

18 December 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Request for Official Information
LG25-0329 - Wall Around the Disposal Field

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 23 November 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

- 1. A copy of the proposal submitted by Veolia to QLDC to build a wall around the disposal field. We believe the field was built in February 2024 for help in locating any documentation, but our dates may not be accurate.**
- 2. A copy of the contract signed by Tony Avery related to the building of the wall. If there was no contract, can you please provide the documentation that Tony Avery signed to approve the building of the wall.**

Given that the contract is completed and the amount paid is already public knowledge (as shared by Tony Avery in the media) we believe this is in the public interest to share the documentation requested above and not subject to privacy or commercial interest restrictions.

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Property and Infrastructure Team.

Partial release of information

- 1. A copy of the proposal submitted by Veolia to QLDC to build a wall around the disposal field. We believe the field was built in February 2024 for help in locating any documentation, but our dates may not be accurate.**

Please find attached a copy of the [proposal submitted by Veolia to QLDC to construct a wall around the disposal field.](#)

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 16 January 2026, 4:46 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

2. **A copy of the contract signed by Tony Avery related to the building of the wall. If there was no contract, can you please provide the documentation that Tony Avery signed to approve the building of the wall.**

Please find attached a copy of the [Procurement Departure Request signed by Tony Avery](#) which relates to the approval and construction of the wall around the disposal field.

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 16 January 2026, 4:49 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Decision to withhold information

We have good reason under section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA for withholding some of the information requested. We consider it is necessary to withhold this information on the basis of the following grounds:

- Section 7(2)(f) - maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through—
 - the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

Section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA protects individuals—such as members, officers, and employees—from improper pressure or harassment, ensuring the effective conduct of public affairs. This provision safeguards public officials from undue influence or intimidation, enabling them to perform their duties impartially and effectively.

In this case, we withheld the names of internal Council officers and external consultants, to avoid the risk of harassment. The protection of these individuals from improper pressure or harassment takes precedence over the public interest in disclosing specific information. Releasing the names could potentially lead to undue pressure or intimidation, which could undermine the effective conduct of public affairs and harm the safety and well-being of those involved. Therefore, withholding this information is justified to preserve both individual rights and the integrity of public offices.

Public interest consideration

In assessing whether to withhold information, QLDC carefully evaluates the public interest—particularly whether disclosure would enhance transparency, accountability, or informed public engagement. This assessment includes weighing those benefits against the potential harm that could result from releasing the information.

QLDC recognises the public interest in promoting transparency and accountability of local authority members and officials, as well as the broader interest in good governance. We are committed to releasing information wherever possible. However, in this instance, QLDC considers that the need to protect members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Release of the information could potentially lead to undue pressure or intimidation, which could undermine the effective conduct of public affairs and harm the safety and well-being of those involved.

Therefore, QLDC has determined that 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA apply. These provisions allow for the withholding of information to protect individuals from improper pressure or harassment. In this case, no overriding public interest has been identified that would justify its release.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Director Democracy Services).

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Democracy Services Team
Corporate Services | Queenstown Lakes District Council
P: +64 3 441 0499
E: informationrequest@qldc.govt.nz

Contract Name:	Management, Operations and Maintenance Services for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Assets			Contract #:			
Project Name:	Shotover WWTP Dispersal Fields Remediation - UPDATED 24/05/2024						
Project Engineer:							
Delivery Via:	Veolia						
Location:	District:	Queenstown Lakes	Suburb:	Queenstown			
Classifications	System:	Wastewater	Asset Type:	Retic Network			

QLDC to complete this Section

QLDC reference:	Work Order #:		PDR #:	
	PO #:	N/A (O&M)	NTC #: <i>(if required)</i>	

1. Summary of Update:

This document details the ongoing remediation plans and progress of the Shotover WWTP dispersal Fields on the Shotover Delta started in April 2024.

