

# Te Kirikiri / Frankton Southern and Central Wānaka

## Structure Plan Process, Councillor Involvement

## Engagement Approach for Wānaka

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# What would we like from today?

Today we are seeking Councillor input on:

- ✓ Feedback on the overall planning direction and engagement approach
- ✓ Any concerns before work progresses further
- ✓ Endorsement to continue work on this basis, subject to future decisions

# Te Kirikiri / Frankton Southern and Central Wānaka

## Structure Plan Process & Councillor Involvement

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# The Planning Process: Structure Plans



# Role of Smart Growth Vs Full Council

## Smart Growth Committee (delegated role)

**Strategic oversight and guidance** on growth, spatial planning and structure plans

**Endorses approaches, frameworks and options** before public engagement

**Provides direction on trade-offs** and matters to test through engagement

**Receives updates and interim findings** during plan development

**Recommends** draft and final Structure Plans to Full Council

## Full Council (Non-delegated / reserved powers)

**Adopts** Structure Plans and associated strategic documents

**Approves statutory consultation** (e.g. plan changes, LGA consultation where required)

**Makes final decisions** on growth direction and outcomes

**Confirms funding and implementation commitments** (LTP / Annual Plan)

**Accountable for decisions of district-wide significance**

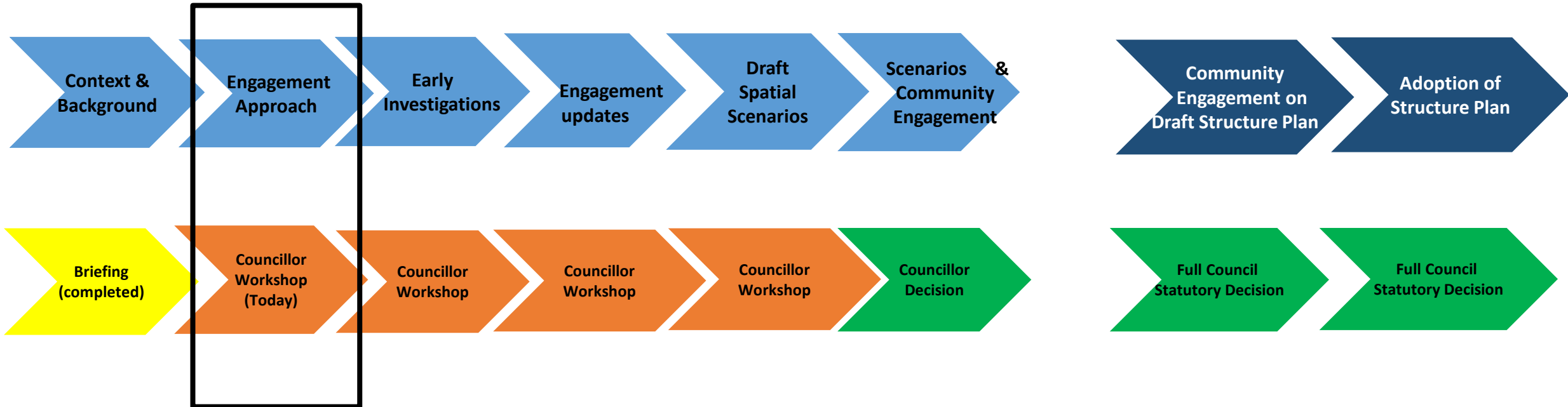
# Two Structure Plans with different approaches

Wānaka (Southern & Central)	Te Kirikiri / Frankton
<b>New greenfield and future urban areas</b>	<b>Zoned and developed</b> area with existing urban form. Existing developers very keen for existing zoning to reviewed. Under lots of existing development pressure.
<b>Growth capacity, form and densities not yet fully settled</b>	<b>Has been masterplanned, which included significant public engagement.</b>
<b>Testing appropriate densities, land-use mix and built form</b> still required	Focus on <b>refining, integrating and optimising</b> an established urban area.
<b>Higher level of uncertainty</b> around infrastructure, transport and servicing requirements.	<b>Some level of uncertainty</b> – infrastructure, transport and servicing frameworks to meet Frankton and wider growth issues for the Whakatipu
Strong need for <b>early, values-based community engagement</b>	Engagement focused on <b>implementation, integration and outcomes</b>
Structure plan will <b>set the future growth direction</b>	Structure plan will <b>coordinate and align existing commitments and development patterns and stage infrastructure provision</b>

