

5 May 2026

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Request for Official Information LG26-0090 - NZSki Proposed Doolans Basin Expansion

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 4 April 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

All information and documents held by the Council relating to NZSki Limited's proposed expansion into the Doolans Basin, including but not limited to:

- **resource consent applications**
- **reports, assessments, and technical documents**
- **correspondence (including emails)**
- **internal memos, briefings, and notes**

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, the QLDC Planning and Development Directorate was consulted.

Decision to withhold information

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

- Section 7(2)(c) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—
 - (ii) would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

Section 7(2)(c)(ii) of the LGOIMA allows the Council to withhold information if releasing it would likely harm the public interest. In this case, providing the information could undermine the Council's ability to continue receiving similar information in confidence from other organisations in the future.

For matters relating to the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), the process is jointly administered by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), not QLDC. Information on projects approved for referral is published on the [Fast-Track website](#), and material relating to the referral stage is now likely publicly available there.

However, proposals being applied for under the fast-track process—such as the applications you have enquired about—are not available for public viewing or comment. EPA has advised councils not to disclose any details of these proposals externally, as releasing such information could compromise the integrity of the fast-track process and discourage agencies from providing information under statutory obligations.

While QLDC is committed to openness and public participation, in this case the public interest is better served by maintaining the confidentiality of information supplied in confidence. Accordingly, any substantive application information held by Council that is not already published on the Fast-Track website is withheld under section 7(2)(c)(ii) of the LGOIMA. For further details, MfE or the EPA (via contact@fasttrack.govt.nz) remain the appropriate points of contact.

Public interest considerations

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 acknowledges the public interest in ensuring transparency and accountability among local authority members and officials and supports the principles of good governance. We remain committed to releasing information wherever appropriate. However, in this instance, the information in question was provided in confidence. Releasing it could undermine public trust and discourage future cooperation, especially where individuals or organisations are compelled to provide sensitive material under statutory authority.

Therefore, QLDC has determined that section 7(2)(c)(ii) of the LGOIMA applies. The release of the requested information would likely otherwise to damage the public interest, and no overriding public interest has been identified that would justify its disclosure.

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).

QLDC trusts that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

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