

QLDC Demand Projections



JUNE 2021

1.0 Background & Context – National Trends



It is estimated that nationally the population has only increased by 0.7% since March 2020 due to closed borders and lack of migration¹.

For the first time since 2014, natural increase (births minus deaths) is now the main contributor to population growth².

The long term slow-down in population growth is a trend forecast nationally, driven by the following:

- > migration into New Zealand is expected to decline; and
- > The effect of an ageing population will be two-fold, an increase in the rate of death and a decrease in birth rates, both resulting in a decrease in the natural change.

Leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queenstown Lakes District (QLD) was experiencing exceptionally high growth. This was driven by an unprecedented level of migration with over 2,000 people per year moving to the district to live. The impact of COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the QLD. However, it is believed that QLD will continue to grow strongly, as it remains to be an attractive place to live, work and visit. This is the key assumption that has underpinned the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) demand projections (the projections).

¹ Infometrics May 2020

² Ibid, May 2020

2.0 How are the projections produced?



The projections are based on Statistics NZ (Stats NZ) Usually Resident Population which are the official estimates of population in New Zealand.

The QLDC methodology incorporates additional information which provides for a more robust, localised and multi-dimensional model that has proven to be more accurate³. The approach considers a range of data sources including Stats NZ, census data, resource and building consents, Housing and Business Capacity Assessments, migration data, Data Ventures information⁴, Infometrics projections (including those produced by Waka Kotahi) and tourism and visitor accommodation projections.

The projections were prepared in a time of unprecedented uncertainty as the Covid-19 situation was unfolding.

³ Demonstrated by cross-checks with Qrious mobile phone usage data for the QLD

⁴ Data Ventures create near real time electronic card spend insights to help inform resident / visitor information and is an input into the demand projections.

3.0 How are the demand projections utilised across the QLDC work programmes?



The projections are utilised across Council in all workstreams, which includes:

- > The Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan
- > Ten Year Plan
- > 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy
- > Proposed District Plan
- > Annual Plan
- > Development Contribution Policy
- > Business Cases
- > Masterplans
- > Strategies / Policies
- > Housing and Business Capacity Assessments

4.0 What happens if we grow slower or faster than we predicted?



The projections are reviewed on a 6-monthly basis with the next detailed review due to be undertaken in July 2021.

This is a critical step in the process to make sure QLDC is using the most up to date projections. It also allows for an agile response to any variance in growth rates and the utilisation of the most current data.