

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Thursday 9 July 2026
in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown
commencing at 2.10pm

A recording of this workshop can be found on the QLDC website.

Present:	Mayor John Glover	Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith (online)
	Councillor Melissa White	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Cody Tucker	Councillor Niki Gladding (online)
Apologies:	Councillor Heath Copland	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Nicola King (on approved leave of absence)	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
In attendance:	Michelle Morss	Pennie Pearce
	Tony Avery	Katherine Harbrow
	Jesse Taylor	Simon Battrick
	Sophie Mander	Ian Dunbar
	Campbell Guy	Rebecca Pitts
	Caleb Dawson-Swale	Priya Bhuller
	Tony Pickard	Ruby Mills
	Tanea Hawkins	Jon Winterbottom
Media	One member of the media	
Public	None	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<u>Simplifying Local Government – Head Start Pathway</u> The purpose of this workshop was to provide an opportunity for elected members to discuss the Morrison Low report as well as materials released through the all-of-Otago Hui on 6 July. Pennie Pearce (Acting Strategy & Policy General Manager) and Campbell Guy (Policy Analyst) spoke to the Morrison Low Report distributed by the secretariat of the Mayoral Forum (the PowerPoint can be found on the website).	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	Mayor Glover provided feedback on discussions that took place at the 6 July Otago Hui. Members discussed and provided feedback on the 3 options outlined on the slide 5 of the Morrison Low Report (PowerPoint), which were: Option 1: One region-wide Otago unitary councils Option 2: Two unitary councils, inland & coastal • QLDC + CODC • DCC, CDC, WDC Option 3: Three unitary councils, urban & rural • QLDC • DCC • CODC + CDC + WDC There was general agreement that option 1 was not a preferred option. Some members indicated a preference for Council to take more time (beyond 9 August deadline) to explore alternative options. There was discussion of various topics including: • the backstop process that would be activated were Council not to submit a proposal by the 9 August deadline; • communications given that the Regional Deal might be approved by Council around the same time of the 9 August deadline; • engagement with Iwi. It was noted that there were three drop-in sessions next week (the week of 13-17 July), with another workshop on Head Start scheduled to take place on 20 July.	
2.	<u>Long Term Plan Steering Group 7</u> The purpose of this workshop was to address the development of key aspects of the QLDC Infrastructure Strategy, specifically options with QLDC's infrastructure investment types, which will directly inform the detailed capital expenditure programme. Ian Dunbar (Manager, Organisation Performance), Pennie Pearce (General Manager, Strategy & Policy), Jesse Taylor (Investment & Support Services Manager), Simon Battrick (Strategic Project Manager, Community Services) and Sophie Mander (Strategy Planning Manager, Waste Minimisation) presented the item and spoke to Attachment A.	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	Key points of discussion included: Waste infrastructure • An overview of current waste infrastructure, growth-related pressures, and potential planning pathways was provided, with reference made to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) as the primary strategic framework. The need for clear monitoring, reporting, and prioritisation of actions was discussed. • Opportunities to support waste minimisation and encourage behaviour change across the community were considered, including the use of targeted initiatives and service settings to reduce waste generation. • Funding and delivery considerations were discussed, including the balance between ambitious outcomes and financial constraints. General direction was indicated towards a progressive transition approach. Community/Social Infrastructure • A range of investment pathways and levels of service were explored, taking into account growth, community expectations, affordability, and long-term sustainability. Consideration was given to how investment priorities could be identified and balanced across the district. • Different service delivery models were discussed, including approaches that balance investment between central hubs and local facilities. The importance of resilience, access, and ensuring community benefit was noted. • Future infrastructure demand and funding challenges were considered, including the role of growth projections, land availability, development contributions, and other mechanisms to support investment and service provision. Natural Infrastructure • Alternative planning pathways, ranging from baseline to accelerated investment, were discussed. Consideration was given to aligning investment choices with strategic environmental objectives and future growth pressures.	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	Natural infrastructure was recognised as an area delivered through collaboration with a range of partners. General support was indicated for a targeted investment approach, including a focus on environmental protection, waterway health, and broader blue-green network outcomes.	

The workshop concluded at 3.34pm.