

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

16 December 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Department: Planning & Development

Title | Taitara : Temporary Road Closure Application - Motatapu 2026 (TC250010)

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider an application for a temporary road closure for the Motatapu sporting event to be held on Saturday 7 March 2026 with set up closures in place on multiple roads, as described in this report, from Friday 6 March 2026.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** the temporary road closure application for the Motatapu 2026 event subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Any issues or concerns which may arise from the public notification published in the Queenstown Mountain Scene and Wānaka Sun on the 29 January 2026 are addressed to the satisfaction of Queenstown Lakes District (QLDC).
 - b. Approval of the final Traffic Management Plan by QLDC Planning and Development prior to the event taking place.
 - c. Radio advertising to occur two days prior to and on the morning of the event.
 - d. The event organisers arranging suitable disposal methods for recycling and rubbish/refuse.
 - e. The event organisers ensure access is available for emergency services and maintenance contractors if required.
 - f. The applicant must notify all affected commercial and tourism operators, as well as Department of Conservation concessionaries, who typically use Macetown and/or the Arrow River marginal strip. This includes Macetown Road, Tobin's Track and Motatapu Road. This notification should be made within ten days from the approval of this application and ensure operators are fully informed of the planned closures and any potential impacts on their operations.

- g. Signs notifying of the road closure dates and times must be installed at entry points to the road closures as advanced warning to track/road users at least ten days prior to the event.
- h. The applicant must notify all other affected parties of the extent of the temporary road closure; this notification is to be undertaken at least ten working days prior to the closure occurring. A copy of this notice is to be supplied to Queenstown Lakes District Council (kim.anderson@qldc.govt.nz).
- i. The applicant must advise of the road closures and the alternative transport options through their own social media and contact QLDC Communications (communications@qldc.govt.nz) to arrange the closures to be further shared through QLDC social media.
- j. All reasonable concerns raised by the affected parties shall be addressed by the applicants to the satisfaction of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board. In addressing such concerns, the applicants shall nominate a responsible person to liaise with Council via kim.anderson@qldc.govt.nz.
- k. The applicant is to ensure that all residents have full access at all times to their homes via Traffic Controllers stationed at each road closure point.

3. **Authorise** the following schedule of road closures:

<u>WANAKA BASED ROAD TO BE CLOSED</u>
Motatapu Road (from intersection of Mt Aspiring Road, Glendhu Bay)
Period of Closure Saturday 7 March 2026 – 0500hrs – 1130hrs

The following information is provided for noting by the Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board.

<u>QUEENSTOWN BASED ROADS TO BE CLOSED</u>
Nairn Street (from the intersection of Bedford St, Arrowtown) *
Period of Closures Friday 6 March 2026 – 1400hrs – 1930hrs Saturday 7 March 2026 – 0630hrs – 1930hrs
Ford Street (from the intersection of Nairn & Criterion St, Arrowtown) *
Period of Closures Friday 6 March 2026 – 1400hrs – 1930hrs Saturday 7 March 2026 - 0630hrs – 1930hrs

Macetown Road, Arrowtown
Period of Closures Saturday 7 March 2026 – 0715hrs – 2000hrs
Tobin’s Track, Arrowtown
Period of Closure Saturday 7 March 2026 – 0730hrs – 1500hrs
Glencoe Road, Crown Terrace (starting 1.3km from Crown Terrace Turnoff)
Period of Closure Saturday 7 March 2026 – 0730hrs – 1200hrs

***RESIDENTS ACCESS PERMITTED. NO ON STREET PARKING**

Prepared by:



Name: Kim Anderson

Title: LTO & TRC
 Administrator
 20 October 2025

Reviewed by:



Name: Hayden Bed

Title: Manager, Development
 Engineering
 13 November 2025

Approved by:



