



Queenstown Water Forum

55 attendees and 47 online responses¹
- Monday 9th April 2018 6pm – 9pm

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Introduction

The aim of this report is to capture the outcomes of the Queenstown Water forum in a way that can help the Taskforce shape its recommendations. It records the community's long-term aspirations and values, their views about current challenges, priority issues and identifies steps that can be taken for the future of freshwater in the Queenstown Lakes District.

Shaping our Future also held the same forum in Wanaka on 10th April 2018. A separate taskforce was established in the Upper Clutha with the two groups working closely together to share information and resources. The outcome of both reports will provide a high-level district wide view for freshwater.

Summary

There were five main themes identified and generally agreed by all respondents on what was important for the future and as key themes for change:

Water Quality (and Ecology) and Water Quantity

- The desire for accessible, affordable, clean, safe, drinkable and swimmable waterways
- Management of water quality and quantities in waterways and catchments
- 3 waters – drinking water, stormwater and wastewater quality and infrastructure
- Reduction and remediation of pollution e.g. run off

Strategic Management

- The need for strong, collaborative, visionary leadership in management of all freshwater
- Collaboration and clarification of policies and procedures, accountability and enforcement of freshwater standards at local, regional and national level.

Community Culture – Education and Awareness

¹ 28 district wide online responses and 26 Wakatipu

- Residents, visitors, commercial and industrial understanding, value and respect for our freshwater
- Education around pollution, stormwater, consumption and impacts of our actions on our waterways e.g. cleaning boats, no plastics,

Research and Monitoring

- Need for consistent, robust monitoring of our waterways
- Increased communication of results and establishment of accurate baseline information
- Monitoring followed by evidence-based action

The Future of Freshwater

Attendees were individually asked to give one word that best described their ideal future. The results were put into the wordle below:



Attendees were asked “What’s the headline for Freshwater in the Wakatipu in 2040”

- 100% Pure NZ Water – actually!
- Frankton Beach E-Coli free
- School Swim Carnival held at Lake Hayes!
- Swimmable, drinkable, habitable, liveable water!
- School swim carnival held at Lake Hayes
- Friends of Lake Hayes no longer needed
- Water treatment plant redundant
- Wakatipu wins smallest water footprint award
- Community celebrate chlorine free water
- Otago wins international award for pristine waters – gained through excellent management and monitoring
- World class legislation protects Otago waterways – other countries follow their lead

Prior to the forums over 800 school children shared their views on freshwater in our district. There views are expressed in wordles below.

What we love about Freshwater



What will it look like if we don't act?

What can we do?



Our Values

Attendees were asked to tell us what they value about freshwater. The full list of values is [available](#).

Water Quality

- Swimmable, drinkable, accessible, sustainable and safe lakes, rivers and aquifers (highest value with over 75% of respondents having this as a value)
- All water is clean, low in nutrients, low in toxins, pathogens, low in protozoa, high in diversity
- Safe to harvest and eat from our waterways – our Maori Values Wai Ora
- Reduced agricultural and commercial water demand and better methods to reduce run off effects
- Recycling and cleaning of all water including stormwater
- Water quality is better in the future than it is now

Water Quantity

- Water takes managed and priced with the environment as the priority
- Decrease in water use and sufficient quality water to meet demand environmentally and commercially.

Ecology

- Resilient, healthy waterways that support biodiversity – some measures:
 - Healthy local fish stocks and flora and fauna, birdsong
 - Balanced eco-systems in our waterways
 - Solve biosecurity issues e.g. Lake Snow, Didymo

Strategic Management

- Collaboration to manage water supply – our rivers, reservoirs, biodiversity.
- Water take is managed with freshwater as the main priority.
- Developments planned and executed with minimal impact on our waterways (future planning)
- Protection of our catchments to ensure water quality
- Water is valued for its scenic beauty and benefits to the district

Community Culture

- Community values and respects our freshwater
- All users contribute to the cost of improving our freshwater
- A balance between recreational, commercial and residential users
- Community engages in behaviour change e.g. consumption, recycling of water, use, pollution
- Lakes and rivers are able to be used for recreation – e.g. Lake Hayes, Frankton Beach at all times without fear of contamination

Research and Monitoring

- Continuous and effective monitoring of freshwater quality and quantity including:
 - Minimum flows
 - Contamination – chemicals, run off
 - Scientifically measurable
 - Continuous research – identify trends, warning indicators, biological markers
 - Action – results are acted upon and remediated

The Priorities and Challenges facing freshwater today

Each attendee was asked to provide one word describing the greatest challenge in freshwater today – the results are in the wordle below (note the word pollution includes contamination and chemicals):



Attendees workshopped the priority issues for today and into the future. An individual rating system was used to show the highest priority (higher number shows higher priority for respondents).

