Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

5 November 2026

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [6]

Title | Taitara: Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is:

a. to provide the Board with an update on projects of interest;

b. to allow members to report on recent community engagement; and

c. to cover other matters not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

Prepared by:



Name: Simon Telfer
Title: Chair
23 October 2026

Recent Formal Engagements

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) Workshop

1. WUCCB members had a workshop on 12 October which included items on the Draft Capital Plan Programme, Stormwater, Property & Infrastructure and Wānaka Economic Development.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

2. We shouted lunch to 20 Mount Aspiring College students who had each achieved over 50 hours of community service this year. This initiative is particularly important to me as these individuals will be our community volunteers and leaders over the coming decades.

3. Food for Love's Gala was a joyous celebration, well organized and well attended. Outbid on all the auction items I went home empty handed but happy to have had a very uplifting evening.

4. Thanks to John Wellington and his team for organising and hosting a very successful Election 2026 local candidate evening. It was wonderful to see a full Lake Wānaka Centre sharing a strong sense of community democracy.

5. Aurora continue their regular community engagement by hosting the Chamber's Business After 5pm event at Edgewater. Great to connect with locals, especially those passionate about electrification.

6. Management of a regional airline were visiting Wānaka, with Cody and I meeting them to share views on the need for greater regional air connectivity.

7. Toni and Jo, Trustees of the Community Workshop, met with me to discuss their need for new premises and new board members.

8. Mayor Glover and I had our regular catch up at Scroggin. I continued to advocate strongly for the Upper Clutha to have serious investment in the upcoming Long Term Plan, especially in years one to three of the Ten Year Plan.

9. It was a fun evening celebrating Wānaka Solar's ten year anniversary of bringing renewable energy to local residents and businesses.

10. Matters I have dealt with by email or phone over the last six weeks include the cell tower in Anderson Heights, road closures for Challenge Wānaka, Lower Helwick Street redevelopment, telecommunications infrastructure (more generally) underpass graffiti and safer school travel.

Cody's Comments

11. Political debates are heating up, and we need to build better relationships with government. I went to both the Waitaki candidate events debate in Wānaka and the ASB Great Debate with the party financial leaders in Queenstown to connect with local politicians and share the nuance of the district's challenges.

12. I meet with Rehette and Scott at Local Government NZ online, connecting them with Anori - a company building the modern tools for planning to streamline resource consents. It's sophisticated software that started in Google X, which gives people the tools to find out what they can and can't do on their own land and to get consent with a fraction of the cost and time.

13. I've joined the team at the Wānaka Airport Steering Group to help add another community voice on the issue. Great breadth of understanding and shared vision. I met with a regional airline soon after who are looking at reinstating a domestic service from Wānaka to Christchurch and will meet soon with Air NZ to ask what investment the future of Wānaka Airport would need to reconnect it with a regional flight service to help inform the Master Plan thinking.

14. I met with Aaron Callaghan in Longview to understand his vision for a holistic health hub that he's building to make Hāwea "the healthiest community in NZ." He's submitted resource consent and looking to build in the coming years all going well, all power to him!

15. I've been in contact with a few representatives from Contact Energy around finding a way to expedite the mitigation/armouring of the Flora Dora Cliffs to prevent erosion before the lake levels fill back up again. There's ongoing work that I'm staying involved with to ensure they meet their obligations to protect public land and prevent further degradation.

16. I went to Mt Aspiring College with Councillor Nicola King to talk to Year 12 and 13 students about civics, the role of local government and the future of the district. Lots of targeted questions that demonstrated how engaged they are with the current challenges and opportunities we have in the Upper Clutha.

17. I presented the Supreme award at the Kahu Youth Service and Volunteer awards for the fourth straight year. Always an incredibly inspiring night recognising the wisdom and service of our rakatahi, who have selflessly contributed thousands of hours of volunteer effort in our community over the last year.

18. Council signed the Regional Deal and invited our new Chief Executive in Queenstown almost on the same day, a significant few milestones that represent months of work in the background coming to light.

19. I continue to work with now countless residents with concerns around planning and helping them navigate the Council system. I always do my best to find a way forward but have to highlight I am not the expert in navigating the current planning system. It does help contextualise my leadership role in adapting to the new reforms and I am working hard to collect the themes and find the patterns to help address any systemic issues.

Chris' Comments

20. It was a quiet few weeks since my last update however in one of my external trustee roles there has been some significant progress.

21. The Wānaka Arts Cultural Charitable Trust is now working very closely with Queenstown Lakes District Council with regards to providing a feasibility study, a business plan and further in depth information giving the staff and Councillors a clear picture of what is proposed. There seems to be very positive feedback and our goal of creating a community based Performing Arts Precinct is well underway.

22. The previously named Lakes District Arts Trust is now The Lakes District Public Art Trust, and we now have a documented plan for the future and positive feedback from our Arts patrons.

23. Without giving anything away we have a significant piece of public art that we hope to have installed in Wānaka before Christmas. There is also a project in its early stages for Cardrona, and we are planning a temporary installation on the lake for next year.

24. I have also caught up with some members of the Wānaka Town Centre Alliance to discuss the proposed new jetty and the Helwick Street development.

Nicola's Comments

25. I attended the Mihi Whakatau to formally welcome our new Chief Executive, James Stevenson-Wallace and also attended the Regional Deal with our partners, Central Otago District Council and Minister Chris Bishop.

26. Alongside my WUCCB colleagues, I supported the Upper Clutha Waitaki candidates debate in the Lake Wānaka Centre and attended the Great Debate put on by The Chamber of Commerce in Queenstown.

27. I joined a briefing by local government and a Transport & Planning Spokespeople Briefing by the Labour Party members.

28. I attended the Lake Wānaka Tourism AGM at Edgewater, taking the opportunity to connect with local tourism operators. I also attended the Economics Snapshots at Te Atamira in Queenstown

and several WAO Film Festival screenings, as well as participating in the WAO Summit welcome event, Better Business session and Candidate Debate.

29. I also attended the Lake Wānaka Tourism Board meeting and the Queenstown Airport Corporations AGM.

John's Comments

30. In the past couple of weeks my attention was taken up with arranging a meet the candidates event at the Lake Wānaka Centre on 8 October with the assistance of a few volunteers. This was on behalf of the Community Board and was part of our general civic role. The meeting was a full house, and I believe an important part of the general election process.

31. I also attended the Mount Barker residents association committee meeting and have follow up meetings with Council staff regarding issues raised at that meeting.

32. I attended the Upper Clutha's Tracks Trust AGM and have had a subsequent meeting with the QLDC Parks Team in relation to track development and maintenance.

33. I have been working with Council staff and other elected members to facilitate the development of a shared path alongside SH6 at Albert Town as part of the remediation works following the installation of the Upper Clutha Conveyance system pipeline. This improves the existing informal path between Templeton Street and Monteiths Road.

34. I have also been in correspondence with NPD and Council regarding the shared path outside the new petrol station and hope to achieve a good outcome with the support and goodwill from NPD.