# Councillor Involvement: General Approach

Smart Growth Committee (non-statutory governance and oversight)

Full Council  
(statutory)



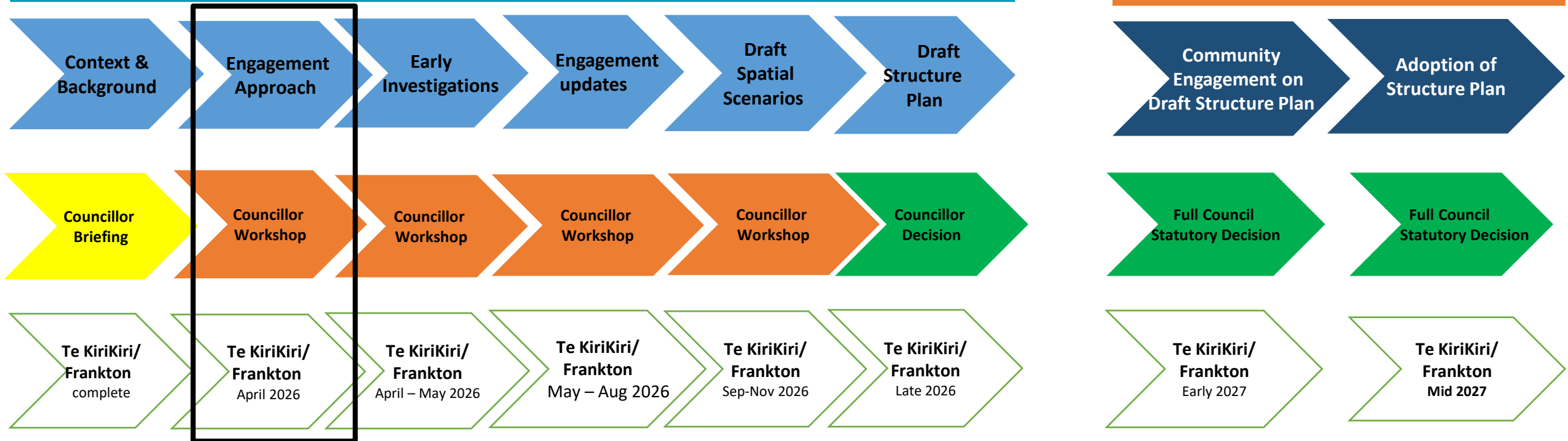
# Te Kirikiri Frankton Structure Plan & proposed engagement approach

Cameron Wood

# Councillor Involvement: Te KiriKiri/Frankton

## Smart Growth Committee (non-statutory governance and oversight)

## Full Council (statutory)



# Councillor Involvement: Te KiriKiri/Frankton

## Smart Growth Committee (non-statutory governance and oversight)

Build on all existing work to date through a series of key stakeholder workshops / one to one meetings / online engagement and then update Councillors through an ongoing process as the Structure Plan develops