Big Issues – top priorities

Theme:	Issue:	Priority rating	Notes
Water Quality and Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution 	95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run off - Agricultural e.g. dairy farming and recreation e.g. golf courses - Increased housing intensification and development – infrastructure for stormwater and wastewater - Freedom camping and increased use of waterways from commercial and recreation uses (boat users etc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demand on the water resource- 	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing residential and tourism populations - Agricultural, industrial and commercial demands - Impact of the increased demand on freshwater on the quality, availability and quantity of water.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change impacts 	6	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy effects pollution – previous poor decisions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decisions made in the past e.g. fertilisers, clearing of trees, farming intensification that are still impacting on our waterways today.

Strategic Management and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management 	57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for an integrated vision, leadership and collaboration between local and regional council, national legislation, community and stakeholders.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enforcement and accountability 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for clear lines of accountability and enforcement. - Understanding of responsibilities and repercussions. - Collaboration and cohesion between policies and procedures at all levels.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial influence on local government on decision making e.g. lobbying, industrial groups, developers etc 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for overall freshwater availability, quality and quality to be at the forefront of decision making rather than the desires of individual interest groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Drinking Water infrastructure – 	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for quality, well maintained drinking water infrastructure.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding from ratepayers and users not paying for what they are using, equity issues in lack of funding, 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inequality of funding and lack of funding from ratepayers and users to ensure the quality of freshwater is improved and infrastructure is in place and fit for purpose.
Community Culture – Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and Awareness of our freshwater – by residents, tourists and businesses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is not valued in its own right intrinsic 	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the value of freshwater and how our actions can have an impact on the accessibility and quality of water.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal responsibility for 3 waters 	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the value of water e.g. using sprinkler systems, stormwater run-off, grey water reuse.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myth that we are a pristine environment – incorrect labelling- it isn't a pristine environment and shouldn't be treated as such. 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness that our waterways are not as 'pristine' as many believe – research and monitoring to provide up to date, accurate information for the public and agencies.
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of action around monitoring – e.g. nothing happening with results, regulatory, community. 	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need to establish comprehensive baseline information on our waterways, catchments, urban and rural systems. - Follow through of information – e.g. identifying the source of contamination, communication and steps to stop occurring in the future.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of robust monitoring and evidence-based responses to monitoring 	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working together with scientific information to provide best possible prevention and remediation work for freshwater.



Workshop

Information

Attendees then workshopped the top priorities in small groups, identifying critical driving influences, ideal future outcomes and potential next steps/solutions.

Theme: Water Quality/Quantity

Key Issue: Pollution – run off, development

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<p>What:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unsustainable Growth 2. No constraints on growth 3. Consenting/planning perspective: lack of focus on cumulative effects 4. Inadequate standards 5. Lack of monitoring 6. Lack of understanding of consenting planners of potential environmental effects 7. Lack of conditions on earthworks consents (inadequate to mitigate storm events) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developers with a different mindset – that see the benefit of sustainable practices and do better than the minimum. 2. More monitoring & strong enforcement of consent conditions e.g. earthworks 3. Consider cumulative effects of earthworks in a catchment when consenting. 4. Creative solutions to minimise agriculture and recreation (e.g. Golf Club) runoff and contaminants. 5. An Actual clean green environment and well managed systems to maintain it. 	<p>What: Stricter rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthworks - Riparian planting - Stormwater <p>Look at ways to reuse stormwater/wastewater. Encourage new buildings to include clean water grey water systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long term plan to minimise the impact of agriculture – dairy etc on our waterways – fencing, riparian planning, irrigation, account for long term costs/benefits when measuring success not only short-term dollars.

8. High use of pesticides, agricultural contaminants		2. Long term planning to manage growth – proactive rather than reactive.
Who: Government and commercial interests	How do we measure success? Monitoring upstream/downstream of development, focusing on storm events. Consistently clear, safe, drinkable, swimmable lakes and rivers	Who: Planners – different mindset and approach to pre-application discussion. Softer development ethos
		How: Education

Key Issue: Increasing Demand

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More water in stormwater – increase in rainfall events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less places for it to go in a more urban environment 2. Wastewater – grey and black water 3. More people: population increase and tourism increase 4. Increased agricultural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand for water - Run off eutrophication 5. More intensive agriculture 6. Water footprint of produce e.g. 160l water per 1 litre of milk 7. Infrastructure - 3 waters, fit for purpose and keeping up with/ ahead of demand 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable water use (Bruntland 1987) 2. What you put back into the environment is pristine – close to pristine 3. There is a place for treatment of waste – in waste – out clean water 4. Zero harmful waste going into waterways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can drink it - No eutrophication 5. Infrastructure in place e.g. toilets to deal with demand 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charge for water – user pays 2. Managed by council (district) 3. Council pays (through rates) for people to have e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0/3 l toilets - Water tanks - Roofwater storage 4. Culture Change through education 5. Monitoring and enforcement 6. Toilets and facilities at lakes/waterways to decrease pollution 7. Incentives for businesses & farmers too so they are not feeling victimised. 8. Look at the way we are farming – ways to eliminate nutrient additions to the ecosystem. Riparian planning, fencing waterways, decreased irrigation