Name: Dave Wallace

Title: General Manager,
 Planning and Development
 24 November 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. The annual Motatapu off-road sporting event is being held in early March 2026 in Arrowtown and Wānaka, traversing Motatapu, Soho and Glencoe Stations.
2. The event has been successfully running for the past 21 years and includes several different off-road races, attracting participants internationally and New Zealand wide.
3. The popular sporting event will take place on Saturday 7 March 2026 with the Mountain Bike, Ultra Run and Off Road Marathon events, all starting at Glendhu Bay and ending in Arrowtown at Wilcox Green. The final event the Miners Trail, is a mountain loop race that starts and ends in Wilcox Green in Arrowtown.
4. The applicant also proposes an additional closure for Friday 6 March from 2pm to 7.30pm for the purpose of allowing race registration at Wilcox Green, Arrowtown.
5. The Council can close roads to vehicular traffic for events by using provisions of the Local Government Act 1974. The Chief Executive & Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board share delegation to consider applications to temporarily close roads under this legislation.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritanga me kā Tohutohu

6. In 2026 it is anticipated that approximately 3,500 athletes will be participating across all five events.
7. There will be pre-and post- event transport options offered to participants including a free shuttle from Wānaka to the starting point of the event at Glendhu Bay, Wānaka.
8. Parking at Glendhu Bay start line is available via Glendhu Bay Station and will be managed by Southern Safety Services with support from event volunteers.
9. Parking in Arrowtown is located in multiple locations as per supplied map (attachment D) and will be managed by a local group as a fundraiser.
10. For Macetown Road there will be crew/volunteers advising campers in the Macetown area that vehicle departures need to be done prior to road closure.
11. Department of Conservation Macetown Concessioners will be notified via email (list provided by DOC) of the temporary closure and local residents will also be notified by a letter drop. An example of the letter drop is included (attachment E)
12. Temporary notification signage will be installed at the entrance to the closures at least ten days prior to the closures being in place.
13. Rubbish and recycling stations will be provided at Wilcox Green in Arrowtown, along the Macetown Road and Lower Buckingham Street, and throughout the carparks and start lines along Motatapu Road.

14. Motatapu will be continuing their support of the Queenstown Trails Trust, the official charity partner with a portion of the entry fee ticketing being donated towards the ongoing maintenance and development of trails within the Wakatipu Basin.
15. A standard requirement of all temporary road closure approval is that a Traffic Management Plan is approved before the roads are closed. This will ensure that all traffic and pedestrian flows are managed with appropriate signage, barriers and wardens. Southern Safety Services Limited have prepared the Traffic Management Plan which has been submitted to the QLDC Road Corridor Engineer for approval.
16. Council officers have been consulted who have provided the following analysis and advice:
 - Monitoring & Enforcement Officer
 - No comments, concerns or objections raised regarding the proposed and no concerns raised from previous year events.
 - Road Corridor Engineer
 - No comments, concerns or objections raised from a roading perspective.
 - Parks and Reserves Planner
 - No comments, concerns or objections raised from a parks perspective as the applicant will have separate reserve permits in place.
 - Roading Operations and Contracts Manager
 - No comments, concerns or objections raised from a roading operations perspective.
17. Road closures for this event have occurred in previous years without incident and at the date of this report no further concerns have been raised. Any issues that may arise from initial public notification on 29 January 2026 will be remedied to Council satisfaction.
18. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
19. **Option 1** To approve the application for temporary road closures associated with the event.

Advantages:

- Supports the continuation of a long-standing and iconic community sporting event that contributes positively to the local economy and tourism.
- Ensures a safe and controlled environment for participants, spectators, and the general public through the implementation of an approved Traffic Management Plan.

- Promotes community engagement and wellbeing through participation in and support of an internationally recognised event.
- Provides fundraising opportunities for local groups assisting with parking and event logistics.
- Continuation of the event's partnership with the Queenstown Trails Trust, contributing to trail maintenance and development across the district.
- Maintains consistency with previous years where road closures have been successfully managed without significant issues or complaints.

Disadvantages:

- Temporary inconvenience to residents, visitors, and businesses due to restricted vehicle access on affected roads during closure periods.
- Potential for minor traffic congestion and delays in Arrowtown and Wānaka during the event.

