

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 28 April 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 Gavin Bartlett
	Councillor Heath Copland (online)	Councillor Nicola King
	Councillor Niki Gladding	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Quentin Smith	Councillor Cody Tucker
	Councillor Melissa White	Councillor Matt Wong
	WUCCB member John Wellington (online, for item 1)	
Apologies:	None	
In attendance:	Michelle Morss	Katherine Harbrow
	Meaghan Miller	Pennie Pearce
	Dave Wallace (online)	Hannah Dennison
	Caitlin Pemberton	Luke Place
	Kelcey Clifton	Carrie Edgerton
	Leona Price	Mike Wakefield (online)
	Carrie Williams	Jack Apperley (online)
	Alice Milne	Gareth Noble
	Matt Judd	Naell Crosby-Roe
	Jane Robertson	
Media	None	
Public	None	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Review of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop was to provide elected members with an overview of the review currently underway of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw, both of which must be replaced by June 2027. Feedback was sought on the Council's appetite for change across identified topics in order to refine the development of formal options as part of a draft bylaw and policy for public consultation later in 2026.</p>	<p>Officers to undertake further analysis of shortlisted options and other proposed changes, seek legal clarity where needed, and return with draft proposals</p>

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	<p>Katherine Harbrow (General Manager, Finance Risk & Assurance), Carrie Williams (Policy Manager), Carrie Edgerton (Manager Regulatory Support, Animal Control and Parking) and Caitlin Pemberton (Policy Advisor) spoke to the presentation and responded to questions.</p> <p>The following main points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district’s dog control framework was relatively permissive compared with other councils and generally working well, with high levels of compliance alongside a moderate growth in dog numbers, and issues largely confined to roaming, barking and appropriate disposal of dog waste. • Community feedback from early engagement revealed that most respondents supported the current rules, particularly leash requirements and protections for sensitive wildlife areas, although non-dog owners expressed greater concerns and showed lower support for off-leash areas. • Priority topics for further consideration are potential on-leash rules in specific locations (e.g. sports fields during games), dogs on busy shared-use trails, and protection of ecologically sensitive or biodiversity-focused reserves. • Members generally supported a place-based, targeted approach over district-wide restrictions, favouring limited, clearly justified changes that would be simple, enforceable, and evidence-based rather than adding complexity. <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Review of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw PowerPoint</i></p>	<p>for consultation later in 2026.</p>
2.	<p><u>Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) Statement of Expectations (SoE)</u></p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the approach to the development of the SoE and to obtain Council’s input to inform the production of the final document. The focus was on understanding mandatory requirements, identifying key policy choices and agreeing a staged, iterative process.</p> <p>Maseina Koneferenisi (Establishment Programme Director), Mike Wakefield (Legal Counsel, Simpson Grierson), Jack Apperley (Solicitor, Simpson Grierson) presented the item.</p>	<p>Confirm statutory requirements Define what is mandatory vs. discretionary in SoE.</p> <p>Check strategic alignment Identify any current Council strategies that need to inform the SoE and how they will be referenced.</p>

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	<p>The following main points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was strong agreement that expectations should be phased, covering establishment, transition and long-term outcomes. Initial years should prioritise stability and maintaining existing levels of service, with higher performance and improvement expectations set over a longer (up to 10-year) period. • There was extensive discussion on the balance between Council influence and CCO independence, particularly during the transition period. There was clear interest in mechanisms for collaboration, transparency, escalation of key risks and maintaining oversight without undermining statutory independence. • The SoE should align with (but not duplicate) existing Council strategies (e.g. infrastructure strategy, growth planning, spatial planning). There must be close coordination between the CCO and Council on land-use planning, growth sequencing and infrastructure investment. • Members expressed concern about affordability, debt levels, and the Council's potential exposure as the ultimate guarantor. Financial independence limits what can be prescribed, but there was general agreement that affordability, transparency, and prudent financial management should be explicit expectations, supported by clear reporting requirements. • There was general agreement the SoE should not set expectations of the entity to deliver services or achieve greater outcomes than what Council are currently delivering. It is accepted that the entity needs time to fully embed and mature over to form a high performing organisation. • Desired outcomes of the WSCCO delivering the Council's water services included compliance, service continuity, accountability, transparency, efficiency, environmental protection and improved community confidence in the organisation. The SoE should set clear reporting expectations (including transition progress, risks, affordability and performance), with recognition that measures must be realistic and achievable. <p>Attachments:</p> <p><i>Attachment A: Water Services CCO SOE and Constitution PowerPoint</i> <i>Attachment B: Briefing Materials</i></p>	<p>Progress transitional governance Develop proposed arrangements for Council-CCO engagement, oversight, and escalation during establishment and early years of operation.</p> <p>Targeted legal and financial advice Clarify Council exposure to debt, affordability expectations, and what can legally sit in the SoE.</p> <p>Propose reporting expectations Draft options for 6-monthly and annual reporting, including compliance, transition progress, risks and affordability.</p>

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	<p>Attachment C: Local Government Water Services Act (LGWSA) SoE Provisions</p> <p>Attachment D: Content of SoE (Draft from Simpson Grierson)</p> <p>Attachment E: S.246, Schedule 4 (LGWSA) Water Services Annual Report Content</p> <p>Attachment F: SoE Operational Checklist</p>	

The workshop concluded at 1.04pm.