

**Full Council**

**16 November 2023**

**Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [1]**

**Department: Corporate Services**

**Title | Taitara: Endorsement of the Queenstown Airport Corporation Draft Master Plan 2023**

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Queenstown Lakes District Council's endorsement of the Queenstown Airport Corporations Draft Master Plan 2023, the endorsement process is a specification of the 2023 QLDC Statement of Expectation in relation to the Council Controlled Trading Organisation.

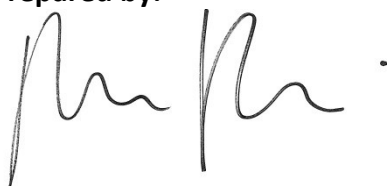
**Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka**

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That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Endorse** the Queenstown Airport Corporation 2023 Draft Master Plan.

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Meaghan Miller  
**Title:** General Manager Corporate Services  
30 October 2023

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Mike Theelen  
**Title:** Chief Executive  
2 November 2023

## Context | Horopaki

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1. The 2023 QLDC Statement of Expectation [hereafter 'SOE'] to the Queenstown Airport Corporation [hereafter 'QAC'] sought that the QAC would seek feedback from Queenstown Airport shareholders before community consultation on its proposed Draft Master Plan Attachment A. The SOE further specified the Draft Master Plan must be endorsed by Full Council after the QAC has sought feedback from the community. In setting its expectation in relation to the strategic direction of QAC, Council listed a number of requirements in relation to the Draft Master Plan.
2. The subsequent 2023/24 QAC Statement of Intent committed to aligning the Master Plan with the direction set by QLDC through its plans and strategies.
3. The QAC undertook four independently facilitated workshops in Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell which were held in September 2022 to guide the issues of significance to the wider communities. The QAC then undertook to deliver a 'partnership' approach to the Draft Master Plan and community consultation undertaken through the Let's Talk platform; consultation was undertaken from 24 May to 23 June 2023. A Community Consultation report (Attachment B) and anonymised verbatim [Let's Talk](#) has been published on the QAC website (30 August 2023) and provided to the Council.
4. The QAC presented the themes of the feedback to the Council on 21 August.
5. Over the consultation period the QAC spoke to over 500 people at presentations and face to face. It attracted 2,935 webpage views, 2,300 animation views and reached 63,805 views on social media. Of the engagement, 73% were local residents. Additionally the QAC undertook extensive media engagement and advertising campaigns.
6. The QAC has reported that while the majority of feedback supported the Draft Master Plan the consultation highlighted a wide range of views expressed relating to growth (visitor and residential) and responding to demand in the district and wider region. It was noted by some that this requires a broader conversation involving multiple parties, of which the airport is one. Aligning the airport's plans to the Destination Management Plans of both QLDC and the Central Otago District Council (CODC) was viewed as important.
7. There was some commentary about the role of other existing and proposed airports in the region. Several respondents raised the future development opportunities for the QLDC-owned Wānaka Airport. Some submitters challenged or expressed concerns about the proposed infrastructure upgrades and development of Queenstown Airport and an increase in flights resulting in increased aviation emissions. The impact of noise and increased activity on the local community was also raised as a concern, in particular by those individuals and community associations neighbouring the airport.

8. The QAC Leadership Team stepped the Council through a schedule of changes to the Draft Master Plan on 5 October. This schedule is available on the QAC website. The QAC demonstrated it has considered the submissions and feedback it received and outlined a considered process.
9. If the Council endorses the Draft Master Plan, the next step will see the QAC Board formally approve the plan.

#### **Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu**

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10. The options before Council are to endorse or not to endorse the plan. It is recommended that the Council endorse the plan.
11. The QAC has developed the plan in accordance with its commitment in the SOI and alongside its strategic plan. It addresses the immediate investment priorities for the company to ensure that the facilities remain fit for purpose.
12. The company has been transparent in its planning, sought feedback, and updated the document. Endorsement offers a measure of public support by the company owner to the plan.
13. If Council chooses the option of not endorsing the plan, it needs to identify what aspects of the planned programme it does not agree with. This option has not been anticipated or flagged through stakeholder engagement. Therefore, the QAC board would need to consider its position.

#### **Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki**

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##### **Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka**

14. This matter is of high significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because Queenstown Airport is a strategic asset and the future of the Queenstown Airport is of high community interest.
15. The QAC in partnership with QLDC followed the principles of consultation under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.
16. See the Community Consultation Report (Attachment B) for a complete breakdown of consultation undertaken by QAC.

##### **Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka**

17. See the Community Consultation Report (Attachment B) for commentary of Iwi engagement.

### Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

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18. This matter relates to the financial risk category. It is associated with RISK10014 Ineffective Financial Strategy within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.

### Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

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19. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

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20. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Alignment with the Vision Beyond 2050: Our Vision and Mission - QLDC
- QLDC Spatial Plan and associated documents.
- QLDC Long Term Plan

21. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

### Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

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22. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

23. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

### Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

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A	QAC Draft Master Plan (circulated separately)
B	QAC Community Consultation Report