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# QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA ACTION PLAN



QUEENSTOWN  
LAKES DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

## Introduction

In December 2024, the Local Government Commission | Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe (the Commission) published its decision not to undertake a reorganisation investigation into constitution of a separate Wānaka-Upper Clutha district.

In making its decision, the Commission included four recommendations to Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) to promote good practice as a local authority. These recommendations were made relying on section 30(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

## Recommendation

The Commission recommended that QLDC develop an action plan for presentation to the Commission by 31 May 2024, as follows:

- a) Work with the Community Board and the key initiators of the reorganisation initiative to identify specific actions targeting improved communication, engagement, and transparency of information, including consideration of regular meetings and other council activities to be held in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha area, with a view to developing a stronger relationship between QLDC and Wānaka-Upper Clutha
- b) Work with the Community Board to consider the potential value of developing measurement tools for assessing the allocation and prioritisation of Council resources, projects and budgets across the district, with a view to ensuring that there is an equitable balance of resources, projects and budgets across the district
- c) Work with the Community Board to explore options for further empowerment of the community board, including consideration of increased delegated decision-making power and provision of a budget for projects or activities in Wānaka-Upper Clutha
- d) Approach representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to seek any specific actions for strengthening the developing relationship between Queenstown-Lakes District Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the relevant rūnaka of Ngāi Tahu.

## QLDC Response

First and foremost, QLDC recognises this initiative as an opportunity for the organisation to hear and respond to concerns raised by members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community. In some part that will be about initiating new activities or creating more opportunities for formal and informal engagement between the Council and the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board. In others it will be about better surfacing and sharing information or opportunities to engage and participate that already exist. Where such resources already exist links or directions to these have been embedded throughout this response.

QLDC acknowledges the concerns raised through the reorganisation initiative and the sentiment of those that have initiated and supported it. The feeling of inequity has been long held and continued over many years and this plan is an opening to address that in a meaningful way. The pressures on infrastructure, facilities, and services, as a result of needing to provide for sustained and unprecedented growth have been felt district-wide and communities in Wānaka-Upper Clutha have felt these keenly. There have been other catalysts to further increase this sentiment, such as the often-cited Wānaka Airport lease legal challenge. It is essential to reaffirm that QLDC is committed to engaging meaningfully with all communities within the district, whether that is within the Wānaka-Upper Clutha ward or any of the other townships throughout the Queenstown Lakes and its three wards. QLDC recognises there are always opportunities for improvement in communication and engagement practice, and in ensuring that decisions of the elected Council are transparent and informed by community and stakeholder needs and wishes.

QLDC recognises the distinct character and identity of Wānaka-Upper Clutha as a place where people are passionate about its uniqueness. In that distinctiveness, it plays an important part in the richness and diversity of the district as a whole. Like other places in the Queenstown Lakes with their own strong personality, such as Arrowtown or Glenorchy, it contributes to what makes ours a very special place in Aotearoa New Zealand. Wānaka-Upper Clutha has its own history as part of the former Vincent Borough Council before the 1980s amalgamation and is recognised as a community of interest. Ensuring the area has a strong voice is reflected by the uniqueness in the district of a Community Board with four directly elected Board members. It is also well-served by the four elected Councillors (making up one third of the Council), including the roles of Deputy Mayor, Chair of the planning & Strategy Committee, and many other committee appointments. Collectively these eight elected Council and Community Board members represent the local voice and play an important role in connecting and informing the

community as well as making decisions at both a local and (for the four Councillors) a district level. It's also important to note that the Mayor and Councillors from the Arrowtown-Kawarau and Queenstown-Whakatipu wards also make decisions that affect the Wānaka-Upper Clutha at both ward and district level, and these elected members are committed to the community wellbeing and success of the area.

In developing this action plan, QLDC has undertaken a number of actions to inform the proposed future changes (noting that some are already in place or are in progress). These include, but are not limited to, the following actions.

1. QLDC has commissioned independent research with members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community in relation to recommendation A. The requirements for this research are attached to this document for reference. The research has sought to understand the communication and engagement gaps, such as understanding the types of communication channels used by the community, what subjects are of greater or lesser importance, and how people feel QLDC could improve trust and transparency. The research has included one-to-one interviews (with the petition initiator, representatives from business, education, community associations and community groups), a discussion with the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board, four online focus groups (independently recruited members of the public), and two in-person focus groups (with participants recruited independently from QLDC's *Let's Talk* engagement platform registration list).
2. Staff workshop discussions (five) with the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board to discuss the action plan process, empowerment of the Community Board, input from the Board on community issues, overview of capital investment tool, and discretionary budget for capital projects.
3. Staff workshop discussions with the elected Council.
4. Staff discussions with Ngāi Tahu through its representatives.
5. Staff have completed an audit of communications at a ward and district level.

