

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



13 March 2026

CB-COR2728

Alyson Hutton
Planning Policy Manager
Queenstown Lakes District Council
By email: alyson.hutton@qldc.govt.nz

cc: Mayor John Glover
By email: john.glover@qldc.govt.nz
David Wallace
By email: David.Wallace@qldc.govt.nz

Dear Alyson,

Thank you for applying for an exemption to the plan stop policy under section 80V of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act). I have considered your exemption request according to the criteria set out under section 80W of the Act and have taken the decision to approve in full your request.

Queenstown Lakes District Council applied for an exemption for Upper Clutha Landscape Schedules Variation under s80W(2)(b), s80W(2)(g) and s80W(2)(h) of the Act.

I am satisfied that Upper Clutha Landscape Schedules Variation meets the criteria under s80W(2)(b), s80W(2)(g) and s80W(2)(h) of the Act and should proceed in full. This is because this Variation will identify relevant landscape values and capacity for change without altering the existing rule framework, which will improve consistency and resolve current inefficiencies in the Proposed District Plan (PDP). The Variation will also directly address the Environment Court's finding that the PDP lacks landscape schedules for ONLs/ONFs and RCLs.

The addition of the schedules will also contribute to resource consent processing efficiency by avoiding repeated bespoke landscape assessments, while also supporting better management of growth pressures and the visitor economy, and enhancing overall plan usability. This approach aligns with the Government's objective of improving system effectiveness and reducing unnecessary red tape, along with protecting landscape of national importance.

Should you have any further questions about the process from here, you are welcome to contact my officials at plan.exemptions@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform