

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Queenstown Lakes District Council held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Thursday 25 February 2025 commencing at 2.30pm

Present:

Mayor Glyn Lewers; Councillors Bartlett, Bruce, Cocks, Ferguson, Gladding, Guy, Smith, Tucker, White and Wong

In attendance:

Mr Mike Theelen (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Michelle Morss (General Manager, Strategy and Policy), Ms Meaghan Miller (General Manager, Corporate Services), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Property & Infrastructure), Ms Pennie Pearce (Strategy and Reform Manager), Ms Anita Vanstone (Strategic Growth Manager), Mr Peter Harris (Economic Development Manager), Mr Tony Pickard (Strategy Planning Manager), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Democracy Services Team Leader), Mr Ben Scott (Web & Digital Communications Advisor) and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Democracy Services Advisor); no members of the media and no members of the public

Apologies/Leave of Absence Applications

There were no apologies.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations were made.

Special Announcements

There were no special announcements.

Public Forum

1. Pierre Marasti, Extinction Rebellion (Upper Clutha)

Mr Marasti expressed support for electrification as a way of accelerating decarbonisation of the world. He noted that this was an important step to reduce emissions and it would serve to improve overall resilience.

2. Jonathan Holmes: Electrify Wānaka

Mr Holmes noted that there were a growing number of groups promoting the benefits of electrification. Benefits included improved public transport and zero bills homes. He was working with a local company to establish a zero bills home in the Upper Clutha and planned on holding workshops to engage the local community.

3. Lucy Middendorf (Health Action Wānaka)

Ms Middendorf advised that Health Action Wānaka sought to ensure that people in the Upper Clutha had equitable access to health services, especially as it was growing at a higher rate than Queenstown. She was pleased that the proposed Regional Deal referred to health services but where a regional hospital was sited was critical and she was concerned that favouring

Queenstown as the location was prioritising location over community need and did not represent the most equitable outcome.

Confirmation of Agenda

It was moved (The Mayor/Councillor Bruce):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve that the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.

Motion carried.

1. Regional Deal Proposal Approval

A covering report from Pennie Pearce (Strategy and Reform Manager) presented the Queenstown Lakes District Council's Regional Deal Proposal for Council approval, noting that it was due to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs on 28 February 2025. The Regional Deal was in partnership with Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council and represented a starting point for discussion with government. It had a strong focus on economic development but also responded to the strategic documents of both district councils

It was moved (Councillor Smith/Councillor Gladding):

That the Council agree to suspend Standing Order 20.2.

The motion was **put and failed** 3:9.

Ms Pearce, Ms Morss, Ms Vanstone and Mr Harris presented the report.

There was discussion about regional public transport and the possible introduction of a congestion charge. Officers noted that there were a mixture of funding solutions discussed to deliver the package but no funding was provided under current funding structures and it was unlikely that there would be central government funding available.

It was noted that Local Water Done Well was specifically excluded from any Regional Deal.

There was discussion about the provision of a new hospital. Officers clarified that it would not be a 'private hospital' but a private investor building a public facility. This would involve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding but actions beyond this were still unknown.

It was moved (The Mayor/Councillor Bruce):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

1. Note the contents of this report;

2. Approve the Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal “light touch” proposal [Attachment A];
3. Note that the proposal is being submitted separately to the Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council for approval on 26 February 2025;
4. Note that the proposal is due to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 28 February 2025; and
5. Delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make any final minor changes to the proposal.

It was moved as an amendment (Councillor Gladding/Councillor Whitehead):

6. That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

Direct staff to develop a structure for the management and governance of the negotiation phases that lead to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (‘MOU’) and the Regional Deal to be agreed by Council at least one month before any MOU is signed.

The amendment was **put and lost** (6: 6) on the Mayor’s casting vote, with the Mayor, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Cocks, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Guy and Councillor Wong voting against the motion.

The meeting returned to the original motion, which was **put and carried**, with Councillor Gladding, Councillor Smith and Councillor Whitehead voting against the motion.

The meeting concluded at 3.57pm.



MAYOR

DATE