

19 December 2025

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## **Queenstown Lakes District Council submission to Statistics New Zealand regarding the proposed data collection approach and content for the NZ census.**

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is generally supportive of the new census model given the proposed improvements in timeliness of data releases and flexibility which will allow councils, including QLDC to better respond to community needs.

QLDC does however have some concerns around the ability of the new model to adequately capture data for small populations, in particular for smaller urban and rural areas (for example Kingston, Glenorchy, Luggate). The Queenstown Lakes District is large by area with a relatively smaller population base, and many of its communities have smaller population sizes. Getting robust and accurate data for these communities is already somewhat challenging. The increased reliance on administrative data and smaller survey samples will exacerbate the data challenges for these areas.

Similarly, a comparatively large number of Queenstown Lakes residents are transient, often only staying in the district for a season or residing on temporary visas. Data from the 2023 census states that Queenstown Lakes District had the second highest percentage of residents who didn't reside in the district one year prior, along with the highest percentage of overseas born residents. Administrative data on this section of our community is more likely to be either missing or inaccurate, which may lead to incomplete or inaccurate data for a large portion of the district's population. These residents are also less likely to engage with surveys. How provision of accurate data for this section of the population is going to be addressed needs to be considered alongside the administrative and survey data already proposed.

Overall, while QLDC supports the new census model for its anticipated benefits, further attention is needed to ensure the data needs of smaller communities are met and that groups less likely to engage with surveys—or whose administrative data may be incomplete or inaccurate—are accurately represented.

### **Consultation question 16: Main means of travel to work and workplace address.**

#### **Is the information we collected in the 2023 Census about working from home at a suitable level of detail for transport planning needs, or do we need a different approach?**

QLDC sees benefit in including additional questions to better understand hybrid working/commuting patterns. The following information would be useful:

- What is the split of work from home vs. in office days for hybrid workers.
- Which days of the week have more people working from home.

We suggest adding questions similar to the below to gather this information.

- Do you work from home any days of the week?
- If so, how many days do you typically work from home in any week?
- Which days do you typically work from home?

Further information that could be useful to understand travel patterns and demand on the roading network might include:

- What time people typically travel to work (both to and from work).
- How long their commute typically takes (both to and from work).

QLDC would not like to be heard at any hearings that result from this consultation process. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Harris

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