

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 6 October 2026
in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown
commencing at 10.00am

A recording of this workshop can be found on the QLDC website.

Present:	Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith	Councillor Cody Tucker
	Councillor Niki Gladding	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Matt Wong	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Nicola King	Councillor Samuel Belk
	Councillor Heath Copland	Councillor Melissa White
Apologies:	Mayor John Glover	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
In attendance:	John Wellington*	Chris Hadfield*
	Simon Telfer*	James Stevenson-Wallace
	Ken Bailey	Meaghan Miller
	Dave Winterburn	Briana Pringle
	Amy Galloway	Dom Harrison
	Marie Day	Olivia Egerton
	Ant Howard	Alexa Forbes
	Jo Brand	Carrie Williams
	Caitlin Pemberton	Georgia Pringle
Media	One member of the media	
Public	None	

*Online

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<u>International Visitor Levy, MBIE Funding, New User-Pays Public Toilets</u> This workshop sought direction from elected members on whether Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) should proceed with the International Visitor Levy (IVL) funding opportunity and trial a new level of service by introducing user-pays public toilet facilities at selected locations. Briana Pringle (Parks Planning Manager), Dave Winterburn (Parks Manager), and Ken Bailey (General Manager, Community Services) presented the item and spoke to Attachment A.	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	• There was general support from elected member to proceed with the IVL funding and user-pays trial. • There was support for all four proposed locations, noting some may be subject to further feasibility and cost assessment. The proposed locations were: ○ Stoney Creek, Wānaka (visitors to the Wānaka Tree) ○ Wānaka Recreation Centre (freedom camping) ○ Athol Street, Queenstown (bus interchange) ○ Lake Hayes Showgrounds Reserve (visitor & recreation destination) • There was discussion of the potential for future application of user-pays technology at other high-use sites. <u>Attachments</u> <i>Attachment A: Presentation Slides - International Visitor Levy, MBIE Funding, New User-Pays Public Toilets</i>	
2.	<u>Investigation of Options for Freedom Camping & Low-Cost Camping</u> The purpose of this workshop was to discuss additional freedom and low-cost camping opportunities, including whether Council wishes to investigate more sites, and provide feedback on assessment criteria to identify suitable future locations. Elected members were asked to consider the information provided and provide feedback to inform the development of this work programme. Amy Galloway (Responsible Camping Programme Manager), Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager), Dom Harrison (Parks & Reserves Planner), and Ken Bailey (General Manager, Community Services) presented the item and spoke to Attachment A. • There was discussion about the level of freedom camping demand Council wished to accommodate. • Councillors noted that the community was unlikely to support using ratepayer funds to provide additional low-cost camping options for visitors. • There was discussion of the potential for third-party managed sites away from vegetation and waterways. <u>Attachments</u> <i>Attachment A: Investigation of Options for Freedom Camping & Low-Cost Camping Presentation</i>	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
3.	<u>Wānaka Arts Centre Trust Precinct Update</u> The purpose of this briefing was to provide elected members with an update on the feasibility work being undertaken by the Lake Wānaka Arts & Culture Charitable Trust (WACT) on an arts precinct. Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager), Olivia Egerton (WACT Project Lead), and Ant Howard (WACT Chair) presented this item and spoke to Attachment A. • There was praise for the progress WACT have made with the project to date. • The importance of commercial sector support including accommodation provision and potential funding partnerships was noted. • There was discussion of the precinct's role as a district-wide asset complementing Te Atamira in Queenstown and supporting arts, culture, and economic growth. <u>Attachments</u> Attachment A: Presentation - Update on WACT Feasibility	None.
4.	<u>Whakatipu Hub Trust Update</u> The purpose of this briefing was to update Councillors on the status of the Whakatipu Community Hub Charitable Trust project, which aims to develop a bespoke co-working environment where local charity, social, and community groups can work together to support and connect the local community. Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager), Alexa Forbes (Whakatipu Hub Board Member), and Jo Brand (Whakatipu Hub Board Member) presented this item and spoken to Attachment A. • Ms Forbes & Ms Brand presented alternative options for a pathway forward for the hub, including: 1. Confirm current site viability 2. Provide an alternative pathway 3. Enable freehold partnership 4. Institutional continuity • Councillors expressed strong support for the project and its community objectives, and it was noted that Council will report back to the Whakatipu Hub on which option is the most suitable.	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<u>Attachments</u> <i>Attachment A: Presentation Slides - Whakatipu Hub Trust Project Update</i>	
5.	<u>Advocacy Priorities: Framework for Implementation</u> The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the implementation of QLDC advocacy priorities, following from at the 19 March 2026 Council meeting. The workshop outlined an implementation framework for how QLDC will advocate for these priorities, including methods for advocacy, key touchpoints with elected members and other stakeholders. Carrie Williams (Policy Manager), Caitlin Pemberton (Policy Advisor), and Michelle Morss (General Manager, Strategy & Policy) presented the item and spoke to Attachment A. • Councillors expressed support for the progress of the framework and the ongoing work being undertaken by Council staff. • It was noted that Council should remain agile and responsive to the evolving local government landscape. <u>Attachments:</u> <i>Attachment A: Slide Deck: QLDC's Approach to Advocacy Priorities</i>	None.

The workshop concluded at 1.25pm.