# Action Plan

## Recommendation A

*Work with the Community Board and the key initiators of the reorganisation initiative to identify specific actions targeting improved communication, engagement, and transparency of information, including consideration of regular meetings and other council activities to be held in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha area, with a view to developing a stronger relationship between QLDC and Wānaka-Upper Clutha*

## QLDC Comment

The need to change how councils operate regarding meetings, workshops, and decision-making has been well publicised following the Chief Ombudsman’s report “Open for Business”. QLDC has been on a journey of changing its practice which is a benefit to all wards in the district. From 1 March 2024, all workshops are open to the public<sup>1</sup> and materials, agendas, and minutes available on the QLDC website, and these workshops widely notified through a range of channels including social media, multiple print adverts, and digital screens. The changes have included increasing the number of meetings already being held in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha ward, which in 2024 is three meetings of full Council, and numerous workshops and committee meetings. Improvements are also under development to increase the visibility of meeting schedules and information on the QLDC website, such as improved guidance for how people can participate in meetings<sup>2</sup>. QLDC has also increased the amount of information that is readily available through its website, acknowledging the interest in matters relating to investment. This includes a quarterly update on capital investment projects<sup>3</sup>, awarded contracts<sup>4</sup>, consultant spend, submissions the Council makes on the community’s behalf, and the monthly reports<sup>5</sup> that demonstrate Council’s performance across all of its activities and services.

COVID-19 was a challenging time for all communities and was undoubtedly a low point in direct community engagement and opportunities for participation. Many activities moved online or through social media and the ability to directly connect was greatly diminished. Council has been returning to more in-person engagement events and seen good responses to workshops,

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<sup>1</sup> Unless there are grounds for excluding the public relying on section 48 of the LGOIMA 1987

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/xkodvr1j/qldc\\_public-attendance-at-meetings-and-workshops\\_a4\\_feb24\\_v4.pdf](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/xkodvr1j/qldc_public-attendance-at-meetings-and-workshops_a4_feb24_v4.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/capex-quarterly-update/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/awarded-council-contracts/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/monthly-reports/>

drop-in sessions and Q&As for many topics such as planning provisions and the development of reserve management plans. It is Council’s intention and commitment to keep focusing on and increasing engagement and participation that is in-place, local, and tailored to the needs of those directly affected or with strong interest.

QLDC also recognises the importance of community and stakeholder groups and the role they play in representing the needs and interests of locals. The creation of a dedicated community development team reflects this recognition and includes a dedicated Community Associations Relationship Manager (responsible for supporting community and residents’ groups) and a Welcoming Communities Coordinator based in the Upper Clutha to work with new people moving to the district from overseas or elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand. There is also a high presence of staff in the ward across many functions of Council including customer services, resource consents, building inspections, animal control and enforcement, communications, governance support, property and infrastructure, asset management, parks and reserves management, libraries, and sport & recreation. These include staff at senior (tiers two and three) levels. It is important to QLDC to ensure there are staff at all levels that live and work in the ward and understand the local context.

Ref	Action	Comments	Timing
A1	Increase the number of regular Council meetings in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha	Council practice has long been to hold meetings in Wānaka-Upper Clutha (typically one to two per annum) and the 2024 meeting schedule was adopted by Council in August 2023 to include three Council meetings in Wānaka-Upper Clutha, along with a number of committee meetings. Note, whilst not part of the adopted schedule, a number of public workshops for Council and its committees are also being scheduled in Wānaka-Upper Clutha. Future schedules will follow this same approach as per A2.	Ongoing
A2	Update the policy on Council meeting locations to reflect Council intent to hold regular meetings in	An existing policy has been updated to reflect the standing commitment and intent to hold a minimum of three Council meetings and an increased (although unspecified) number of committee meetings and public Council/committee workshops in Wānaka-Upper	To be presented for adoption by end June 2024

