

**Minutes of a hearing of submissions and deliberations on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 held in Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road on 24 July 2025 at 1.00pm**

**Present:**

Councillor Cody Tucker (Chairperson), Councillor Gavin Bartlett and Councillor Esther Whitehead

**In attendance:**

Ms Sophie Mander (Strategy Planning Manager - Waste Minimisation), Ms Emma Brockie (Sustainability Advisor), Ms Shelley Dawson (Business Support Manager - Investment Advisory), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Democracy Services Team Leader), Ms Georgia Pringle (Democracy Services Advisor), and members of the public as detailed below.

**Election of Chair**

**It was moved (Councillor Whitehead/Councillor Bartlett):**

**That the hearing panel agree to appoint Councillor Tucker to chair the hearing.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest/

**Confirmation of Agenda**

**It was moved (Councillor Tucker/Councillor Whitehead):**

**That the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Hearing of submissions**

**1. Gina Dempster (Wānaka Wastebusters)**

Ms Dempster said that social enterprise fills a gap between non-profit and business, noting that while social enterprise trades in goods and services it often operates in areas of market failure. Ms Dempster highlighted the need for large scale practical resource and recovery infrastructure in the district, particularly for construction and demolition (C&D)

waste, and suggested that Wastebusters has the relevant expertise and knowledge to assist in meeting this need.

Ms Dempster advocated a strategic partnership between Wastebusters and QLDC involving a memorandum of understanding and stakeholder framework. Such a partnership would help drive waste reduction and resource recovery. Ms Dempster suggested that Wastebusters could deliver 70% (11,000 tonnes) of the projected C&D waste in the district (16,000 tonnes) and requested that QLDC provide Wastebusters with additional land.

2. Shana Payne (NZIA), Katrine Gellatly (Central Otago Sustainability Consultant) and Aaron Thule (Programme Manager, WAO Better Building Working Group)

Ms Payne and Ms Gellatly supported the overall direction of the plan - especially the goal of collaboration – and sought assurance that QLDC would not pass off all roles and responsibilities to other entities. They also indicated that they would like to see a more active role for Council in some areas.

The presenters suggested that the plan should include more wording related to “rethink and reduce” in the sphere of designing out waste. They also expressed support for more C&D waste diversion hubs in the district as well as for construction site waste management plans to be mandatory.

3. Sophie Ward (Plastic Free Wānaka)

Ms Ward expressed full support for the plan, especially for its focus on collaboration and partnerships. Ms Ward highlighted that the Plastic Free Wānaka initiative had prevented 17 tonnes of waste, but she also noted that 2.5 million non-reusable cups went to landfill in the district last year and outlined barriers to reducing these numbers.

Ms Ward recommended changes to the draft plan seeking an explicit commitment related to infrastructure and support for reusables, an emphasis on future waste infrastructure for the reuse economy, and a ban on single use cups/serve ware at event venues.

4. Arthur Lee (Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust)

Mr Lee expressed support for the plan and suggested that outcomes of work lead by the Better Building Working Group (BBWG) have been noticeable. Mr Lee said that there had been missed opportunities (in the plan) around rethink and reduce, suggesting that few actions focused on it. He advocated smaller size houses in order to minimise wasted space (and the resources used to create larger buildings).

Mr Lee advocated a focus on projects that would have a large impact (e.g. not just one or two houses) and inquired whether there was an opportunity to influence construction companies. He also spoke on the importance of strengthening relationships and of energy efficiency.

5. Daniel Nogueira (Zero Waste Glenorchy)

Mr Nogueira supported the plan and spoke to points related to organic materials. Mr Nogueira supported the rollout of kerbside collection of organic waste but indicated that how this is achieved is important; he indicated a preference for a decentralised model that would empower local communities. He highlighted the importance of bringing composting practice and composting products to the heart of the community and of ensuring that what is produced by the community stays within the community.

Mr Nogueira also noted that there were currently 70 households/business in Glenorchy using the community composting facility which was running at about 20% capacity and suggested that there was space for a curing bay, which would cost very little to run.

6. Marion Krogh (Protect our Winters New Zealand)

Ms Krogh supported the plan and indicated that POWs main interest related to the plans potential impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Ms Krogh noted that the kerbside organics collection presented a huge opportunity to reduce methane emissions and suggested that implementing this should be a priority. She recommended that there be an education initiative associated with the launch of kerbside organics collection to explain its importance and impact.

Ms Krogh supported the idea of a permanent repair hub for community members to be supported to mend broken household items, such as clothing, furniture, and electronics and also asked if there is an opportunity for some places to create and sell compost for a profit.

*The hearing of submissions concluded at 2.13pm, after which deliberations commenced.*

**Deliberations**

Officers invited the panel to discuss opportunities to make changes or amendments to the draft plan. Some key discussion points from the panel were as follows:

- Suggestion to include implementation timeframes;
- Include actions related to the visitor/tourism sector waste minimisation opportunities;
- Need to provide definition of partnerships,
- Include 'social enterprise' as a key stakeholder and strategic partner;
- Noted that regulatory tools sit more with P&D teams and as such suggestion to include something in the plan around working with other departments. This was true also of the Waste Bylaw – still a need to identify tools and guideline outside of a bylaw;
- Suggestion to include a new objective on the visitor economy and waste and the requirement for more resourcing. There was a question as to whether this goes in an objective or should it be picked it up as a partnership with Destination Queenstown or Lake Wānaka Tourism.

- Suggestion that more focus across the plan is targeted at the top of the waste hierarchy in actions associated with 'rethinking' e.g. redesigning systems so that less material goes to waste.
- There was a query around whether C&D SSWMPs be sought as part of resource consent processes, to which officers noted that it was largely considered through a bylaw in other councils;
- On FOGO kerbside organics collection (Food Organic and Green Organic) it was proposed to work with CODC to understand the timeline for their proposed processing facility. It was noted that CODC co-funding decision by the Ministry for Environment is imminent – once implementation and timeframes are available these will be put to Council for consideration. At same time opportunities for the market to provide a solution to organics processing will also be considered as part of the new Materials Recycling Facility tender process.
- Update wording from 'respecting' te ao maori to 'supporting' te ao maori (p. 24);
- Direction to strengthen definition and meaning of partnership – recognise different types of partnerships e.g. strategic partnerships;
- Requested to add an action around defining partnership (under objective 5), e.g. strategic partnerships with Wastebusters and Destination Queenstown and Lake Wānaka Tourism;
- Objective 5 – need to add regulatory as part of the description of Objective 5 as not clear enough that it is implied through referring only to 'policy'.
- Query how to incorporate feedback in submissions regarding giving Wastebusters more land – links to Action 18.

**It was moved (Councillor Tucker, Councillor Bartlett):**

**That the hearing panel:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Receive** all submissions to the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 and hear the submitters who wish to be heard
3. **Receive** the late submissions; and
4. **Recommend** to Council a final form of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 to be adopted, with changes following consideration of public feedback from the submissions and subject to informal final approval from the panel.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

*Meeting concluded at 3.18pm.*