20. Option 2 To **decline** the application for temporary road closures associated with the event.

Advantages:

- No temporary disruption to road users, residents, or local traffic networks.

Disadvantages:

- Potential loss of a significant annual event that supports tourism, economic activity, and community engagement.
- Potential reputational impact on the district and reduced opportunities for promoting outdoor recreation and community wellbeing.
- Disappointment for participants and stakeholders who have invested time and resources in the event.

21. This report recommends **Option 1** to approve the application for multiple temporary road closures associated with the event to allow the event will be able to proceed in a safe and managed environment.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

22. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it relates to Council's roading network which is identified as a significant asset.

23. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the general public, residents and commercial operators who may use the road.
24. The multiple temporary road closures will be advertised in the Mountain Scene and Wānaka Sun on the 29 January 2026 inviting comment and will be advertised again at least ten days before the closures take place. This is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 1974.
25. Council officers have been consulted, and they concur with the recommended conditions proposed that have applied in previous years for the road closure.
26. We have publicly notified the intent to close the road with Emergency Services, NZ Police, Ritchies Connectabus, InterCity, QLDC Events office, Council contractors and Council staff who would have an interest in the road closures
27. We have followed the statutory administrative requirements of the Local Government Act 1974.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

28. Iwi have not been consulted as part of this application.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

29. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10029 Ineffective compliance management practices within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because failures in meeting mandatory obligations, which could lead to enforcement action, liability, or reputational damage.
30. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10020 Ineffective communication within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because extensive public, resident business and DOC notifications; signage; social media; radio ads are critical to avoid misinformation and keep people safe during closures.
31. This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance risk category. It is associated with RISK10048 Health, safety or wellbeing incident affecting member of the public within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because large public event on roads introduces public H&S risks (spectators, participants, motorists).
32. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10032 Health, safety or wellbeing incident affecting employee within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because volunteers/staff working near live lanes need training and PPE.
33. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10023 Disruption event to facility or service within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed

as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk as the event temporarily restricts access to roading infrastructure, impacting normal service continuity.

34. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10026 Ineffective enforcement within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because managing closures (resident access, no on-street parking) requires consistent enforcement.
35. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10021 Ineffective operations and maintenance of property or infrastructure assets within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a very high residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because poor coordination could block emergency or maintenance access.
36. This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance risk category. It is associated with RISK10031 Ineffective complaints handling within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because historic concerns affected parties require responsive handling.
37. This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk category. It is associated with RISK10011 Insufficient supply chain resource capacity and/or capability to support Council achieve strategic and operational objectives within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because TMP delivery depends on contractor capability.
38. The approval of the recommended option will support the management of the above risks by ensuring that the Council's legislative requirements are fully satisfied and that appropriate conditions are specified to ensure safety of all event stakeholders and minimal impact to the wider community from the temporary road closure.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

39. There are no cost implications resulting from the approval of this temporary road closure application. The applicant has paid the cost of the road closure application and will pay for any advertising that is required as part of the process.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

40. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- **Significance and Engagement Policy 2024** - providing clarity on Council's decision-making processes and assessing the extent to which individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community are affected by the Council's decisions.
 - **Criteria for Closing Significant Road Policy** - none of the roads proposed to be closed for the Motatapu 2026 event are listed as significant road under this policy.

41. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

42. This matter is not included in the Long Term Year Plan/Annual Plan.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

43. Temporary road closures are controlled by Schedule 10 Section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974. As authority for approval of road closures is delegated to the Chief Executive and Wanaka Upper Clutha Community Board considering Section 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002 the advice recommends a decision that is efficient, effective and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

44. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is

- a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

45. The recommended option:

- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.
- Promotes the social and economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community by allowing the Motatapu 2026 Sporting Event can continue in the preferred format.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Cover Letter
B	Road Closure Maps 2026
C	Glendhu Bay Start line Map
D	Arrowtown Parking Maps
E	Affected Persons Letter Example



Queenstown Lakes District Council
engineeringapprovals@qldc.govt.nz

Re: Motatapu Event Temporary Road Closure Application 2026

Please find attached the application for Temporary Road Closures for the 2026 Motatapu event. The 2026 event is set for Saturday 7 March and the following events will be offered;

- 47km Mountain Bike
- 52km Ultra Run
- 42km Trail Marathon
- 15km Miners Trail
- 4km Junior Trail Run

We are expecting approximately 3,500 athletes across the five events on offer.