	Wānaka-Upper Clutha	Clutha. The draft policy is undergoing the review cycle.	
A3	Schedule Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board meetings to take place at multiple locations throughout the ward. As an important conduit, the Board is well connected and well placed to operate in that capacity.	Whilst mainly holding Community Board meetings in Wānaka, it has long been the practice to use other venues / locations in the ward such as Hāwea and Luggate. Meetings through 2024 have been scheduled for Wānaka, Hāwea, Luggate, Cardrona. Reflecting the draft policy referenced in A2, this practice will continue.	Ongoing
A4	Provide for remote participation in Council meetings	Currently all Council, Committee and Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board meetings are either livestreamed or recorded. These are published via the QLDC website and social media channels and this has been the practice since COVID-19. QLDC provides for speakers to attend hearings remotely and supports people to participate in meetings, through public forum, via web-conference (e.g. Zoom) subject to availability of technology at the hosting venue. Recognising that not everyone has access at home to the internet, QLDC makes available a room with appropriate technology if needed to remove the barrier of travel. For example, if a meeting is being hosted in Queenstown, a web-conference capable room is made available in the Wānaka office on request.	Ongoing
A5	All Council, Committee and Community Board meetings to be held open to the public <sup>6</sup> and well publicised	All workshops held anywhere in the district are (subject to LGOIMA grounds for exclusion) open to the public to attend. This has been reflected in a February 2024 revision of Standing Orders. These workshops are publicised via the QLDC website, local print media (such as the Wānaka	As of 1 March 2024, and ongoing.

<sup>6</sup> Unless there are grounds to exclude the public relying on section 48 of the LGOIMA 1987

	re times, dates, and subject matter <sup>7</sup> .	Sun and ODT), social media, and on QLDC venue digital screens.	
A6	Host a minimum of one citizenship ceremony per year in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha.	QLDC hosted its first Wānaka-Upper Clutha citizenship ceremony in 2023 and for 2024 there will be one hosted in October. Staff have committed to understanding the number / percentage of new district citizens in a year by ward to inform 2025 planning and whether to increase the number in the ward beyond one ceremony. <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/citizenship-ceremonies/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/citizenship-ceremonies/</a>	31 October 2024 (to have completed analysis of historic data).
A7	Prepare an implementation plan or strategy based on the research	Staff to develop a strategy or implementation document to consider and embed recommendations from the interviews and focus group qualitative research. This will consider new channels and opportunities for community participation.	1 October 2024
A8	More localised communications content.	In response to research feedback, the communications team will plan campaigns to ensure content is more localised where possible for Wānaka-Upper Clutha channels, for example Radio Wānaka. QLDC's community newsletter (Let's Talk Kōrero Mai) is now circulated in the form of a four-page insert with full scope to localise content. <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/lets-talk-korero-mai/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/lets-talk-korero-mai/</a>	Active as of 1 May 2024
A9	More localised "in-place" communication, engagement and participation	Insight from the community research has shown that the community values more targeted, tailored and in-place communications and engagement, such as in place signage with QR codes to more detailed information, localised letter drops, drop-in sessions on site for a new facility etc. This is preferential over a one-to-many channel such as social media.	Ongoing change in approach with immediate effect.

<sup>7</sup> Note, this also forms part of the QLDC response to the Ombudsman's Report: "Open for Business"  
<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/open-business-report-chief-ombudsmans-investigation-local-council-meetings-and-workshops>



A10	Ongoing education campaign for how people can find commonly requested and useful information.	<p>QLDC regularly posts commonly requested information relating to capital investment, awarded contracts, project progress, and monthly/quarterly reports. QLDC will undertake an ongoing campaign to highlight these sources of information.</p> <p><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/capex-quarterly-update/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/capex-quarterly-update/</a>  <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/awarded-council-contracts/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/awarded-council-contracts/</a>  <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/</a>  <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/privacy-and-official-information-requests/our-published-responses-to-information-requests/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/privacy-and-official-information-requests/our-published-responses-to-information-requests/</a></p>	1 July 2024
A11	As part of A8, promote the ability to request information.	<p>Include education about how locals can request information and access published responses to existing requests.</p> <p><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/privacy-and-official-information-requests/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/privacy-and-official-information-requests/</a></p>	1 July 2024
A12	Increase visibility of and promote attendance at Council meetings and workshops	<p>Access to information about Council, Committee and Community Board meetings is being improved on the QLDC website. This will make it easier and faster to access dates, locations, agenda items, minutes and video recordings / live streams. This high-profile link from the QLDC website homepage will be live by end of May 2024.</p> <p><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/</a></p> <p>It will include information about how to participate in meetings such as public forum and deputations.</p> <p>A campaign of ongoing promotion will have the goal of raising awareness.</p>	1 June 2024
A13	Civics education campaign	<p>An ongoing campaign to help increase awareness of ways that locals can actively participate in Council decisions, find out more about Council activities and services, understand decision making processes and relevant legislation (and</p>	1 July 2024