2. Background Information:

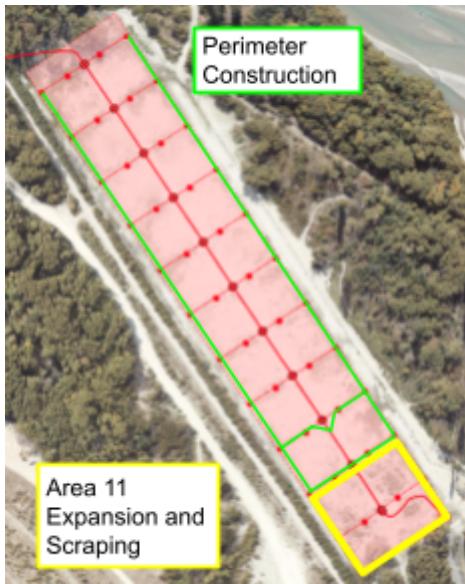
The Shotover WWTP dispersal fields have failed and treated wastewater effluent is making its way to the surface and running across the fields, it is then captured in open drainage ponds to prevent it escaping the dispersal field perimeter.

Recently QLDC engaged Veolia to assist with;

1. Keeping the settling ponds in operation as they form a sludge layer which prevents good soakage.
2. Remove the built up heavy and sticky sludge from the drainage baskets.
3. Assist in H2O2 dosing to dissolve any remaining sludge and lift from the drainage media.

3. Progress summary:

Stage 1 - Completed

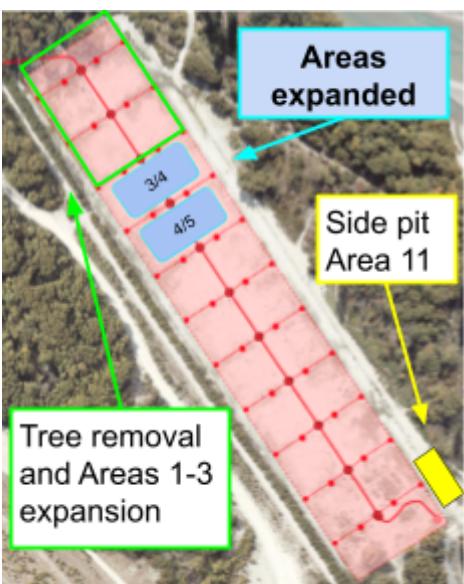
Start date: 08/04/24 Finish date: 08/05/24	As agreed by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the 8th of April 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Perimeter construction (South, East and Western walls)- Join Area 10 to area 11- Scrape out Area 11 <p>Note: The Area 11 couldn't be concluded as planned due to a heavy rain event on the 10th of April, making it necessary to be used as an emergency containment area, changing the initial plans of having this area finished as the first stage of the project.</p>
Cost Incurred:	\$ 119,397.43



Stage 2 - Ongoing

Start date: 10/05/24
Estimated finish date: 31/05/24

As agreed by [REDACTED] on the 8th of May 2024



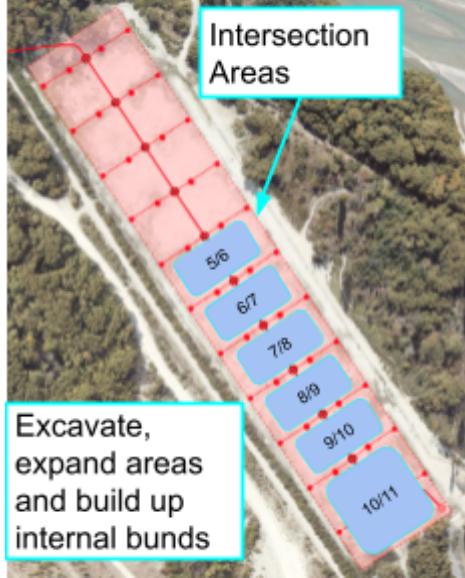
- Area 11 side pit - Green waste removal
- Area 11 side pit - Expansion
- Tree removals at Area 1
- Areas 2 and 3 expansion
- Areas 2 and 3 internal bunds extension
- Area 1 expansion (including Northern wall construction)
- CCTV installation
- Veolia to daily monitor site levels and react as required (total may vary according to events)

Cost Estimated:

\$ 218,310.03



Stage 3 (Option 1)