Briefing  
Workshops

Prepare Councillor  
Workshops

Hold Councillor  
workshop

Review outcomes  
From Councillor workshop

Iterative process

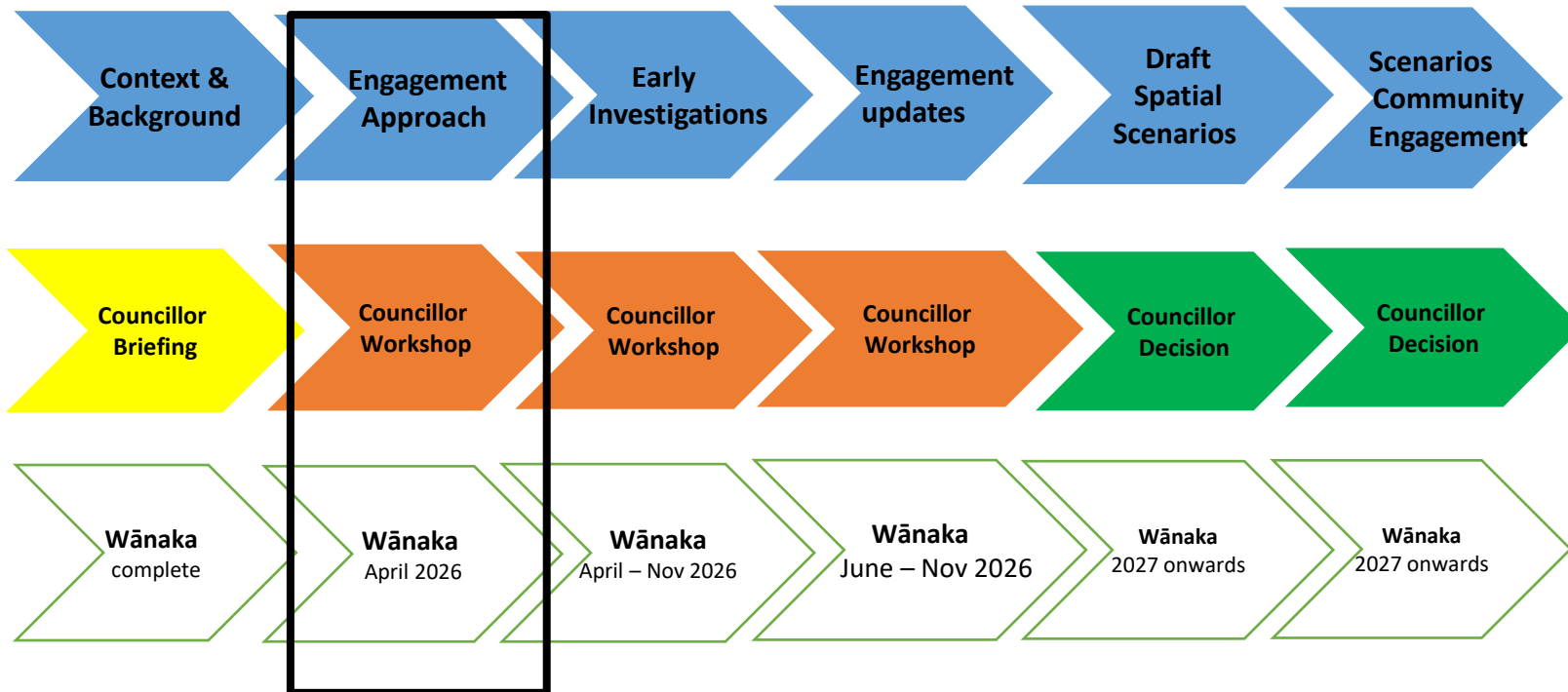
# Southern and Central Wānaka Structure Plan & Proposed engagement approach

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# Councillor Involvement: Wānaka

