



March 2022

ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

Community Feedback



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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Council's Annual Plan and Budget is an important document which guides the work of the Council team over a financial year and sets the resource allocation Council provides to projects and priorities. An opportunity for community to provide feedback was provided and is presented below.

A survey was released for public comment from 20 January to 7 February 2022. Due to a low response rate, the period for comment was readvertised for a further two weeks from 28 February to 14 March 2022. The comment period was advertised via social media, Council website and local radio. Hard copies of the survey were also distributed to all West Coast Council agencies.

There were 4 submissions received for the Annual Plan 2022-2023.

Name: Nick Maher

Town: Queenstown

Where should Council's focus be for the financial year 2022-2023?

Things that are revitalising the local area's culture, economy and broader profile - Arts, MTB, music etc. Also, mitigation of upcoming potential natural disasters, particularly fires. There is no fire plan for Queenstown.

Which areas of Council's operations should be prioritized?

Fire plan. Licenses for new venues. Grants for new businesses. A 10-year plan for MTB and arts, festivals etc. A medium and long term strategy with community consultation.

In which areas should Council focus investment in terms of assets and projects?

See above.

In which areas should Council reduce its focus and resource allocation?

Unsure.

What measures should Council use to report on its performance to the Community?

A highlighted report about what was discussed and decided after each council meeting, published in the local newspaper.

Name: Jenny Groves

Town: Trial Harbour

Where should Council's focus be for the financial year 2022-2023?

I would suggest the focus is upgrading tourist facilities on the West Coast and being very circumspect about the type of tourist the area wishes to attract. There is an enormous amount of damage being caused by ignorant use of facilities. The fire hazards have escalated, and facilities are overwhelmed.

Aboriginal heritage sites are being vandalised. 4WD tracks are dangerous and should be controlled or better still shut down and converted to walking/mountain bike trails only.

I realize this comes under Parks and Wildlife, but it is regional, and Council has overseeing power which is used ineffectually because there is a constant passing the buck.

Which areas of Council's operations should be prioritized?

Input into regulating and instigating fire hazard reduction. Leaving the responsibility to Parks and Wildlife is clearly ineffective, and communities are being left as sitting ducks to wildfires while the vegetation becomes denser with fuel loads.

Monitoring and controlling visitation numbers to tourist sites and destinations.

In which areas should Council focus investment in terms of assets and projects?

I have been told unofficially that the Trial Harbour Road is due to be sealed shortly...once the Granville Road is complete, which appears to be imminent. However, the infrastructure at Trial Harbour is a long way from being able to cope with an influx of visitors that would result from a sealed road. There is a sign at the start of the Trial Harbour Road which says...'campground'. The expectation of people is that showers and toilet facilities are available plus camping sites which is most certainly not the case. The campground is overflowing, degrading to an unusable state and no maintenance yet again from Parks and Wildlife. There are no signs to say the road is unsuitable for trailers/caravans, so people are forced to negotiate a windy dirt road for which

they are often grossly inexperienced and damage is common to vehicles let alone the hazards of such large vehicles on the road. There have been a number of people who make it to Trial Harbour in these unsuitable vehicles and have nowhere to park ending up in the 'day use only parking lot' and there is growing tension in the local community about this situation. Trial Harbour is not set up for large numbers of the visitors we are presently experiencing. Therefore, investment needs to be made at simply informing visitors before venturing down the road of the conditions they are likely to experience.

In which areas should Council reduce its focus and resource allocation? What measures should Council use to report on its performance to the Community

I think less of the endless street cleaning, mowing, and washing footpaths in Queenstown...Seems to be a lot of time and money going into that! Also completing the landfall on the Zeehan Road. Having maintenance on the control traffic lights is a waste of resources.

Name: Johnny Anderson

Where should Council's focus be for the financial year 2022-2023?

Council should focus on increasing housing and development opportunities on the West Coast. Creating more housing through building and planning changes will allow first time investors to build a holiday house or rental property.

