

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 31 March 2026 in
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road Queenstown, commencing at 10.00am

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

Present:	Mayor John Glover (Chair)	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk
	Councillor Stephen Brent	Councillor Niki Gladding
	Councillor Jon Mitchell	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Cody Tucker (online)	Councillor Melissa White
	Councillor Nicola King (online)	Councillor Quentin Smith (online)
Apologies:	Councillor Gavin Bartlett (on leave)	Councillor Heath Copland
In attendance:	Michelle Morss	Maseina Koneferenisi
	Katherine Harbrow	Dave Wallace (online)
	Mike Wakefield (Simpson Grierson) (online)	Pennie Pearce
	Meaghan Miller	Tony Avery
	Jane Robertson	
Media	None	
Public	None	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSSCO) Constitution</u></p> <p>The purpose of this item was to discuss key elements associated with the company constitution of QLDC's WSSCO and to obtain Councillor input to inform future direction and decisions.</p> <p>Maseina Koneferenisi (Programme Director, WSSCO), Mike Wakefield (Solicitor, Simpson Grierson) presented the item and answered questions.</p> <p>Introductory comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timelines have shifted slightly (by 3-5 months) due to the local government election, but the programme has been compressed to enable establishment of the CCO by 30 June 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors requested further advice on safeguards and possible limits to long-term contracts and on matters of significance generally.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) will continue quarterly monitoring, particularly around capital expenditure, pricing strategy and borrowing. First quarterly operational monitoring report is due to DIA by end of April 2026. This will include a revised implementation plan reflecting what was laid out in the Water Services Delivery Plan. <p>The following aspects of the constitution were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong support for Council approval being required before the CCO explores any expansion or amalgamation with other councils but shared services or procurement arrangements are operational matters. • Directors’ conflicts of interest: Need to have a conditional approach allowing a director to vote unless a clear conflict exists. • Strong conflict-of-interest policies, interest registers, disclosure and reporting to Council are needed. • 75% quorum for Board meetings (with the Board containing five members). • No provision for a casting vote for the Chair. • Board meeting frequency: At the board’s discretion, but a minimum of quarterly meetings to be held. • Additional reporting requirements are best managed through the Statement of Expectations rather than embedding them in the constitution. • Council needs to have the ability to request audits or independent reviews of the Water Services Strategy (WSS). Council must also be able to request amendments to the WSS and budget, but final adoption to remain with WSCCO Board. <p>Concluding comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised about long-term contracts (of up to 50 years). • There is another workshop on the WSCCO constitution scheduled for 9 April 2026. <p><i>Attachment A: Establishment of a QLDC 3Waters CCO PowerPoint</i> <i>Attachment B: Programme Landmarks</i> <i>Attachment C: Key decisions for Company Constitution</i> <i>Attachment D: Water Services Strategy Review – Analysis & advice synopsis by Simpson Grierson (Public Excluded)</i></p>	

The workshop concluded at 11.40am.