There are pre and post event transport options offered to participants and the Marathon event includes a free shuttle from Wanaka to the Race Start.

Parking at the Glendhu Bay start line is available at Glendhu Station. This is a large paddock which has never reached capacity. Parking is managed by Southern Safety with support from volunteers. Parking in Arrowtown is located in several locations as per the map supplied. This is managed by a local group as a fundraiser. Both maps of these areas are included with the application.

For Macetown Road we will have crew/volunteer advising campers in the Macetown area that vehicle departure needs to be done prior to the closure.

DoC Macetown concessioners will be notified via email (completed by DoC) of the temporary closure and local residents will also be notified via a letter drop. Example of this notification are included with the application.

Temporary notification signage will be installed at the entrances to the closures at least one week prior to the closures being in place.

Rubbish & recycling bins to be located throughout the event and parking areas.

A temporary traffic management plan will be completed and executed by Southern Safety.

A portion of every entry fee is donated to the Queenstown Trails Trust as our charity of choice for the event, over \$90,000 has been raised for the Trust over the last few years.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gemma Peskett".

Gemma Peskett
Race Director

Motatapu Event Requested Closures

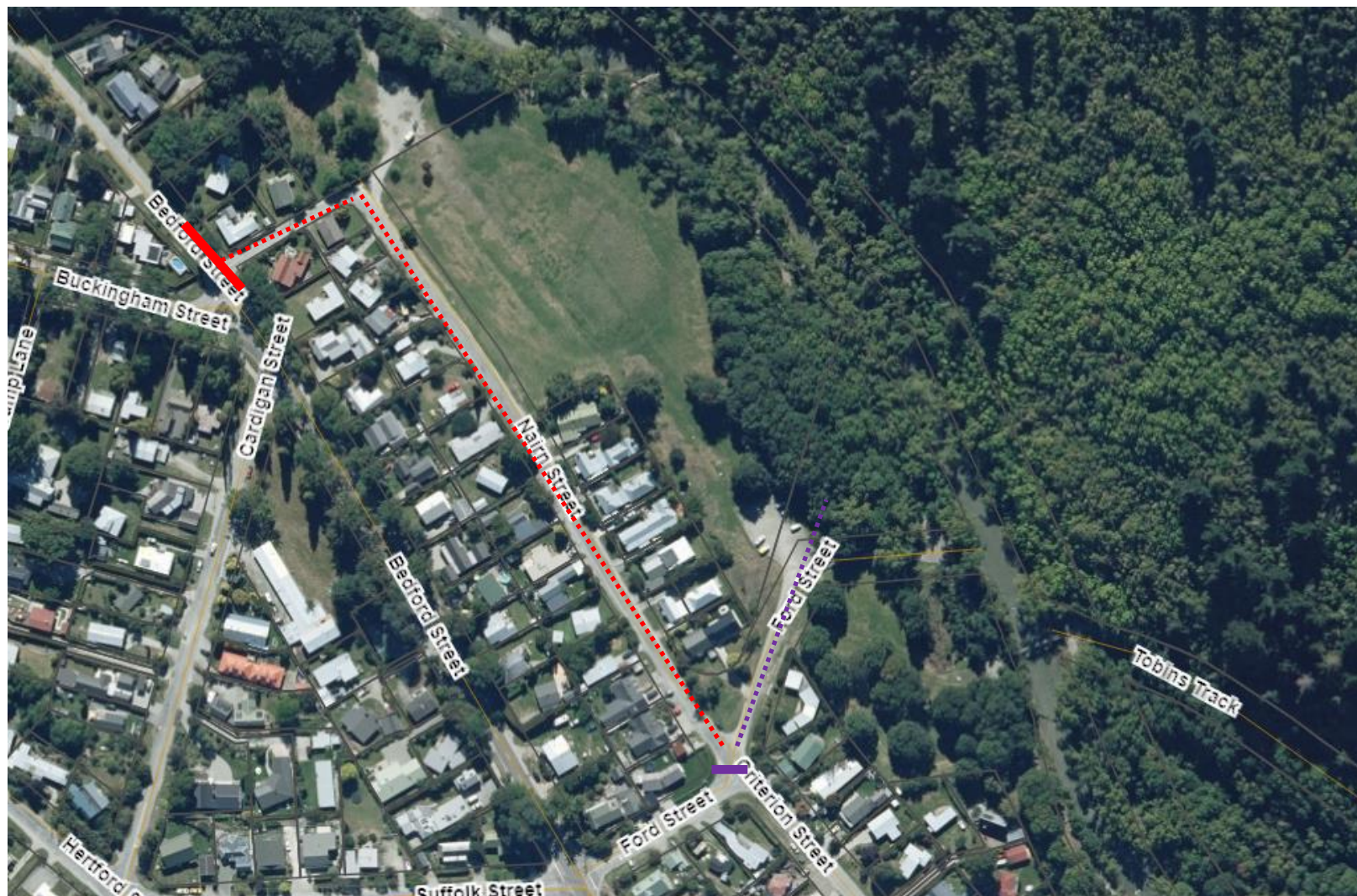
Macetown Road closure Saturday 7 March 2026, 0715-2000