		<p>how it affects those decisions), what the role of Council and its elected members is<sup>8</sup>. A recent LGNZ report on the 2022 local body elections highlighted the understanding of local government and its functions as a barrier to participating in elections, and therefore this campaign will also be intended to help increase voter participation.</p>	
A14	Staff education regarding the Community Board and the role they play in community engagement	Update the staff onboarding programme to ensure all new staff understand what the role of the Community Board is and how they can support the sharing of information, community engagement, and represent the views of the ward's community.	1 July 2024
A15	Extend engagement with groups and associations through the Community Development team	Extend the remit of existing Community Associations Liaison Manager to engage with more stakeholder and community groups.	Subject to budgetary planning and staff capacity (in the context of supporting all wards throughout the district)

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<sup>8</sup> Note, this would be aimed at the community rather than a school-level education programme

## Recommendation B

*Work with the Community Board to consider the potential value of developing measurement tools for assessing the allocation and prioritisation of council resources, projects and budgets across the district, with a view to ensuring that there is an equitable balance of resources, projects and budgets across the district*

## QLDC Comment

Investing in services, facilities, and infrastructure in a proportionate way has long been a commitment of QLDC, and investments funded appropriately to ensure that those who benefit are the ones who fund it<sup>9</sup>. Statistically the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward receives a capital investment proportionate to the size of its population, which aligns with QLDC's scheme/programme and ward-based rates framework, so the community that benefits from direct investment is the one that funds it. For example, QLDC has responded to the community desire to see more development in active travel in the Upper Clutha by introducing a special targeted rate to support that additional public investment. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha population is approximately one-third of the total district (averaging 33-34% in the current ten-year period). Whilst this may ebb and flow depending on specific projects of the time, the need to provide for growth and maintain a programme of renewals (e.g. maintenance of existing assets), and maintain appropriate levels of service, the capital investment over the current ten-year period of the Long Term Plan includes an average direct investment of 1/3 for the ward with it also receiving a share of district wide capital investment proportionate with its population. QLDC would anticipate that as the percentage of the district's population residing and paying rates in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward so too would the level of investment to reflect that growth.

Long-term relationships and partnerships with community, stakeholder and special interest groups help to shape investment and deliver on key community aspirations. Alongside standing funding for community and residents' associations, community funding awards are made annually to groups such as Upper Clutha Tracks Trust, Wānaka Alcohol Group, Aspiring Gymsports, Kahu Youth, WAI Wānaka and LINK-Upper Clutha<sup>10</sup>. Significant investment has been

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<sup>9</sup> For more information see the QLDC Revenue and Financing Policy  
<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/slecwyc0/revenue-and-financing-policy-02jul21.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> A full list of Long Term Plan and annual community grant recipients can be found here:  
<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community-funding>

made consistently for events in Wānaka-Upper Clutha such as Challenge Wānaka, Warbirds over Wānaka, Winter Games, Aspiring Conversations, Wao Summit and NZ Mountain Film Festival<sup>11</sup>. QLDC is proud to keep investing in groups, events and significant infrastructure projects in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha ward. Examples of some of the significant projects delivered and investments made in the last few years include new community facilities in the Whare Mahana Luggate Memorial Centre and Paetara Aspiring Central, major upgrades to and investment in three waters provision, further progress on the Wānaka Lakefront, the purchase of Mount Iron as an enduring community asset, active travel networks throughout the area including the schools-to-pool route, and land purchases for future waste management and recreation/sports facilities.

The sentiment behind the reorganisation initiative highlights for QLDC that this level of local and proportionate investment is not well understood and more focus is required to ensure that people know this information exists and how to access it.

