

**Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board**

**7 August 2025**

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

**Title | Taitara: Chair's Report**

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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The purpose of this report is:

- a. to provide the Board with an update on projects of interest;
- b. to allow members to report on recent community engagement; and
- c. to cover other matters not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

**Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka**

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That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Simon Telfer

**Title:** Chair

31 July 2025

### Recent Formal Engagements

#### 15 July WUCCB Workshop

The Board received briefings on the proposed Wānaka Refuse Transfer Station, the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, a concept design for the Stage 4 Wānaka Lakefront Pathway, and from the Queenstown Airport Corporation.

#### 25 July Infrastructure Committee Workshop

Several Board members joined this workshop to hear further updates on the Wānaka Refuse Transfer Station, Meads Road Slip Monitoring, the Waste Minimisation Community Fund and Infrastructure Compliance activities.

### Members' Sector Engagement Updates

#### *Simon's comments*

1. Along with hundreds of other community members, I attended the Health Roadshow at the Lake Wānaka Centre, let by Minister Matt Doocey. On behalf of local GPs, I asked the panel a question around the shortfall in funding that can result in residents getting acute services free at the start of a quarter but paying hundreds of dollars for the same service at the end of a funding quarter.
2. We're mid-way through community engagement on the future of Wānaka Airport. My role on the associated Advisory Group has involved two recent meetings where we provide guidance to the consultants around local nuances and how to engage with as wide a cross section of Upper Clutha residents as possible.
3. Aurora hosted a well attended Business After 5pm networking event. For the fourth time I raised questions around why solar export to the grid limits were lower than they could be. That may have been the straw that broke the camel's back because two weeks later Aurora announced an increase from 5kw to 10kw export limit – wonderful news for Wānaka residents with (or contemplating) solar.
4. I had a very constructive catch up with Nicola Jacobsen (Mount Aspiring College (MAC) Principal) and Mark Sinclair (MAC Board Deputy Chair), sharing ideas and insights around the College and communication with the broader community.
5. I continue to keep abreast of health service issues in the community, with a regular discussion with members of Health Action Wānaka. A key topic at the moment is the need to advocate for an evidenced based decision on where a public hospital should be located in our local region.
6. It's always good to share a coffee with Michael Sidey and share updates on the proposed Performing Arts Centre and all the other philanthropic initiatives Michael is involved in.
7. Aspiring Gym Sports hosted their first regional competition at Paetara/Aspiring Central in late July. It was awesome to see some of the 200 young athletes competing in Wānaka and us showcasing our wonderful facility.

8. Electrify Wānaka are a great bunch of people, promoting the uptake of solar in the Upper Clutha. At a recent b.social catch up I exchanged insights and ideas with about twenty others.
9. Julia Langley, Senior Economic Development Advisor at Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and recent appointee to the Chamber Board, and I chatted about economic diversification and its challenges over a coffee (at the 'now no longer' Urban Grind!)
10. I attended another MAC Board of Trustees meeting to continue to show support for the College and to hear of further progress on matters around student welfare.
11. A brisk Saturday morning in late June saw me selling sausages and home baking in support of eight MAC student's participating in the Hillary Challenge (team challenge and adventure race) in late September this year.
12. The Mountain Film Festival seems a distant memory now but I enjoyed the final session, hearing the about the exploits of Sam Smoothy skiing the highest peaks in Aotearoa. It was good to connect with the Galloway Cook Allan team for a drink ahead of the session.
13. My regular one on one catch up with Mayor Glyn Lewers covered familiar topics: Regional Deals, health infrastructure, Wānaka Airport and the need for more sports fields in the Upper Clutha.
14. Matt Lamming, a local property developer, asked to catch up to better understand some QLDC and Community Board processes and to share progress on some of his new sub divisions.
15. The Matariki Bike Ride, organised by Wao, was a relaxed and enjoyable event where a group of us rode the Schools to Pool pathway and shared kōrero and hot chocolate on a glorious mid-winter Saturday afternoon.
16. A number of prospective candidates in the upcoming local government elections have contacted me to understand the expectations and commitment required to undertake a role as a Board Member or Councillor.

### *Barry's comments*

17. I attended two Wānaka Airport consultation sessions; both were well received by those who attended.
18. I have also had a guided visit to Wastebusters recently, which provided very useful insights into the tremendous work they do.

