

MEDIA RELEASE FROM SHAPING OUR FUTURE INC, QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT:

6 March 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shaping our Future turn the spotlight on water

E.coli outbreaks, lake snow, algae blooms, flooding, pollution, water restrictions and the quality of our drinking water - it's been a summer of water concerns in our district.

Shaping our Future invites you to share your views on our rivers, lakes, drinking and wastewater at Water Forums on 9th April at the Queenstown Events Centre and 10th April at the Lake Wanaka Centre. Now is the time to pull together as a community and direct the future of freshwater for our district.

In the Upper Clutha, Shaping our Future is working with the Upper Clutha Water Group which has secured funding from the Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF). Forum results will inform a community-led Water Plan to be developed as part of the FIF projects.

Megan Williams, FIF Project Manager said "This is a great opportunity to voice your concerns and priorities for the future of water management in the district. There will be also be opportunities to get involved in different ways".

Shaping our Future is hoping that the Queenstown Water Forum will be the springboard for the formation of a collaborative group similar to the Upper Clutha Water Group, focusing on the Queenstown, Lake Hayes and Glenorchy lakes and catchments.

The Water Forums will build on the work and recommendations from the Shaping our Future [Conservation Report](#) in 2015, which resulted in a vision for 2030 that 'Water in our lakes, rivers and streams is of exceptional quality' and included a number of recommendations.

Shaping our Future Deputy Chair Esther Whitehead said "This is an opportunity for our community to have their say in the future of freshwater. We have all been impacted by the events of this summer and now is time to come together and create a long-term plan.

We will be engaging with Ngai Tahu and a wide range of stakeholders including residents, visitors, QLDC, Otago University, Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, Otago Regional Council together with as many community groups as possible. Every person in our community is reliant on water and the Water Forums will capture what it is we want and value in the future."

The forum is independently facilitated in 'world café' small group discussion exploring the following areas:

- What are the current issues and priorities for the district?
- What are our goals/values for the future of our freshwater?
- What are some of the potential solutions and actions we need to take today to meet our goals?
- What are the challenges we face and the gap between our present state and desired future?

Event Details:

Queenstown Events Centre, 9th April 2018 at 6pm

Lake Wanaka Centre, 10th April 2018 at 6pm

RSVP: executive@shapingourfuture.org.nz or visit www.shapingourfuture.org.nz

To view the 2017 Shaping our Future Annual Report and previous forum reports please visit www.shapingourfuture.org.nz

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For more information, please contact:

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Upper Clutha Water Group Megan Williams community@tekakano.org.nz

About Shaping Our Future Incorporated

A process designed to use collective community expertise to build consensus and create a great future for our district. Shaping Our Future was instigated in December 2010 and was incorporated as a charitable society in January 2013. In 2012 following a district wide visioning process, it established a draft vision incorporating a series of priorities. Its forums and taskforces are directed to work towards the vision and connect with the priorities. The process of any given forum on any given subject begins with public forums and online discussions which progress to establishing volunteer task forces to work through issues and provide recommendations. Recommendations are finally presented to local and national agencies as required. Since 2011 Shaping our Future has completed 10 forum topics. For more information, please visit www.shapingourfuture.org.nz or join us on Facebook