Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

5 November 2026

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [5]

Department: Planning & Development

Title | Taitara: TC2600010: Temporary Road Closure - Wānaka New Years Eve Celebrations 2026

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider the application receieved for various temporary road closures for the 2026/2027 New Years celebrations being held in Wānaka over four days, from 29 December 2026 to 1 January 2027.

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 Wānaka New Years Eve Celebrations 2026 event, subject to the following conditions:

    a) Any issues or concerns which may arise from the public notification published in the Wānaka Sun on 23 October 2026 are addressed to the satisfaction of the Council;

    b) Prior to the event, a Corridor Access Request must be approved, which includes a Traffic Management Plan;

    c) Radio advertising two days prior to and on the morning of the event;

    d) The event organisers will arrange suitable disposal methods for recycling and rubbish/refuse under the Council Event application;

    e) The event organisers ensure access is available for emergency services and maintenance contractors, if required;

    f) The event organisers liaise with businesses on the closure route to ensure deliveries to these businesses are not affected and where safe and practical, vehicles delivering to businesses within the closure area, should be permitted by traffic management crew prior to the event commencing;

g) The applicant must notify all affected parties on the extent of the temporary road closures and this notification is to be undertaken prior to Christmas 2026. A copy of the notice is to be supplied to Queenstown Lakes District Council (LTO-TRC-applications@qldc.govt.nz);

h) The applicant must contact the Queenstown Lakes District Council Communications Team (communications@qldc.govt.nz) to arrange for the closures to be shared through Council social media; and

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

Date	Road Closure	Period of Closure
29 December 2026	Ardmore Street Log Cabin Layby (excluding buses)	1800 – midnight
30 December 2026	Ardmore Street Log Cabin Layby (excluding buses)	1800 – midnight
31 December 2026 – 1 January 2027	• Ardmore Street Log Cabin Layby (excluding buses) • Ardmore St from Dungarvon St to Lakeside Rd • Helwick Street from Ardmore Street to Dunmore Street.	• 0800 – 1500 • 1500 – 0300 • 1500 – 0300

Prepared by:

Name: Brooke Allan

Title: Senior Subdivision Officer

19 October 2026

Reviewed & Approved by:

Name: Hayden Bed

Title: Acting General Manager - Planning & Development

22 October 2026

Context | Horopaki

1. Summit Events, on behalf of the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) have requested a number of temporary road closures in the Wānaka central business district to permit the annual New Year's Eve celebrations for 2026/2027.

2. The closures are required to allow the event to take place in a safe and efficient manner, and the recommendation is for approval with similar conditions that have been applied for in previous years.

3. This annual event will be conditioned to include the approval of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the proposed road closures to ensure safe setup and pack down of the entertainment areas for the event.

4. This year's application remains similar to last year's event and has been reoccurring annually for several years. Last year's event was successful with no issues raised.

5. In line with previous years, on 31 December there will be two stage areas. The main stage is situated near the Dinosaur Park with live entertainment from 8.00pm to 1.00am, with a DJ stage located at the opposite end of the car park opposite the Lake Bar with live music from 9.00pm to 1.00am. Both are within the Ardmore Street layby. These activities are not the subject of this report.

6. Council can close roads to vehicular traffic for events by using provisions of the Local Government Act 1974. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) as delegated authority is delegated to consider applications to temporarily close roads under this legislation.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

7. Council's road engineers have been informed, and they have advised that there are no issues if the event is held in the same manner as previous years. They have recommended conditions imposed on last year's application are to be implemented, including a TMP, which is a standard requirement for all temporary road closures. This will ensure that all traffic, including pedestrian flow is managed with the appropriate signage, barriers and wardens.

8. The requirement of affected party notification is to be supplied to any business and residences within the road closure area on approval of the licence and again prior to the closing of the road, as a standard condition. The applicant has provided a letter which outlines the details of the closures and a contact number for the Event Manager which will be distributed prior to Christmas.

9. It is not likely that the road closures will impede traffic unreasonably. All businesses within the closure route are advised of the extent of the closures prior to it occurring, allowing them to arrange deliveries and vehicular activities appropriately.

10. Public notification of the proposed road closures was undertaken via the QLDC website on 15 October 2026, with a notice also published in the Wānaka Sun on 23 October 2026. Key stakeholders, including New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), public transport operators, and relevant Council departments, have also been notified of the proposed closures. At the time of writing this report, no feedback, objections, or concerns have been received.

