

Minutes

Confirmation of minutes:

3 March 2026
(Public part of the meeting)

Minutes of the first ordinary meeting of the Smart Growth Committee held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 beginning at 10.00am held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown.

Membership

Councillor Cody Tucker (Chair), Councillor Jon Mitchell (online), Councillor Quentin Smith, and Councillor Melissa White

Attendees

Councillor Samuel Q Belk, Dave Wallace (General Manager, Planning & Development), Pennie Pearce (General Manager, Strategy & Policy), Jon Winterbottom (Democracy Services Manager), Alyson Hutton (Manager Planning Policy), Anita Vanstone (Strategic Growth Manager), Catriona Lamont (Spatial Plan Project Manager), Cameron Wood (Senior Strategic Planner – Future Development) (online), Liz Simpson (Senior Strategic Planner – Future Development), Fiona Blight (Manager Resource Consents), Alice Milne (Senior Legal Counsel), Rae-Anne Kurucz (Principal Planner – Resource Consents), Brendan Peet (Legal Counsel) (online), Mary Davenport (Associate Counsel) (online) and Ruby Mills (Democracy Services Advisor).

Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Heath Copland. Councillor Mitchell was noted as a late apology.

It was moved (Councillor White, Councillor Smith):

That the Smart Growth Committee resolve that the apologies be accepted.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

Public Forum

There were no speakers at public forum.

Matters Lying on the Table

There were no matters lying on the table.

Confirmation of Agenda

It was moved (Chair Tucker, Councillor Smith):

That the Smart Growth Committee resolve that the agenda be confirmed without alteration.

Motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Grow Well Whaiora Spatial Plan Monitoring Report**

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the November 2025 Grow Well Whaiora Spatial Plan Monitoring Report.

Catriona Lamont (Spatial Plan Project Manager), Pennie Pearce (General Manager, Strategy & Policy) and Anita Vanstone (Strategic Growth Manager) presented the report.

Councillors queried the levels of engagement from government partner agencies and the governance at a ministerial level. It was acknowledged that since the change in government, ministers' involvement has reduced, however updates are still provided to them from the government group members of the Grow Well Whaiora Partnership Steering Group and updates from pertinent government groups are provided to QLDC through this forum.

It was moved (Chair Tucker, Councillor Smith):

That the Smart Growth Committee resolve to:

1. **Note** the contents of the report.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor Mitchell joined the meeting at 10.09am.

2. **Wānaka and Te Kirikiri Frankton Structure Plan Project**

The purpose of this report was to update the Smart Growth Committee on the background and work programme for the Wānaka and Te Kirikiri/ Frankton Structure Plans.

Liz Simpson (Senior Strategic Planner – Future Development), Cameron Wood (Senior Strategic Planner – Future Development), Anita Vanstone (Strategic Growth Manager) and Pennie Pearce (General Manager, Strategy & Policy) presented the report.

Ms Simpson and Mr Wood provided an overview and update on the two structure plan projects. It was noted that upcoming workshops will cover the next stages of this work.

Questions from councillors related to: Methodology for identifying focus areas and defining project development area boundaries; Integration of transport planning; Project timeframes; Iwi engagement; Involvement of other government agencies in stakeholder engagement, and; Legislative alignment, particularly how the work will sit within upcoming RMA reforms.

It was moved (Chair Tucker/ Councillor White):

That the Smart Growth Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of the report.

Motion was carried unanimously.

3. **Update on Progress on the Proposed District Plan and Other Key Projects**

The purpose of this report was to update the Smart Growth on key projects being progressed by the Planning Policy Team.

Alyson Hutton (Manager Policy Planning) presented the report and spoke to Attachment A: Update on Planning Policy Projects.

Councillors sought some clarification regarding Natural Hazards and how these are assessed.

It was moved (Councillor White, Councillor Mitchell):

That the Smart Growth Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Note** the updates on timing and progress on projects undertaken by the Planning Policy team.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

It was moved (Chair Tucker, Councillor White):

That the Smart Growth Committee resolve that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject to be considered:	Reason for passing this resolution:	Grounds under Section 7:
Item 4: Update of Proposed District Plan Appeals	<p>(g) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of information is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain legal professional privilege <p><i>Reason for recommendation</i> To allow discussion on appeals, process, mediation outcomes and Court outcomes which may prejudice the Council if the information was in the public forum.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that there is strong public interest in such planning matters and corresponding appeals processes, the importance of withholding information that enables Council to achieve the best possible outcome for Council, it's communities and interested parties, outweighs the release of such information.</p>	Section 7(2)(g)

<p>Item 5: Update of Active Resource Consent Appeals</p>	<p>That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of information is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) <p><i>Reason for recommendation</i> To enable Council to discuss in private its strategy (legal and planning) for resolving resource consent appeals to various Courts, and for receiving updates on appeal resolution throughout the process.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that there is strong public interest in such planning matters and corresponding appeals processes, the importance of withholding information that enables Council to achieve the best possible outcome for Council, it's communities and interested parties, outweighs the release of such information.</p>	<p>Section 7(2)(i)</p>
--	--	------------------------

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 or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting went into public excluded at 10.57am.

The meeting came out of public excluded and concluded at 11.42am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

CHAIR

DATE