## Smart Growth Committee (non-statutory governance and oversight)

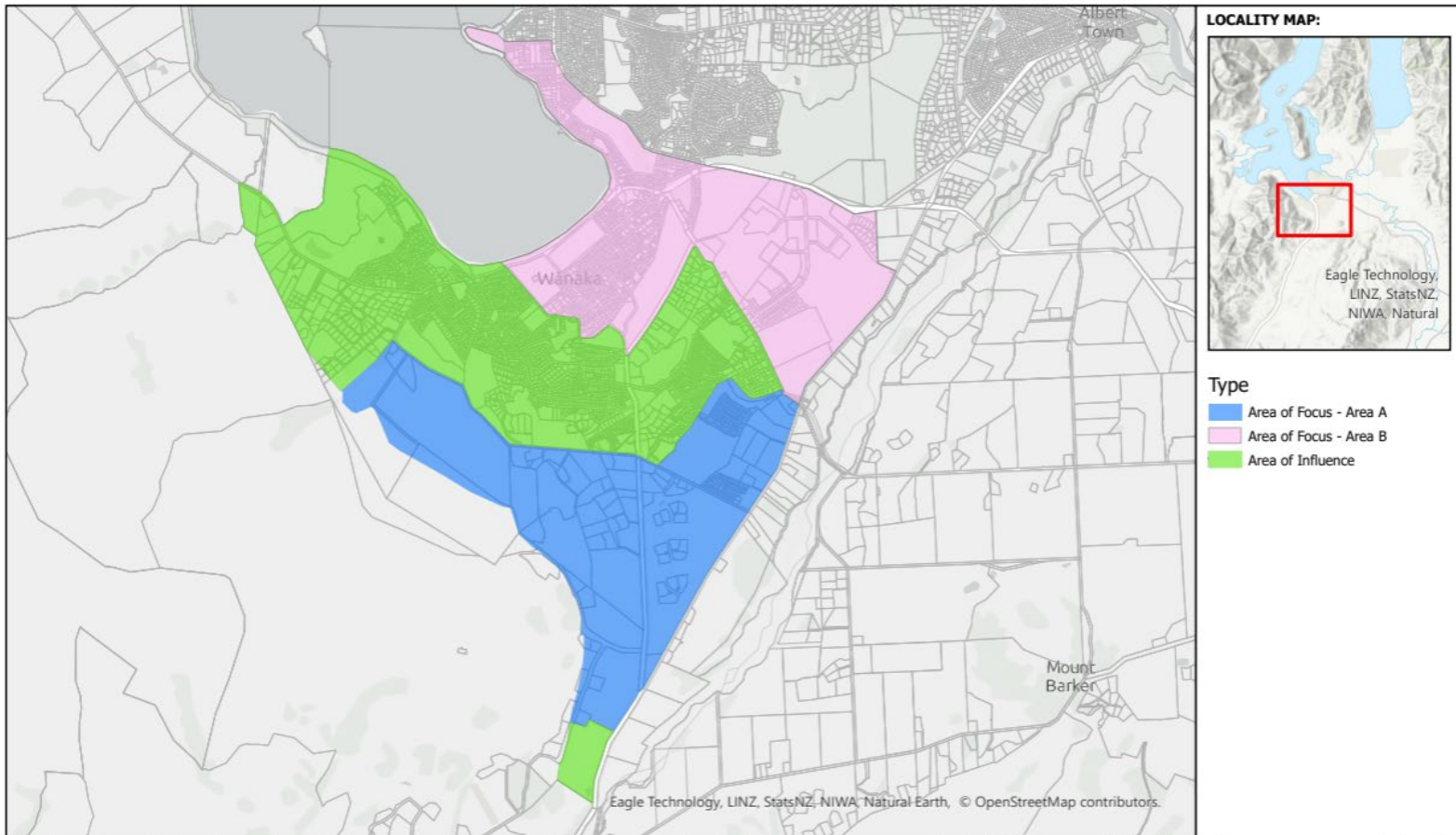


## Full Council (statutory)



# Southern and Central Wānaka Structure Plan extent – An Integrated response

Wanaka Structure Plan



The information provided on this map is intended to be general information only. While considerable effort has been made to ensure that the information provided on this map is accurate, current and otherwise adequate in all respects, Queenstown Lakes District Council does not accept any responsibility for content and shall not be responsible for, and excludes all liability, with relation to any claims whatsoever arising from the use of this map and data held within.



- **Southern Wānaka (Blue)**
  - Future urban growth — requires clear structure, staging, and infrastructure alignment
  - Existing urban areas — assess opportunities for increased density
- **Wānaka Town Centre – Three Parks Corridor (Pink)**
  - Primary mixed-use and employment spine
  - Assess opportunities for increased density or land-use changes
- **Areas of Influence (Green)**
  - District-wide systems — transport, infrastructure, open space, and environmental networks operating across the urban area
  - Assess opportunities for increased density or land-use changes

# Structure plans & engagement



To help influence future statutory planning & investment by shaping land-use, infrastructure and growth sequencing



Early and robust engagement helps ensure that a Structure Plan reflects community values, mana whenua aspirations, and stakeholder priorities, and provides a transparent and credible basis for future decision-making.



