

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND
MINIMISATION PLAN 2025-2031

**QUEENSTOWN LAKES:
TOGETHER TOWARDS ZERO WASTE
AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL

THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN (WMMP) SETS THE DIRECTION FOR HOW OUR DISTRICT AIMS TO REDUCE WASTE, LOWER EMISSIONS, AND MOVE TOWARD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

It's about creating a future where we send less to landfill, reuse more, and find smarter ways to turn waste into something valuable.

Over 900 tonnes of waste is sent to Victoria Flats Landfill each week, much of which can be reduced, recovered, or reused. By making better choices, improving systems, and building community understanding, there are clear opportunities to reduce this impact.

Changing the story of how our district's waste is minimised or managed relies on working together on innovative but achievable solutions. This is where the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) comes in.

Although legislation requires Council to write the WMMP, the plan will only be successful if everyone in our community works together to make it happen.

The same applies to developing the WMMP. We were incredibly grateful to all stakeholders and members of the community who took the time to guide, advise, sense check and provide general feedback as we developed the WMMP. Whether you were involved in our early engagement, which helped us shape a draft, or you provided general feedback during our later consultation period, your input directly influenced the final plan and guided how Council and the community will continue working together to reduce waste, protect our environment, and build a more sustainable future for our district.

This summary provides a snapshot of the process we followed to engage the community on the WMMP, some of the key feedback themes and how community input shaped the final WMMP, which has now been adopted by the full Council.

READ THE FINAL

WMMP 2025-2031 AT

 qldc.govt.nz/WMMP

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

We engaged with stakeholders and the wider community throughout the development of the WMMP. This was completed in two phases:

PHASE 1: EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Active discussion with key industry stakeholders and the general community.

PHASE 2: CONSULTATION

Consultation on a draft WMMP

We enjoyed speaking to so many people about the plan at the Remarkables Market in Frankton.



PHASE 1: EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging early with key stakeholders is considered best practice and helps enable broad district-wide support. Because the WMMP actions impact everyone, collaboration during the development and implementation of the plan is critical for its success.

WHO WE ENGAGED WITH:

We engaged early with the follow sectors:



Construction –
designers, architects,
developers, builders,
suppliers, clients



Business –
industry, accommodation,
tourism, health, education



Residents & Visitors –
permanent and
short-term



Waste Operators –
collection, recycling,
disposal services



Non-Profit Organisations –
charities, community
enterprises, industry groups



Government –
legislation, national
waste strategy, funding,
projects

HOW WE ENGAGED:

- > In-person workshops targeting key sector stakeholders:
 - Construction companies & waste operators
 - Tourism operators
 - Community groups & non-profits
 - Internal Council departments
 - Online webinar for wider community
- > Community input via Council's *Let's Talk, Kōrero Mai* platform, including an ideas board, priority issue submissions and webinar recordings

WHAT YOU SAID:

Insights were drawn from the feedback gathered during workshops, group discussions, post workshop surveys and community submitted ideas. Feedback fell into the following key priority areas:

- Construction companies and waste operators
- Business and Tourism operators
- Community Groups and non-profits



PHASE 2: CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT WMMP

Consultation on a draft WMMP ran from 29 May until 30 June 2025.

A submissions hearing was held on 24 July 2025, where six submitters presented their feedback to a hearing panel. The hearing panel considered this feedback carefully and recommended several amendments, which are reflected in the updated draft.

HERE ARE SOME KEY STATS FROM THE CONSULTATION PERIOD:



68

submissions, including seven detailed long-form responses



6

submitters spoke at a submissions hearing



Spoke to community members at
8 public events



9,912

reach on social media



2,800

project page views

Our large free-standing signs did a great job of promoting the opportunity to participate. These were placed in prominent locations across the district during the consultation period - here's one at the Strange Goods market in Arrowtown.



KEY THEMES OF FEEDBACK

SUPPORT FOR WASTEBUSTERS

Submitters expressed strong appreciation for Wastebusters and called for increased funding, land expansion, and a similar facility in Queenstown.

REDUCING ORGANIC WASTE

There was widespread support for urgent implementation of a Council kerbside organic waste collection, including business-focused diversion.

