep.

As a University for Otago, QLDC would like to see a continued commitment by the University of Otago to provide for the skill needs of industries in the region. There is a continuing shortage of teachers, nurses, specialist doctors, engineers, project managers, quantity surveyors, and many other roles in professional industries in the region. A focus on and partnership with local, professional industries meeting the basic needs of the region first, could then lead to economic diversification, adaptability and resilience. At present the potential for internships, mentoring and research in the Queenstown Lakes region is uncoordinated, and formalising this would not only create opportunities for students, graduates and researchers but would connect with the network of residents in the district with international experience.

QLDC would like to see the University strategy document actively seeking to engage with University of Otago alumni for the benefit of the University and the region. QLDC is currently starting a project to attract 'team builders' to the district, including expats. KEA (Kiwi Expats Abroad) research indicates that expats are 3x more likely to return to New Zealand than previous survey results. Many of those who intend returning to Otago will be alumni and they offer a unique and particularly valuable resource which could be engaged bringing fresh insights and ideas to the wider Otago community.

One step that Council would like to recognise and celebrate is the development of the academic retreat, Hākitekura at Woolshed Bay. This development highlights the commitment of the community to the University and the University to the Queenstown Lakes community. The District and University's combined national and international reputations can be leveraged to attract world leading academics and business leaders to showcase the region and its ever increasing potential.

Please note that this submission reflects the position of officers and has not been ratified by Council.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meaghan Miller', with a small dot at the end of the signature.

Meaghan Miller  
**Acting Chief Executive**