		9. Put in place infrastructure prior to people coming – i.e. proactive not reactive

Theme: Strategic Management

Key Issue: Strategic Management – vision, leadership and collaboration

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
What: capability in the community - Collaboration - QLDC/ORC/ SoF community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean Water (and its definition) 2. Access to clean water 3. Life sustaining capacity 4. Swimmable/Drinkable 5. Qualified leadership 6. Community Engagement 7. Organisations, people talking and collaborating to make progress. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define ‘clean’ 2. Educate or eliminate leaders 3. Employ experts 4. Long term planning for 3 waters - 5. Environmentally friendly processing of sewage 6. Greywater and Stormwater reuse and recycling. 7. Long term plan to minimise the impact of agriculture – dairy etc on our waterways 8. Source protection of drinking water supplied 9. Put our freshwater first – proactively dealing with pollutants and minimising, remove the impact they have on our waterways.
Who: Management team - Experts	Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fewer ‘lake closed’ days 	QLDC/ORC/SoF

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community - Central government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Waterways are swimmable and drinkable 3. Existence of a functional water management plan 4. Scientific analysis fauna/flora/water 5. No need for groups like 'Friends of Lake Hayes' 6. Clear consistent rules, regulations and controls in place that are monitored. 7. No algae blooms 	
<p>How: Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities 		

Key Issue: Poor Drinking Water Infrastructure

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<p>What:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Havelock North Incident and Inquiry 2. Increasing demand 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All drinking supplies in the district are chemical free 2. All infrastructure to be kept in good working order to allow non-chemical alternatives to be feasible. 3. Reduced consumption of water through education and cultural change 	<p>What:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure up to par (compliance with drinking water standards) 2. Funding to research viable alternative approaches to chlorine etc 3. Creating a 'clean water' technical group researching other methods of purifying water that does not use chemicals.
<p>Who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government 2. Public Health 3. Industry 4. Councils 5. Developers 6. Tourists 	<p>Measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No coliforms or E. coli found in the water 2. No outbreak of water borne disease 	<p>Who: QLDC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specialists employed to research alternatives 2. Community to support council to achieve outcomes

<p>How:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scale tactics 2. Misinformation – by assertion of consequences in terms of responsibility – council and community 		<p>How:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring forward funding to enable action more quickly 2. Meter use of water to identify leakage and reduce consumption 3. Engage regularly with community
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Theme: Education and Awareness

Key Issue: Education – businesses. Residents and visitors are not aware or engaged with the consequences of their actions.

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<p>What:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of awareness of how actions directly affect/cause consequences 2. Time/convenience 3. Society attitudes in community 4. Shock Factor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Its standard cultural procedure to understand the outcomes/consequences on water 2. Regulation isn't required for primary guidance/control and is secondary 3. Social conversation/community led groups where people educate each other. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large companies offering/discounting environmental products 2. Labelling more clearly 'water friendly' 3. Awareness via – forums, community action, events 4. Incentivising behaviour 5. Educate people about how our interactions can be positive, not negative 6. Education on the transmission and how to deal with Didymo, Lake Snot, algae through recreation 7. Education and research into how best to deal with invasive species.

Issue: Water is not valued in its own right

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
Vested Interests \$\$	Te mana o te wai – water comes first, use and activity comes second	Wanganui River – “legal personality” = more people understand it

Activity status – water is managed by its extraction	Water conservation orders enforced	Education – change the culture
“She’ll be right attitude”	Sinking lid – if you don’t need your fill entitlements then release it back to the river (taking personal responsibility)	Ownership for true impacts
Water rights ignore waters rights	National standards amended to recognise value of water = not competing with economy	Redistribution of “wealth” of water
No one understands what is happening under the water	Integrated planning – RMA, Conservation Act, Wildlife Act	Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Council - District Council - Land Owners
Lack of science backing up regulation	Planning should be for 50 years not 10 years (Long term view)	Bill for Rights for Water
Cultural Shift required – traditional values		Get away from managing the environment based on effects & activity & existing use rights

Theme: Research and Monitoring

Key Issue: Monitoring, Accountability, Enforcement

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Council 2. Community / residents 3. Resourcing (lack of) 4. Political will (lack of) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well designed, scientific based nationally consistent monitoring – regularly and spatially appropriate 2. Scientific robust trigger that requires response/action 3. Community connection to our water 4. Community understands, expects and requires all community members to treat water with respect 5. Community gives ORC social licence/political will to act 	<p>What:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay more rates to ORC (i.e. fix resourcing) 2. Tourist tax to fund infrastructure, monitoring 3. Need to establish a strong baseline 4. Review monitoring as a whole <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consents - Council = redesign based on science 5. Set triggers

		<p>6. Set responses – early trigger – investigate cause. What do we do when find the cause?</p> <p>7. ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work with polluter- Communicate- Educate- 2nd prosecute and punish by planting <p>Collaboration with science, government, industry and community to find solutions</p>
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