REDUCING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

Submitters raised concerns about construction waste and proposed stronger regulations, including mandatory waste plans and use of recycled materials.

ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE

Many supported upgrading waste facilities and infrastructure in Queenstown and Wānaka to improve resource recovery and circular economy outcomes.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AND EDUCATION

Submissions highlighted the need for better education and incentives to reduce recycling confusion and promote sustainable waste habits.

TOURISM AND VISITOR WASTE

Submitters called for improved waste infrastructure and education for visitors, and suggested levies or industry contributions to manage tourist waste.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

There was strong support for Council and government leadership to use regulatory tools, fund community initiatives, and align with broader strategic plans.

SNAPSHOT OF COMMENTS

Organic waste collection is urgent. Most other councils around the country are doing it already, QLDC is way behind.

Waste is often the product of a broken system so behaviour change is only a solution where solutions exist to reduce or divert waste. We need to advocate for systems change at the Central Government regulatory level, including product stewardship schemes and robust testing of products before introducing to market.

Great to see kerbside Greenwaste collection. This should be prioritized. Prioritize organic waste collection and use it for compost production. Would be good to see a link between the waste management plan and climate change and biodiversity plan.

We support the direction but would like to see an accelerated timeline and more investment in all objectives, particularly objective one. We urge QLDC to take a stronger stance and voice to advocate nationally for increased investment from central government. Fully support all key actions. Thank you for the work in this space.

Also need government rules to start banning the use of packaging that can't be recycled in nz and insisting that manufacturers are held responsible for manufacturing goods that have a realistic shelf life which can be easily fixed at a reasonable cost or under guarantee for an extended time.

Excited for the kerbside organic waste collection service! This should be implemented asap. I also support diverting additional waste from landfill. I support creating a circular economy and repair initiatives, advocating for improved repair regulations, exchanging goods locally. Please make construction and demolition waste minimisation easy and affordable so that it becomes a no-brainer and second-nature to divert this waste from landfill.

It would also be great for access to repair facilities to be supported and expanded further. I have used the Repair Cafes run by Sustainable Queenstown previously and found them helpful and useful and gained some basic skills myself too. Both are much harder to achieve 100% in practice than they look, but are still worth striving for as much as possible, even imperfectly.

I strongly support the plan's actions on construction waste, organics and infrastructure. I believe that strategic partnerships with local experts like Wastebusters are crucial, and that providing the necessary land for their expanded Wasties 2.0 hub will significantly enhance these actions and help achieve more ambitious targets. I support Wastebusters getting access to more land, so they can build a bigger, better circular economy and environment hub for our community.

We wholeheartedly embrace the terms circular economy and zero waste as our district's essential framework. Continuing to support organisations like Plastic Free Wanaka to deliver grassroots community led behaviour change is essential to deliver authentic, action based collaboration, circular systems, and behaviour change.

To read all online and written submissions from residents and stakeholders please go to
 letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

HOW COMMUNITY FEEDBACK IS REFLECTED IN THE FINAL PLAN

Our WMMP was shaped by the early stakeholder feedback and further refined following the consultation period.

Following the public consultation, the Hearing Panel recommended the following changes to the draft WMMP, now incorporated into the final plan. Key updates include:

- 1 Strengthened Strategic Language and Objectives**
- 2 Enhanced Action Plans and Partnership Frameworks**
- 3 Improved Clarity & Readability**
- 4 New and Expanded Focus Areas**

These amendments strengthen the alignment with community feedback, clarify Council's intentions and improve the accessibility of the WMMP while retaining the document's strategic intent.

Many submissions reflected the ideas and priorities already embedded in the draft plan. Other feedback provided valuable, detailed suggestions that go beyond the scope of the document itself but will play an important role during the implementation of the plan. This level of thought and input is highly appreciated, as it helps ensure that the actions of the WMMP are practical, responsive, and aligned with community expectations.

**FULL DETAILS
OF THE SUBMISSIONS
AND OUR NEW WASTE
MANAGEMENT AND
MINIMISATION PLAN
2025-2031 CAN BE VIEWED
ON OUR WEBSITE**