Ref	Action	Comments	Timing
B1	Release and promote interactive online investment tool	As part of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan consultation process, QLDC has developed an interactive online tool that will be publicly available to anyone with internet access or via a computer terminal in a QLDC office or library. This tool will show how capital investment is allocated at various locations across the district, for example focusing in on investment specifically for Hāwea or Wānaka or viewing the investment by type (e.g. three water infrastructure, roading, community facilities). <i>Note: It is intended to later adapt the tool to be able to reflect actual progress of investment versus planned.</i>	27 June 2024
B2	Promote existing reporting on capital investment and project progress	As referenced in A8, progress on capital investment projects is reported quarterly to Council. This report is publicly available as part of Council agendas ( <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-</a>	1 July 2024

<sup>11</sup> A full list of 2024 recipients can be found here: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/2023/july/23-07-19-positive-impact-of-local-events-recognised-with-latest-council-grants/>

		<p><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/agendas-minutes">council/council-documents/agendas-minutes</a>) and a version of this which can be filtered by ward is published on the website (<a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/capex-quarterly-update/">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/capex-quarterly-update/</a>).</p> <p>Promoting this information would line up with action A8.</p>	
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## Recommendation C

*Work with the Community Board to explore options for further empowerment of the community board, including consideration of increased delegated decision-making power and provision of a budget for projects or activities in Wānaka-Upper Clutha*

### QLDC Comment

QLDC has responded positively to previous community feedback and in the 2021 Representation Review resolved to retain the Community Board within the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward alongside a decision to increase the number of elected Councillors from three to four (giving the ward 1/3 representation on the Council). The Wānaka-Upper Clutha is the only ward in the district to have this level of representation by having a Community Board.

At the end of 2022, QLDC supported constructive discussion with the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board in reviewing its Terms of Reference and delegated authority, as well as the governance agreement between the Community Board and Council. This saw some change in the powers of the Community Board which were adopted by Council in February 2023.

QLDC has also supported the Community in reinvigorating its community connection events, relaunching them as regular “Share with Us” sessions. Staff assist in organising, running, and promoting these events as well as providing funding for all necessary resources. Staff have also extended the offer to support more events for the Community Board to engage with the community and will continue to do so, recognising the Community Board as an essential connection point between Council and the Upper Clutha community.

The reorganisation initiative is a timely reminder that the Community Board (including its appointed Councillor members) has a unique insight into the needs, wishes and priorities of the communities in Wānaka-Upper Clutha, and is enabled to advocate for these through its Terms of Reference. This is the fundamental role of a community board. It is also well placed to identify opportunities for community engagement and community empowerment, for example supporting exploration of community-led governance in the long-term management of the Mount Iron reserve.

Ref	Action	Comments	Timing
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C1	Biannual informal meetings (possibly workshop discussion) between the elected Council and Community Board members	Regularly scheduled (twice yearly) meetings to help build relationships and share understanding and insight between the two entities, such as emerging matters of importance for the Wānaka-Upper Clutha, and relevant upcoming decisions of Council.	February and July (starting July 2024)
C2	Annual meetings between the Community Board members, QLDC Executive Leadership team and senior staff	<p>Focused on the 12-month period ahead, an opportunity for the Community Board to understand the overall work programme and influence the priorities based on their local knowledge of community needs and preferences.</p> <p>It should be noted that there exists a high level of engagement between the Community Board and staff at all levels. However, this action is to introduce a dedicated and formalised opportunity for highlighting priorities.</p>	Annually late November / early December to influence the following calendar year
C3	Support for formal Community Board representation at Council meetings	<p>To enable the Community Board to formally present matters of import or significance to the Council, the Community Board will be supported to prepare reports or presentations (as a Deputation for lesser matters) at Council meetings. This will enable the Community Board to formally (and on public record) bring matters to the attention of Council that are of import to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha ward.</p> <p>Specific details of process and protocols to be confirmed as amendments to the Community Board Terms of Reference. The process for placing items on the agenda to be as defined by QLDC's adopted Standing Orders.</p>	December 2024 to enable time to agree a process, protocols and formally approve changes to the Terms of Reference

