

Full Council

5 February 2026

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara: Retrospective Agreement of Remuneration Authority Submission

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to agree the remuneration for elected members, specifically Councillors, of the Queenstown Lakes District Council for the period following the 2025 local elections to 30 June 2026.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Council:

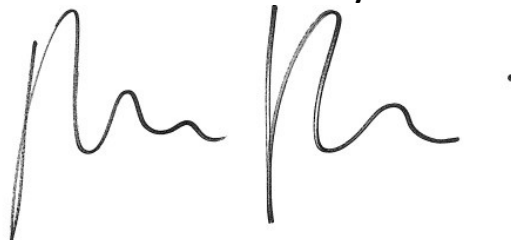
1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Agree** the remuneration rates for Councillors of the Queenstown Lakes District Council for the period following the 11 October 2025 local elections to 30 June 2026 (see Attachment A) as follows:
 - a. Deputy Mayor (x1) \$77,516 per annum;
 - b. Committee Chair (x6) \$69,000 per annum; and
 - c. Committee Deputy Chair (x4) \$60,800 per annum.

Prepared by:



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Title: Democracy Services Manager
16 January 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Meaghan Miller
Title: General Manager Corporate Services
16 January 2026

Context | Horopaki

1. The remuneration, allowances and expenses of elected members are set by the Remuneration Authority (the Authority) under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Schedule 7 clause 6. The Authority makes an annual determination that sets these for the following financial year (1 July – 30 June). For election years, the period is split to allow incoming councils to make decisions regarding the available remuneration.
2. In its annual determination, the Authority defines set amounts for the roles of Mayor, and Chair and members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board. The determination also includes a “pool” that must be allocated to Councillors which includes a minimum allowance and the ability to either, (a) recognise Councillors with additional responsibilities, or (b) increase the overall remuneration of all Councillors. “Additional responsibilities” include the role of Deputy Mayor, or Chair and Deputy Chair of a committee but can also include external appointments.
3. The process and timeline for this is attached: “Guidance, Process and Timeline for Setting Elected Members’ Remuneration following the October 2025 Local Elections” (Attachment B).

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

4. The remuneration for the roles of Mayor, Community Board Chair, and Community Board Member is all set by the Remuneration Authority and cannot be amended. Schedule 3 (*Remuneration from 2025 election of members*) of the Local Government Elected Members (2025/2026) Determination 2025 confirms the following allowances:
 - a. Mayor \$165,197 per annum;
 - b. Community Board Chair \$28,710 per annum
 - c. Community Board Member \$14,354 per annum
5. For Queenstown Lakes District Council’s (QLDC) Councillors a governance remuneration pool of \$734,716 has been set. The Mayor has considered the allocation of the remuneration pool in the context of the committee structure, and Chair and Deputy Chair positions that were appointed by the Mayor under the LGA section 41A(3) and noted by Council at its public meeting on Thursday, 27 November 2025.
6. The Mayor’s proposal was to recognise additional responsibilities with remuneration for Councillors as follows:
 - a. Deputy Mayor (x1) \$77,516 per annum;
 - b. Committee Chair (x6) \$69,000 per annum;
 - c. Committee Deputy Chair (x4) \$60,800 per annum; and

- d. Councillor with no additional responsibilities (x0) \$52,480 per annum.
7. It is important to note that the whole governance remuneration pool must be allocated. There is no discretion for the Council to pay itself less than the determination provides for.
8. If accepted by the Authority, amended determinations are backdated to take effect, in the case of the Mayor using their powers under LGA section 41A(3) which was the pathway QLDC followed, on and from the day after the date on which the Mayor appointed the Deputy Mayor (30 October 2025), and Chairs and Deputy Chairs of each Council committee (27 November 2025).
9. The deadline for submitting proposals to the Authority was Friday, 30 January 2026 in advance of this 5 February 2026 meeting. Therefore, the proposed remuneration was circulated via email to confirm Councillor views. On the basis of that process, no changes were made to the proposal and it was submitted on Monday, 22 December 2025.
10. This report therefore seeks retrospective formal agreement by Council. If agreed, officers will advise the Authority of the Council's final decision.
11. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
12. Option 1 Agree the remuneration rates for Councillors of the Queenstown Lakes District Council for the period following the 11 October 2025 local elections to 30 June 2026.

Advantages:

- Provides the basis for Councillor remuneration which reflects positions of responsibility and is consistent with the Remuneration Authority guidelines.
- Allows Remuneration Authority to review, and if satisfied, approve the proposal which will allow full distribution of the remuneration pool to Councillors.

Disadvantages:

- None identified.

13. Option 2 Do not agree the remuneration rates for Councillors of the Queenstown Lakes District Council for the period following the 11 October 2025 local elections to 30 June 2026.

Advantages:

- None identified.

Disadvantages:

- Council's decision will be inconsistent with the formal submission to the Remuneration Authority which was based on informal consensus of Councillors sought due to process timeline.
- The Remuneration Authority will need to be notified and their decision-making process is likely to be significantly delayed while a pathway is defined, leading to delays in allocating the remuneration pool for Councillors.

14. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it is consistent with the informal direction previously sought from Councillors and recognises the additional responsibilities of Councillors.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi i kā Whakaaro Hiraka

15. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 because there is no discretion for the Council to pay itself more or less than the Authority's determination provides for. The Authority sets the total amount of the governance remuneration pool and the Council's decision is only how to allocate the pool.

16. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are QLDC Councillors.

17. The Council will not consult on this matter.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

18. The Council will not consult iwi on this matter.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

19. This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk category. It is associated with RISK10015 Ineffective Governance within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating.

20. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to avoid the risk. This will be achieved by complying with the Authority's processes and timelines and allocating the governance remuneration pool to recognise additional responsibilities.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

21. The allocation decision has no direct financial implications for Council as there is no discretion for Council to pay itself more or less than the determination provides for. Elected member remuneration is budgeted in the Long Term Plan / Annual Plan.

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

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

- Significance and Engagement Policy 2024
- Elected Members Reimbursement of Expenses and Allowances

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

24. This matter is included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

25. The recommended option is consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Elected Members (2025/2026) Determination 2025, the Local Government Act 2002, and the Remuneration Authority Act 1977.

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

26. 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. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

27. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term 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

A	Proposed Remuneration for Councillors Following the 2025 Local Elections
B	Guidance, Process and Timeline for Setting Elected Members' Remuneration following the October 2025 Local Elections