

Minutes of a Community & Environment Committee Workshop

Thursday 23 April 2026 at 11.00am
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

Membership:	Councillor Matt Wong	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
	Councillor Cody Tucker	Councillor Melissa White
Apologies:	Councillor Jon Mitchell	
In attendance:	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk	Ken Bailey
	Silvia Dancose	Greg Rozen
	Marie Day	Ruby Mills
	Alex Jamieson	Kat Banyard
	Bill Nicoll	Alex Martin
	Dave Winterburn	
Media:	No members of the media in attendance.	
Public:	No members of the public in attendance.	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Welcoming Communities Update</u></p> <p>The purpose of this item was to brief the Community & Environment Committee members on the progress of the Welcoming Communities programme since 2021, strengthen understanding of its contribution to Council and community outcomes and seek guidance on proposed future priorities.</p> <p>Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager) and Silvia Dancose (Welcoming Communities Advisor) introduced the item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment D).</p> <p>The following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The collaborators involved in the Newcomers Digital Hub project and whether there are opportunities to integrate the initiative across Council systems and processes. This is building on the development of a Newcomers Guide. The value of citizenship ceremonies was noted. It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have clearer explanation 	None.

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	<p>of the oath and affirmation at the commencement of ceremonies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the QLD Welcoming Plan 2024-2027, in reference to pages 54-55 on Area differences. Data taken from the Quality of Life Survey 2023, with a suggestion that updated information could assist in demonstrating trends over time in neighbourhood measures data, such as welcoming and belonging. • Consideration of what data is collected in relation to migrant communities within the district, how this data is used to better understand challenges faced, and how it informs evaluation of the impact of approaches implemented. Data sources referenced included the Quality of Life Survey and Census data, along with project-specific data. Data and reporting on programme progress is captured in attachments A and B. <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Welcoming Communities Progress Report - Year at a Glance 2025-2026</i> <i>Attachment B: Welcoming Communities Impact Report - Year in Review 2024-2025</i> <i>Attachment C: Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027</i> <i>Attachment D: Presentation slides</i></p>	
2.	<p><u>Aquatic Pools LPG Conversion Projects</u></p> <p>The purpose of this item was to provide the Community & Environment Committee members with an overview of the LPG boilers energy conversion for the three aquatic centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrowtown Memorial Pool • Alpine Aqualand (Queenstown Events Centre) • Wānaka Recreation Centre <p>This item was a briefing to support committee members' understanding and enable questions and discussion.</p> <p>Ken Bailly (General Manager, Community Services) provided some context and background for the projects.</p> <p>Greg Rozen (Programme Director) and Alex Martin (Sport & Recreation Manager) presented the item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A).</p>	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>The following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variations in payback periods between the different locations and the factors contributing to these differences. • Clarification on water temperature objectives, including whether the intent is full heating or reducing chill, and the opportunity to report this back to the Committee. • Confirmation that transformer upgrades are required at QEC and Wānaka, and clarification on ownership of the transformers, including Council's requirement to make financial contributions. • Projected costs and estimates associated with the transformer upgrades. • Long-term operational contracts, including whether the contracts are appropriate for the commercial equipment required, particularly in relation to maintenance and performance in alpine conditions. • Investigation of ground source heating options. It was noted that while these options have been investigated and not fully ruled out, operational costs remain a key concern. An update on further development of options and cost breakdowns was requested to be reported back in later months. • Consideration of solar and other long-term, cost-effective solutions, in addition to short-term options, with confirmation that solar solutions have been investigated. <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Workshop Presentation Slides</i></p>	

The workshop concluded at 12.07pm.