C4	Increase administrative support for the Community Board	In the 2024-2025 financial year, allowance has been made to increase (by 1 FTE) the advisor capacity within the Governance team. This additional capacity, required also to support the rollout of public workshops, can provide further administrative support for the Community Board in preparing submissions and reports. This will also require additional support from the Policy team, and the impact on that resource will need to be taken into consideration.	Additional FTE in the Governance budget from 1 September 2024 which will provide capacity for the Senior Advisor to support this.
C5	Provide regular "minor works" updates	Regular scheduled reporting to the Community Board providing a summary of local projects (roading, three waters, parks, etc.) in the Upper Clutha and their progress against plan and budget, and any key messages relating to them. The primary focus would be on current and upcoming short-term projects (noting longer term prioritization is proposed in C1 and C2)	Quarterly from 1 October 2024
C6	Ringfenced budget to support community engagement activities	In addition to existing Share with Us sessions (monthly community engagement) which are currently supported by Council staff and budgets, the Community Board would like to access discretionary funds to plan and deliver more community engagement and support other operational Community Board activities, such as ideation sessions. QLDC to provide access to a ringfenced \$15k which the Community Board may use to support such activities and reference document to be developed to confirm scope of spend.	1 July 2024
C7	Community Board influence for investment, decision-	Provide the Community Board with a variety of options for understanding and influencing investment and project prioritisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalised pre-consultation during the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes</li> </ul>	1 October 2024 onwards



	making and prioritisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalised pre-consultation in other major projects and infrastructure (including social) in Wānaka-Upper Clutha</li> <li>Regular engagement with staff regarding minor improvements / low-cost low-risk programmes (ref C5)</li> </ul>	
C8	Discretionary investment (Community Board Empowerment) fund	Staff to work with the Community Board to explore opportunities for the Community Board to access a fund for minor capital investment projects. This will include staff working with the Community Board to define parameters and the purpose of the fund, agreeing a budget amount, terms of reference to its use, and protocols for prioritising and initiating projects. Final decisions relating to the scope and size of this budget will be a decision of Full Council who will consider this in the context of equitable investment throughout the district.	In line with 2024-2034 Long Term Plan internal submission process
C9	Review of Community Board Terms of Reference	Review and update the Terms of Reference for the Community Board to ensure that they are active in nature, reflecting an ability to elevate issues, advocate and represent.	In advance of the October 2025 local elections
C10	Update of Council and Wanaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Governance Agreement	Formalising any changes made through this action plan in the Governance Agreement <a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/upvbyeqi/governance-agreement-with-wuccb.pdf">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/upvbyeqi/governance-agreement-with-wuccb.pdf</a>	In advance of the October 2025 local elections

## Recommendation D

*Approach representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to seek any specific actions for strengthening the developing relationship between Queenstown-Lakes District Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the relevant rūnaka of Ngāi Tahu.*

## QLDC Comment

QLDC is committed to developing and maintaining strong and meaningful relationships with Māori and mana whenua, and takes its responsibilities and this commitment seriously. In the past this has included the introduction of training for staff to build understanding and capability in te reo Māori, te ao Māori, and tikaka. There has also been a growing partnership with Kāi Tahu and the commercial entities of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu which has seen many projects enriched such as the recent completed stage of the Wānaka Lakefront that saw the inclusion of Te Huruheru's map (a recreation of the first map of the area which aided early explorers) and Te Ara Maumahara (the installation of historic tiles along a pathway noting significant events that have taken place around the world, in Aotearoa New Zealand, and in Wānaka and the Upper Clutha between c.1000 – 2000).

QLDC has also created a new position in the Māori Strategy and Partnerships Manager which has enabled the relationship with rūnaka representatives to be strengthened and well informed. This resource has enabled QLDC to undertake the following:

- > Understanding of who and where the seven Papatipu rūnaka are.
- > Explore cultural narratives, histories and purposes from Kāi Tahu researchers with regards to our district.
- > Confirm people and processes about who has the authority to speak on behalf of papatipu rūnaka.
- > Grow understanding of Te Ao Māori within QLDC.
- > Ensure Kāi Tahu values are represented within QLDC strategies and documents.

In addition to the above but with specific regard to the Upper Clutha a strong relationship has enabled the following:

- > A strong relationship between Aukaha Mana Auhurea team and the QLDC Parks team to explore cultural narrative way finding signage.
- > Progressing new provision of te reo/ tikaka Māori classes at rūnaka request.

- > Relationships built between Māori strategy and Partnerships Manager and community groups in Wānaka-Upper Clutha.

Ref	Action	Comments	Timing
D1	Explore dedicated resource to enable closer connectivity in the ward and to build stronger relationships and enhance existing iwi partnerships.	This would be subject to future available budget and capacity to support this community development activity.	TBC
D2	Explore potential for further investment into cultural narrative within the Mount Iron reserve development	This is alongside an existing investment of \$80k.	TBC – to align with RMP development and approval process