Engagement also supports better outcomes by identifying issues, opportunities, and constraints early, reducing the risk of conflict or delay as the Structure Plan is translated into statutory and investment programmes over time.

# Legislative & Policy Framework – now and thinking towards future statutory processes

Framework	What it requires	What this means for Council
<p><b>Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)</b></p> <p><i>Must be considered now</i></p>	<p>Decisions must be <b>transparent, informed, and proportionate</b> to their significance.</p>	<p>Council must actively decide <b>how much and what type of engagement</b> is appropriate for strategic matters like structure planning and show that community views have been considered in decision-making.</p>
<p><b>QLDC Significance &amp; Engagement Policy</b></p> <p><i>Must be considered now</i></p>	<p>Engagement should match the <b>scale, impact, and level of public interest</b> of a decision.</p>	<p>Council is expected to <b>select fit-for-purpose engagement tools</b> and recognise that different approaches offer different levels of influence and responsibility.</p>
<p><b>Resource Management Act 1991 (and reforms)</b></p> <p><i>Requires consideration – as technical evidence and engagement informs future statutory processes</i></p>	<p>Once Structure Plan is complete and the area is ready to be zoned.</p> <p>A plan variation process will require <b>public participation and iwi engagement</b> in a statutory planning process.</p>	<p>Council must ensure that early <b>engagement informs future statutory processes and supports meaningful mana whenua involvement.</b></p> <p>Early engagement helps to identify issues before formal plan changes begin.</p>

# Engagement sits on a spectrum

## QLDC's Significance and Engagement Policy:

Our Policy provides for a range of approaches to engagement and consultation depending on the nature of the decision being taken by Council.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION*					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

## Innovating engagement practices:

Internationally (not unique to NZ or QLDC) there are:

- declining levels of trust in institutions,
- low perceived ability to influence local decision-making, and
- a growing desire for greater public involvement.

There has been increasing use of deliberative engagement methods to counter these trends.

Staff have considered deliberative approaches to public participation for the Wānaka Structure Plan that move toward the 'collaborate' end of the spectrum, building on the collaborative approach used for the Spatial Plan 2021.

# What is deliberative engagement?

Deliberative engagement emphasises inclusive deliberation\* on issues, not the aggregation of preferences, to make decisions and address public policy issues.

Key features of deliberative processes include:



RANDOM SELECTION  
(FOR MOST NOT ALL)



EMPHASIS ON DELIBERATING  
ON A COMPLEX ISSUE  
(FACILITATION IS KEY)



TIME TO UNDERSTAND  
ISSUE AND ACCESS  
TO EXPERTS



GOAL IS TO REACH A  
CONSENSUS ON  
RECOMMENDATIONS



INCREASED WEIGHT IN  
DECISION MAKING

Deliberative processes often supplement and strengthen existing representative democratic processes, not replace them

\***Deliberation** = a discussion and consideration of the reasons for and against a measure.

# What topics suit deliberative engagement?

Deliberative engagement is suited to:

- Values-driven dilemmas
- Complex problems that require trade offs
- Long term issues that go beyond election cycles
- Topics that are hard for public to understand
- Topics which are controversial/divisive by nature

Deliberative engagement is uniquely suited to local government.

Over 50% of all deliberative processes in OECD have occurred at the local government level.



The Central & Southern Wānaka Structure Plan is strongly aligned with these characteristics.