Motatapu Road closure Saturday 7 March 2026, 0500-1130



Nairn Street closure Friday 6 March 2026, 1400-1930 & Saturday 7 March 2026, 0630-1930
Ford Street closure Friday 6 March 2026, 1400-1930 & Saturday 7 March 2026, 0630-1930



Tobins Track closure Saturday 7 March 2026 0730-1500
Glencoe Road closure Saturday 7 March 2026, 0730-1200





START LINE: GLENDHU BAY, LAKE WĀNAKA





ARROWTOWN PARKING MAP

PARKING B
GOLD COIN DONATION TO
LOCAL GROUP

PARKING A
GOLD COIN DONATION TO
LOCAL GROUP

FINISH AREA
WILCOX GREEN

**FREE TOWN
PARKING**





Motatapu Event 2026

Dear Business Operator/Resident,

The iconic Motatapu event returns in 2026 on Saturday 7 March with five fantastic races, the 47km Mountain Bike, 15km Miners Trail, 42km Trail Marathon, 52km Ultra Run, and 4km Junior Trail Run. Held on one epic day, it is the only chance each year for athletes to experience the breath-taking high-country terrain and traverse the Motatapu, Soho and Glencoe Stations between Wānaka and Arrowtown.

Road Closures

The streets in the immediate area of the event will be closed to all vehicles during the following period:

Friday 6 March 2026	Nairn St, from the intersection of Bedford St, Arrowtown* • 2:00pm – 7:30pm Ford St, from the intersection of Nairn & Criterion St, Arrowtown* • 2:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday 7 March 2026	Motatapu Rd, from the intersection of Mt Aspiring Rd, Glendhu Bay • 5:00am - 11:30am Nairn St, from the intersection of Bedford St, Arrowtown* • 6:30am – 7:30pm Ford St, from the intersection of Nairn & Criterion St, Arrowtown* • 6:30am – 7:30pm Macetown Road, Arrowtown • 7:15am - 8:00pm Tobin's Track, Arrowtown • 7:30am - 3:00pm Glencoe Road, starting 1.3km from the Crown Terrace turn off. • 7:30am - 12:00pm

**Residents access permitted, no on-street parking*

Please note there will also be amplified sound operating from 6:45am on Saturday 7 March at Wilcox Green, Arrowtown.

Contacts

Prior to event day please contact:
Gemma Peskett – Race Director

On 6 or 7 March please contact:
Trev Page - Southern Safety



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