### *Chris's comments*

19. In my role on the Lakes District Arts Trust, we are working on our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and also procuring a stainless steel sculpture of a Haast Eagle. This is in conjunction with New Zealand Transport Agency as we discuss the potential site.
20. I had a very informative meeting with Aviette from Wastebusters with regards to their needs for the future and working in with the new Refuse Transfer Station and the increased opportunities they will have once they have more space to increase capacity.

21. I continue as a trustee for the Wānaka Arts Centre Trust and recently we had a further meeting to plan our ongoing strategy with regards to making sure we have the correct resources and skills as we move forward. Motivation is still high and we are looking at talking with more people to enhance the existing trustees and help guide us towards the goal of having the project in the Long Term Plan.
22. I have also been involved with Michael Sidey and Andrew Howard with regards to looking at the appetite for a change of name for the Council. Wānaka has different needs to Queenstown but so much of what is seen in the media about the struggle Queenstown has with tourist numbers never mentions Wānaka. While we don't have the traffic issues we still need additional funding for public transport and other basic infrastructure.

### *Cody's comments*

23. It's been a big month for waste, as I was again invited to be on the panel for the Waste Minimisation Community Fund helping to allocate \$60k to local legends. The fund helps kickstart some creative and much needed initiatives that all ultimately reduce unnecessary waste to landfill.
24. The Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP) came out for public consultation and I chaired the recent hearings. The big theme in the submissions was that Wastebusters needs more space and how Council can help them grow!
25. Some inspiring wider discussions around the typical waste stream. With Council planning to invest in a new transfer station, materials recovery facility and green waste collection, the time for bold ideas is now.
26. I went with the Mayor to Christchurch for the Local Government New Zealand conference over a couple of days. A big red truck with "Cap Rates Now" parked outside provided some entertainment along with inspiring speakers, insights on reforms from MP's and sharing of ideas with other mayors and councillors in NZ.

### *John's comments*

27. I attended a Cardrona River clean up morning and was pleased to see less rubbish collected than the last visit but unfortunately there was still far too much.
28. I also attended the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw drop-in session at the Wānaka Recreation Centre which was busy with concerned residents seeking further information.
29. I have been working with the Mt Barker Residents Association regarding a remediation and revegetation project in the Cardrona riverbed margins near Ballantyne Road.
30. I have also been working with QLDC officers regarding the mapping of both active transport and green lane links in the Upper Clutha.

### *Linda's comments*

31. Wastebusters provided a comprehensive site visit to consider their proposed development. Wastebusters is under extreme pressure to expand to enable the recycling of waste in our community and to cope with the impact of growth in the region.
32. Food for love delivered over 9,000 meals into the community last year. An amazing effort from all volunteers, the demand for support continues to grow and without all the volunteers this would not be possible. It is a pleasure to work with this organisation doing such great things for your community.

### *Lyal's comments*

33. The Wānaka Business Chamber Business After 5pm hosted by Aurora Energy was well attended and provided a great opportunity to hear the latest update on energy plans relevant to our area. There were good questions from attendees and good interaction with Aurora staff.
34. The Wānaka Airport drop-in sessions were a bit of a mixed bag regarding participant numbers. The feedback gathering process a little bit daunting for some, but Egis personnel did a good job guiding people and getting useful input. We look forward to the next round of engagement and consultation of scenarios.
35. The Abbeyfield Wānaka Committee is working hard on promotion, fundraising and land acquisition. There is nothing definitive to report on regarding land as yet but options are being actively pursued.
36. The drop-in session for the Draft Freedom Camping Draft Bylaw generated robust discussion and usefully explained/clarified some of the issues and proposals.
37. Council has engaged Auckland University School of Planning doctorate students to do an accommodation survey on the issue of short-term versus long term rental activity in our district. They had a drop-in session for the public at the Wānaka Recreation Centre but regrettably I may have been the only person who attended! I took on the action to provide direct points of contact with accommodation management companies and some building companies so they could garner specific details on what the current trend is and the houses being built to enable short term rental options.
38. A bus shelter has now been installed by the bus stop adjacent to the local shopping centre at Albert Town. This was an Albert Town Community Association (ATCA) project lead by Heather Thorn, and was initiated based on the feedback from a youth survey some time back. I acknowledge the ATCA for facilitation, Otago Regional Council for providing the shelter, Firth Wānaka for the generous discount on concrete, Upper Clutha Transport for lifting it into place, and Jason Packer for installing it.