# Types of deliberative engagement tools

Type	Description	Purpose	No. of sessions	Selection method	No. of participants	Cost	
Random selection	<b>Citizens Assembly / Jury</b>	<b>Where a representative group deliberates on a policy question and provides recommendations.</b>	<b>Collective decision making</b>	<b>Four or five upwards</b>	<b>Stratified random selection</b>	<b>Jury: smaller group &lt;25 Assembly: larger group</b>	<b>Moderate to high</b>
	Citizens Initiative Review	Representative panel deliberates on a referendum ballot. Produces a one-page summary of information for voters.	Evaluation of policy	Three upwards	Stratified random selection	~18 to 25 (can be more)	Moderate
	Planning Cell	Small representative group collaborates on a developing solutions to a specific issue.	Option mapping	Four or more	Stratified random selection	~25	Moderate
	Deliberative Poll	Representative groups completes a survey before and after expert-led deliberative workshops to identify any change in opinion.	Determine informed public opinion	Two to Three	Stratified random sampling	~100 (give or take)	High
Participatory budgeting	Participants discuss and deliberate how to allocate public budget.	Collective decision making	Four or more	Depends on design choice (can be random or not)	20+ (can be more)	Moderate to High	
Online deliberative platform	Deliberative online platform designed for large-scale public engagement.	Opinion & discourse mapping	Online platform	Open call generally	Essentially unlimited	Low to moderate	

# Why a Citizens Assembly for Wānaka?

A citizen's assembly of 20 to max 40 people, selected from the Wānaka area, has been identified as the preferred approach.

A citizens assembly is the best deliberative method due to:

- The time it gives participants to understand technical information,
- Its ability to reflect a diversity of views (e.g. younger people),
- The sense of legitimacy the CA process gives to recommendations/input,
- Costs associated with having a larger group (50+), meaning having 20 to 40 is more suitable\*.

More practically, staff have the necessary:

- Time &
- Funding

To undertake a robust process

This could also be categorised as a Citizens Jury, however, the term Citizens Assembly is consistent with previous New Zealand examples (such as Watercare and Wellington City Council's process), each had around ~40 people.\*

# Citizens Assemblies - What's involved?



**Cost e.g. Wellington LTP Assembly ~\$88,000 (*Note: there is allocated budget available*)**



**Independent facilitation is essential**



**Time to understand and discuss topic (~40hrs deliberation across around four sessions)**



**Robust random selection process**



**Resource/council staffing (to develop materials, source experts, support participants etc.)**



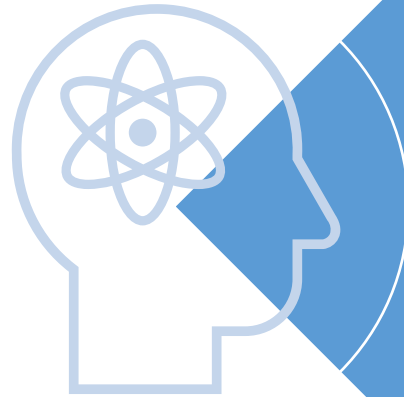
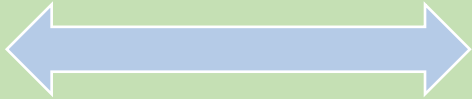
**Used only when there is some weight to their recommendations**

# How Could a Citizens' Assembly Fit into Structure Planning?



Three options to investigate further for greatest benefit:

- A
- B
- A & B



## A - Problem and Values Framing

- Early in the process – help with problem framing & values
- Helps answer: “What do we want this place to be like in 30+ years?”
- Surfaces community values, priorities and tolerances for change
- Shape principles and evaluation criteria for spatial scenarios

Outputs –  
Problem and opportunity definition



## B – Spatial Scenario development

- Later in the process
- Participants engage with evidence and constraints
- Supports understanding of trade-offs, not just preferences
- Can test and refine emerging spatial scenarios

Outputs –  
Testing and refining emerging scenarios

Further consideration also required of how this supports wider public engagement.

How best to integrate the assembly will be further scoped and tested with Smart Growth Committee members once an external facilitator is onboarded.

# Relationship to existing planning processes?



The CA is planned to compliment technical input provided into structure plan scenarios.



This places the process on the 'involve' end of the engagement spectrum



Council retains decision-making authority



Technical analysis continues through normal planning workstreams



Citizens' Assembly provides deliberative input, not consultation feedback



Outputs feed into: Scenario development, Engagement material, Council discussions on direction

# Final Thoughts?

- ✓ Feedback on the overall planning direction and engagement approach
- ✓ Any concerns before work progresses further
- ✓ Endorsement to continue work on this basis, subject to future decisions