Estimated start date: 03/06/24 Estimated finish date: 12/07/24	As proposed on the 21st of May 2024 to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrape and remove existing sludge on areas 5 to 11 Expand areas 5 to 11 to increase capacity (includes perimeter bidum and overflow pipes installation) H2O2 application to crates to tentatively increase soakage <p>Note: No allowance for reactive works is included in the below indicative pricing.</p>
Cost Estimated:	\$ 288,848.58

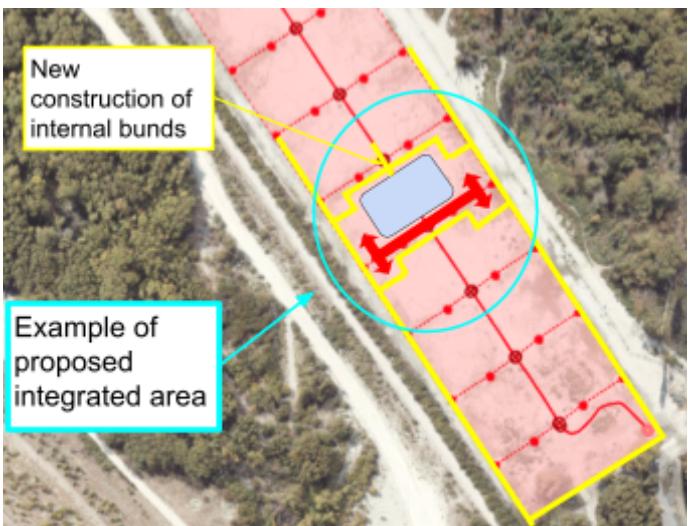
Stage 3 (Option 2)

Estimated start date: 03/06/24 Estimated finish date: 31/07/24	As proposed on the 21st of May 2024 to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrape and remove existing sludge on areas 5 to 11 Expand areas 5 to 11 to increase capacity maintaining the internal bunds shapes (includes perimeter bidum and overflow pipes installation) Install filter cloth on overflow pipes reducing the amount of silt transferred to the next catchment areas No H2O2 dosing included <p>Note: No allowance for reactive works is included in the below indicative pricing.</p>
Cost Estimated:	\$ 254,848.58

Stage 3 (Option 3)

Estimated start date: 03/06/24
Estimated finish date: 15/08/24

As proposed on the 21st of May 2024 to
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



- Scrape and remove existing sludge on areas 5 to 11
- Remove internal bunds and connect basket areas to intersection areas (including bidum and overflow pipes installation)

Note: No allowance for reactive works is included in the below indicative pricing.

Cost Estimated:

\$ 359,687.96



4. Summary of Costs and Estimates

Deliverable:	Amount
Stage 1 - Completed	\$ 119,397.43
Stage 2 - Ongoing to end of May	\$ 218,310.03
Total by End of May	\$337,707.46
Stage 3 (Option 1) June 1 to Mid July	\$ 288,848.58
Stage 3 (Option 2) June 1 to End July	\$ 254,848.58
Stage 3 (Option 3) June 1 to Mid August	\$ 359,687.96

Total Estimated (Option 1)	\$626,556.04
Total Estimated (Option 2)	\$592,556.04
Total Estimated (Option 3)	\$697,395.42

Veolias Recommendation:

Veolia recommends to proceed with the Option 1

- Draining and expanding the areas starting with the Cell 6 towards to 11
- Install geotextile fabric screened overflow pipes between the bunds
- H2O2 dose the baskets to tentatively increase the soakage

This will allow the site to be safely drained one area at the time, avoiding to overpressure any of the walls, and still encourage the soakage through the H2O2 dosing.

Client Endorsements		
Veolia Name / Title	Signature	Date:
PROJECT ENGINEER / [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	24/05/2024
SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER / [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	24/05/2024

QLDC Endorsements/ Approvals		
Name / Title	Signature	Date:
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

Please fill in details below

Overview

Directorate

P+I

Procurement Title / Description

Shotover WWTP Disposal Field Remediation

Summary/Background leading to the Procurement Departure Request

QLDC has a long-standing issue with the performance of its effluent disposal field at the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The effluent field is unable to provide sufficient soakage performance to enable reliable compliance with the requirements of the discharge consent. As a consequence, the field has extensive surface ponding, and on occasion treated effluent has breached the site and entered into the surrounding land. QLDC has now received two abatement notices and needs to take immediate action to improve the operation of the field until a permanent discharge solution is made available. Within the most recent abatement notice from the Regional Council containment of effluent within the site is a primary concern. QLDC has approached Veolia to provide a proposal for remediation works associated with disposal field. The primary objective was to create a more substantial perimeter bund to the prevent effluent breakout whilst also undertaking work to increase soakage enabling more effective on-going operation.

