

**QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN: PRIORITY AREA LANDSCAPE
SCHEDULES**

MINUTE OF COMMISSIONERS

25 September 2023

1. The Queenstown Lakes District Council (Council) has appointed a Hearing Panel, which comprises Commissioners Jane Taylor, Peter Kensington and Quentin Smith (the Commission), to hear all submissions and, after it has heard the submissions, to make recommendations on the Variation to the Proposed District Plan: Priority Area Landscape Schedules as to whether to accept or reject the submissions received and any amendments to the provisions of the Schedules.
2. The Council is then required to decide whether to accept or reject the Hearing Panel's recommendations.

Further Memorandum of Queenstown Lakes District Council regarding Expert Witness Conferencing Arrangements

3. A further Memorandum of Queenstown Lakes District Council (Council) dated 20th September 2023 regarding expert witness conferencing arrangements has been received (the Memorandum) in response to paragraph 7.7 of our Minute dated 4 August 2023, and our subsequent Minute dated 15 September 2023.

4. We have considered the matters raised in the Memorandum. In relation to the areas of disagreement with the proposed agenda set out at paragraphs 11 to 20 of the Memorandum, we comment as follows:

(a) Dr John Cossens

Having had regard to Council's reasons set out at paragraph 13 of the Memorandum, we agree that it would not be appropriate for Dr Cossens to take part in the expert conferencing. We note that we have had a separate memorandum from Dr Cossens dated 12 September 2023 which raises procedural issues with regard to the landscape methodology and consultation (refer to the comment at paragraph 13.7 of the Memorandum), which will be the subject of a separate Minute to be issued imminently.

(b) Upper Clutha Environmental Society (Inc)

The Landscape Variation has been notified for the primary purpose of populating the content of the schedules. Accordingly, it is appropriate to focus expert witness conferencing on that issue to resolve, to the extent practicable, areas of disagreement between the experts. Although we have had regard to the views expressed by Mr Haworth on behalf of the Society, we do not consider these to be relevant to the purpose of this particular expert conferencing. Rather, we consider the proposed conferencing will be of considerable assistance to the parties and the Hearing Panel.

(c) Requests for conferencing on mapping

We accept Council's advice at paragraphs 17 to 20 of the Memorandum in relation to requests for conferencing on mapping. Any matters pertaining to scope are best dealt with at the hearing rather than through expert conferencing.

(d) Leave for further experts to be involved in conferencing

We note that a late request from Mr Stephen Brown, an expert engaged on behalf of Queenstown Park Limited, seeking leave to join the conferencing was received prior to 23 September 2023. We

concur with Council's views at paragraph 21.3 and, accordingly, grant leave for Mr S Brown be joined to the conferencing schedule set out in Appendix A as requested.

Directions

5. Accordingly, we direct as follows:
 - (a) Expert witness conferencing for the landscape and planning experts is to take place during the week beginning 2nd October 2023 for the purposes of resolving areas of disagreement in relation to the content of the landscape schedules;
 - (b) The draft agenda and topics (as set out in Appendix A of this Minute) is confirmed by the Hearing Panel; and
 - (c) Leave is granted for Mr S Brown to attend the conferencing as has been requested in the Memorandum of Counsel for Queenstown Park Limited dated 22 September 2023, and we direct that he be added to the list of experts in Appendix A as appropriate.
6. Should any party have any queries in relation to this Minute or require any clarification in relation to the process for this hearing, please contact the Hearings Administrator at dp.hearings@qldc.govt.nz.



Jane Taylor

For the Commission

25 September 2023