11. No objections, complaints, or adverse feedback were received in relation to previous road closures associated with this event. While the public submission period remains open at the time this report has been prepared, any feedback received following publication of the notice in the Wānaka Sun will be considered and, where appropriate, addressed to Council's satisfaction prior to a final decision being made on the proposed closures.

12. The recommendation is for approval of the application, subject to similar conditions which were applied last year which will enable safe set up of the event, safety during the event and safety during the dismantling of the event.

13. 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.

14. Option 1: To approve the application for a temporary road closure associated with the event

Advantages:

- Council would be consistent with previous road closures for this annual event.
- The event would be able to be held as proposed.
- The proposed road closures would ensure a safe environment for the public, staff, and contractors during the setup, running and pack down of the event.
- Alternative routes are available to allow for traffic to move freely during the event.
- Supports QLDC's Vision Beyond 2025 framework.

Disadvantages:

- Road closures affect the normal flow of traffic, which can be detrimental to businesses and the public.

15. Option 2: To decline the application for a temporary road closure associated with the event

Advantages:

- There would be no inconvenience to the public as roads would remain open for normal use.

Disadvantages:

- Council would be inconsistent with previous road closures approved for this event.
- The event would not be able to be held as proposed and possibly not at all.
- It would create an unsafe environment for the public, staff and contractors during the setup, running and pack down of the event.

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

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

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

18. The proposal for temporary closure and on conditions to minimise the impact on traffic and pedestrian flows is in line with the Policy's recommendations.

19. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the general public, residents and commercial operators who may use the road.

20. The temporary road closure was advertised in the Wānaka Sun on 23 October 2026, inviting comment and will again be published ten days before the closure takes place. This is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 1974. If any issues or concerns arise from this notification, they will be remedied to Council's satisfaction.

21. Council officers have been consulted, and they concur with the recommended conditions proposed as they have been applied in previous years for the road closure.

22. We have publicly notified the intent to close the road, advised Emergency Services, NZ Police, Ritchies Connectabus, InterCity, QLDC Events office, Council contractors and Council staff who would have an interest in the road closures and followed the statutory administrative requirements of the Local Government Act 1974.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

23. The Council has not consulted with iwi as part of this application.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

24. This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance 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 inherent risk rating. This matter relates to this risk because a variety of regulatory compliance and health and safety risks associated with parties using roads are triggered when Council considers whether or not to approve a temporary road closure.

25. The approval of the recommended option will support the management of the above risks by ensuring that 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

26. 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

27. 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**: Ardmore Street is listed in the criteria for a significant road and a portion of the proposed road closure is within this area. However, routes in and out of Wānaka are not disrupted by the closure. There are alternative routes available via Brownston Street. Ardmore Street has been closed on numerous occasions without complaint. The proposed closure is in line with many other Wānaka events.

- **Vision Beyond 2050:** The long-term stregic and community led framwork guiding the districts growth, environmental protection and infrastructure beyond 2050. It supports vibrant urban hubs and prioroitising social connections and cultural richness.

28. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the above named polices.

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

29. Temporary road closures for events 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 WUCCB and 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-Kīaka

30. 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; (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local - (i) infrastructure; (ii) public services; (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b). The proposed road closure will support the delivery of the 2026/2027 Wānaka New Year's Eve Celebrations in their preferred format, contributing to the provision of local community events and services in a manner that is efficient and cost-effective for residents, visitors, and businesses.

31. 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.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Wānaka New Year's Site Map
B	Wānaka Road Closure

Attachment A: Wānaka New Year's Site Map

QLDC New Year Events Wanaka
ROAD CLOSURES 2026

New Year's Eve Celebrations Wanaka	ROAD CLOSURE DETAILS
29 December 2026 - midnight on 29 December 2026	• **1800 – midnight** ○ Ardmore Street Log Cabin Layby (excluding buses)
30 December 2026 - midnight on 30 December 2026	• **1800 – midnight** ○ Ardmore Street Log Cabin Layby (excluding buses)

31st December 2026 – 1st January 2027	• **0800 – 1500**
	  ○ Ardmore St Log Cabin layby only (excl buses).
	• **1500 – 0300**
	  ○ Ardmore St from Dungarvon St to Lakeside Rd
	• **1500 – 0300**
	  ○ Helwick Street from Ardmore Street to Dunmore Street.
	
