

Community & Services Committee

14 August 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Title | Taitara : Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community & Services Committee with an update on projects of interest. This is the first of the reports for the new financial year. Across the Community Services group we have continued to work with staff throughout the 2024/2025 financial year to programme and deliver a diverse and wide ranging programme of work.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Services Committee:

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

Prepared by:



Name: Craig Ferguson

Title: Chair, Community & Services Committee
2025

Context | Horopaki

Sport and Recreation

Ballantyne Road

1. Remediation works have been completed on site to clear the rubbish and other waste material. Retesting of contaminated areas at the time of drafting this report is underway to ensure the quantity and cost of remediation is at acceptable limits, following the assessment of the initial remediation. The parties will confirm the next phase of the site programme commencing late July/early August.
2. In conjunction with the Community Board and key stakeholders a programme has been created to develop the pathway forward to re-engage the public about the future uses of the Ballantyne Road site. It is expected this will commence November 2025.

Queenstown Events Centre Indoor Courts and Fitness Centre Project

3. On 17 April 2025, Council agreed to proceed with the concept design phase to provide four new indoor courts and a fitness centre at the Queenstown Events Centre (QEC). A request for proposal is in the market for project management services and for procuring a design team to begin the concept and preliminary design. QEC stakeholder engagement and planning has commenced and will remain a key component / focus throughout the project.

Libraries

4. Everyone is Welcome Storytimes at Hāwea and Wānaka on Wednesday 23 July, and at Frankton and Queenstown Libraries on Thursday 24 July have been successfully delivered.
5. The Makarora Story Walk is completed and attracting strong interest from the community and visitors through the region.
6. Wānaka Library Meeting Room is completed, fully operational and available for community use and has been in demand over the initial few weeks of being available.
7. The annual popup library programme delivered three successional events at Wānaka Rec Centre.
8. The library team are preparing for Library of Things Dementia collection to be launched in September 2025 in response to growing demand for support services across the community.
9. Scheduled Digital Drop-ins at all eight library branches are in place and bookings continue to increase for this service.

Parks

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025

10. The draft Forestry Management Plan proposes removing all wilding tree species on the reserve and replanting the site with a mix of native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. This is part of a wider plan to protect the district's landscapes and native biodiversity. Submissions

closed on 6 July 2025 with 92 submissions received. 76% of submitters 'strongly supported' or 'supported' the draft Forestry Plan. Hearings and deliberations were held on 21 July to consider changes to the draft Forestry Plan as a result of submissions. The final Forestry Plan will be considered for approval by Council at the 4 September Council meeting. Further information can be found here: [Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025 | Let's Talk Queenstown Lakes District Council](#)

Development Plans – Arrowtown Riverside Reserve and Widgeon Park

11. Draft development plans for Arrowtown Riverside Reserve and Widgeon Park have been completed. They were developed drawing on the insights from early engagement with key stakeholders in April and May 2025. The draft development plans were shared with key stakeholders in late July and will go out for community consultation on 11 August 2025 (Widgeon Park) and 18 August 2025 (Arrowtown Riverside Reserve). Community drop-in sessions will be held to discuss the draft plans on 26 August 2025 (Arrowtown Riverside Reserve) and 28 August 2025 (Widgeon Park).

Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan

12. The Community & Services Committee recommended to Council approval of the final Reserve Management Plan (RMP) at their meeting on 3 July. This included changes to the RMP as a result of the submissions received. Council considered approval of the plan at their 31 July 2025 Council meeting.

Tiki Trail Pedestrian Bridge

13. To enhance public safety, a pedestrian bridge reconnecting the cemetery area to the base of the Tiki Trail is being constructed, creating a safer separation between hikers and mountain bikers. The bridge will eliminate a known safety pinch point, where both user groups currently share a narrow section of track, improving safety for all trail users. The contract has been awarded with works scheduled to commence in August 2025.

Goat and Rabbit Control

14. Goat control is underway in the Whakatipu area between July and September 2025. The control is being undertaken by professional contractors using firearms. Wild, feral goats cause damage to property, native vegetation, and biodiversity. They can also be a hazard to traffic on roads and to track users. Goat control has been targeted to the Matakauri Wetland, Queenstown Hill Reserve, Boydtown, Ben Lomond Reserve, Fernhill, and Water Tank Reserve. Further information can be found here: [QLDC - Goat Control Operations](#).
15. Rabbit control is underway across the district with professional contractors using pindone to reduce rabbit numbers. In July and early August control was undertaken at Morven Ferry Reserve, Twin Trails, and the Queenstown Event Centre Hay Paddock in the Whakatipu. In Wānaka, this work has happened across five reserves; Cameron Creek, Cardrona River Mouth Reserve, Little Mount Iron Reserve, Peninsula Bay Reserve, and the Clutha Outlet Reserve. Further information can be found here: [QLDC - Rabbit Control: Baiting Operations](#).

Community Partnerships

Community Investments

15. Over \$525K has been granted to 58 groups with \$1.7M requested over three funding rounds. This was a successful funding series with workshops-built funding and planning capability for community groups and charities.

Welcoming Communities

16. A newcomers Guide was launched and promoted/distributed to relevant stakeholders and groups. The Social English programme started in July. The agreed plan with Community Link Upper Clutha 2025–26 plan includes four settlement workshops and coordination of Welcoming Day in September.

Community Wellbeing

17. 500 Get Active passes have been used, and a new funding round opens 1 August. Creative Spaces exhibition is planned for the month of November. New initiatives include dog-friendly parking and homelessness support.

Community Associations

18. The Mayor and CE completed visits to six small community associations.; the May meetup connected Upper Clutha chairs. There has been continued work to support collaborative projects with Community Associations and internal teams including Parks and P&I.

Responsible Camping Programme

19. Wrap up of Summer Ambassador programme was on 27 April. Responsible Camping Ambassadors worked 6,376 hours, surveyed 3,845 sites, and responded to 422 requests for service (RFS). 238 were requests for freedom camping enforcement, and 184 were for the responsible camping team and spanned over 120 locations.

Camping Bylaw Implementation

20. A new freedom camping bylaw is on track to be implemented by next summer. Council workshops were held in April–May and community consultation is open until 8 August. Hearings and deliberations are scheduled for September, with proposed adoption planned for 9 October.