Estimated Total Spend (Whole of Life)

The Estimated Whole of Life Spend should consider the maximum spend. If the expenditure includes phases or stages, the Estimated Whole of Life Spend should be calculated as if they all occur.

Select CAPEX or OPEX and then enter the price and press <TAB> to display the rest of the form.

Capital Expense (CAPEX) Funds?
 Operational Expense (OPEX) Funds?

Price

700000

In order to display the rest of the form, enter the price, and press <TAB>.

Exemption Requested & Rationale

What type of exemption is being requested?

To sole source negotiate / direct appoint - No Panel

Why is the Exemption being requested?

Urgent Situation

Rationale/Justification for the exemption

Veolia are currently responsible for the operation of the treatment plant and the disposal field under district-wide three waters operations and maintenance contract (CT15-002). Any work on the field requires significant liaison with the plant's operational team and as such Veolia are best placed to manage the works.

The fragile state of the disposal field, coupled with the most recent abatement notice, meant remedial work was required with urgency to protect against the risk of prosecution. The existing contract provides a vehicle to deliver the works promptly, whilst providing access to competitively tested rates.

Rationale/Justification for the Estimated Whole of Life Spend

The estimated cost is based on a detailed proposal from Veolia (refer attached - note option 2 preferred), but will be claimed on a measure and value basis. The proposal reflects contract rates and mark-ups for subcontractor effort consistent with CT15-002. QLDC are continuing to work with Veolia to explore where actual costs can be reduced. Further works will be delivered in stages and suspended if not delivering the results expected.

Name of Suppliers

Veolia and Beaver Construction.

Additional Details

Please provide the level of detail proportionate to the Estimated Whole of Life Spend and the type of exemption you are seeking.

Is the expenditure budgeted?

No

Funding Source: Project / Budget

000006 (3 waters maintenance - districtwide)

Funding Source: General Ledger**Funding Source: Cost Centre****The Requirements**

The scope of work includes the following:
Construction of robust perimeter bunding to South, East and West of site
Remove dead trees
Construct 8 x new soakage basins between existing soakage 'tees', complete with culverts and geotextile
Install CCTV to improve operational visibility and management of field
Regular monitoring to collect data to enable an assessment of soakage performance to be gauged.

Overall the desired outcome is a field that can operate reliably for the short to medium term, with lowest possible on-going operational effort and lowered risk of effluent breaching the field extents.

Proposed Procurement Approach

The work will be delivered as a variation to the existing contract CT15-002.

Risks

The primary risks associated with the procurement are as follows: An inadequate response to the second abatement notice will increase the risk of further enforcement action from the ORC. To this end work has already been completed to 'shore up' the perimeter bunding.

The work completed is unsuccessful and does not achieve reliable operation in the short term, resulting in an untenable operational position with regular discharges from site and high risk of enforcement action. To manage this risk work is being completed in stages and performance addressed before progressing. No current budget for this work and will be further drawing against the existing operational deficit (issue not risk).

Contract Type

Supplier's Contract

Who needs to Recommend and Endorse?

To complete this form, at least one (max of five) recommender is required, one endorser is optional, and one approver who has the acceptable financial delegation.

Number of Recommendations

1

Recommend**Recommendation 1 - Time**

Will the approver benefit from further endorsement?

Who needs to Approve?

Note: This is the final approver of the form.

Approval User**Approval - Time****Is the Chief Executive the final approver?**

No

Attachments**Attach Further Relevant Information**

1 attachment

Office Use

'Form Submitted:' 06/06/2024 2:36:43 AM

'Form Approved:' 07/06/2024 3:50:43 PM