	**alternative routes – Brownston St*

Up to 20 bins throughout key event area. Managed and emptied by Summit Events

Affected parties within road closures will receive info handouts re all road closure times two weeks prior to the closures.

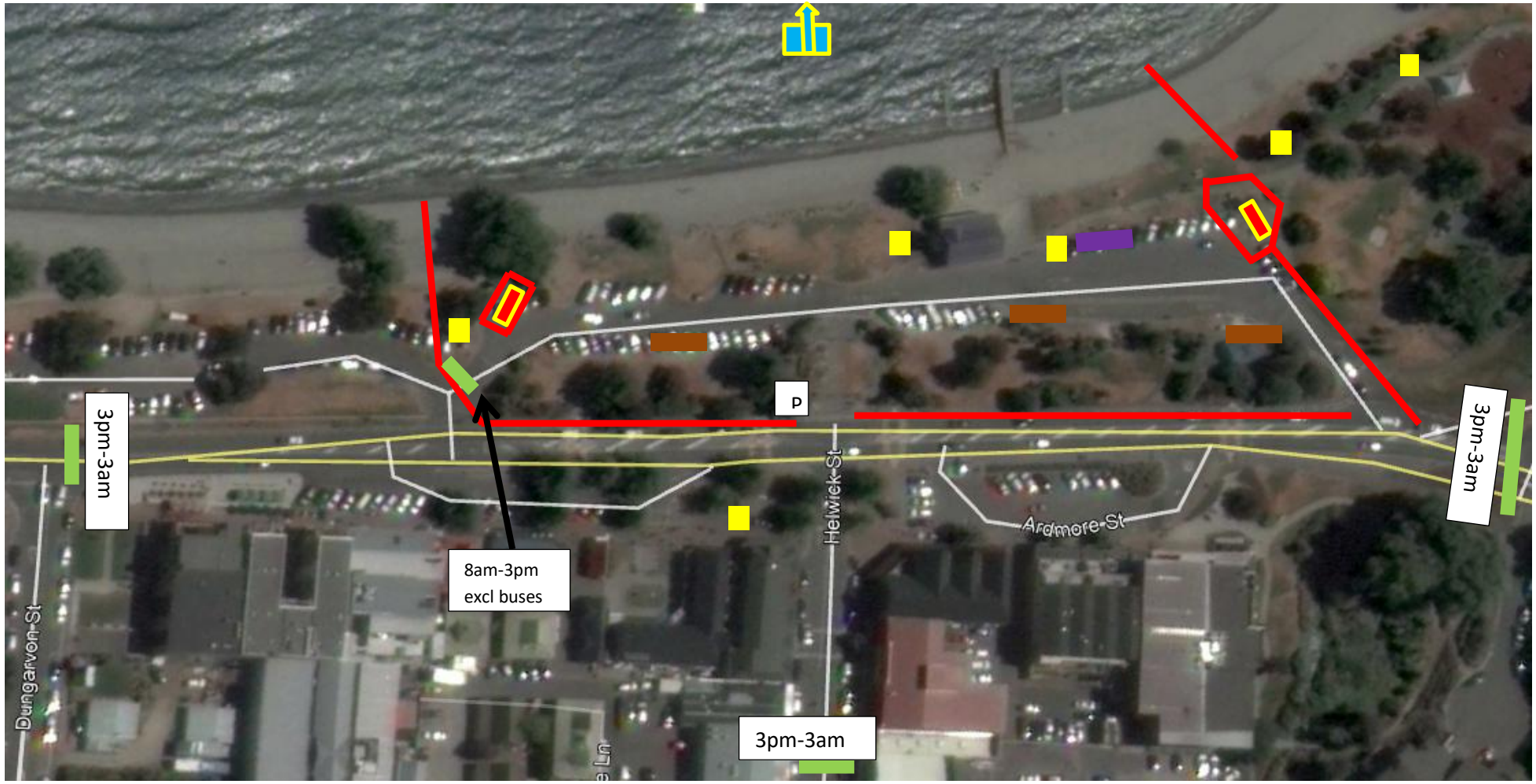


Road/layby closure 29 + 30th Dec 6pm – midnight.

Road/layby closure NYE 31st Dec 8am – 3pm excl. buses.

Road closure NYE 31st Dec 3pm – 3am.

Wanaka New Year's Eve site map



Stages
Fireworks
Vendors
Toilets (x18)
Road Closures
F FOH/ Lost Kids
G Glow sticks
Light towers
P Mains power
1m high fencing