Council also needs to do something about the empty shop fronts in Queenstown. A tax levy needs to be implemented.

Which areas of Council's operations should be prioritized?

Modernise Council services to meet ratepayer needs. Being able to complete inquiries, make payments and apply for service online will drastically help for those who live in a town other than Queenstown.

Micro manage road crews to ensure they are actually working. Too often one guy is working whilst another guy is sitting in a truck. There is simple software such as ServiceM8 and ManageMe that could help Council book in work and manage the process of the jobs.

In which areas should Council focus investment in terms of assets and projects?

Councils' asset focus should be consolidating assets such as gym, swimming pool and undercover activities for children into the one building to reduce ongoing expenditure and maintenance for multiple buildings.

Due to the high level of rainfall on the West Coast, all playgrounds need to be undercover and should be a focus for Council investment.

Promote unique tourism on the West Coast. There are so many unique activities that the West Coast offers that nowhere else does. Activities such as abseiling and hang gliding off mountains, snorkelling for fresh seafood, buggy and motorbike tracks (never see any promotion of these activities).

In which areas should Council reduce its focus and resource allocation?

Council does a great job with its limited budget and management of a large region.

Council should do an internal efficiency audit to ensure they are saving money by using eco-friendly technology such as computers, ducted cooling and heating, ensuring process are streamlined and cutting waste.

What measures should Council use to report on its performance to the Community?

Council is doing a good job with its financial reporting. Further information sharing on where funds go would help eg. occasional Facebook posts such as "did you know Council spends \$xxxx on nature strip maintenance per year" or "It costs Council \$xxxx to remove roadside rubbish and abandoned vehicles per year".

I would also like to add that further investment options should be looked at for Zeehan. It is very central to each West Coast town and would be better positioned for certain services.

Name: Zeehan Thrives

Town: Zeehan

Parks (Howards)

The consensus of the group is that Howards Park needs to be our main park in town. The park is a very active space for locals and is the obvious choice for tourists given the location to the town centre and toilets etc. With the park to be the start of, and information point of the MTB

trails as well as providing outdoor stimulation for both our younger and teenage children, it is important that the park is well presented and encourages people to want to return. If the skate park is to be removed, we would like to retain the concrete area and hoops for use such as basketball. We would like to see a concrete or Besser brick wall built with lines and targets so that it can be used for ball activities (hand ball, tennis, football handballing practice etc), the other side of the wall could be used as a climbing wall of sorts. The skate park would need to be replaced with something of equal presence and which would demand the same usage. We believe a pump track would fit nicely into the park given the park will also be the MTB starting/ gathering / information place. If not a pump track than something like a large climbing structure (suitable for teenagers). Additional undercover areas were flagged as of particular importance to provide shelter from the rain and the sun, for parents, tourists who stop for lunch, but also for the teenagers. Zeehan is very lucky that we have a well-placed park that is located on the main street which enables children to gather and yet still be very visible by-passing public. We want to encourage children to visit this park. We would like this park to be our show piece!

Parks (Eileen Joyce)

We all agree that the Eileen Joyce Memorial should be relocated to Howards Park as part of the park redevelopment.

Parks (CWA)

We felt that it would be suitable to move the gazebo from the CWA Park to Howards Park as part of the redevelopment to add additional shelter for the reasons listed above. The CWA Park land could then potentially be fenced to create a space for an enclosed Dog Park.

Road opposite the Heemskirk

This piece of road is the entrance to our town and does nothing to encourage visitation. We understand this area causes Council some issues with drainage and is hard to maintain and that potentially this area could be sealed to assist with the collection of water and channelling to drainage. We would support this however, we do have some concerns if all the vegetation were to be removed, including the trees lining the fencing and if the space were to look hard and uninviting. We also understand that while this area is not easy to utilise, it could allow for the erection of town signage of some type or artistic works in the future, that could direct people into the town centre.

Zeehan/ Strahan Intersection

This was by far the topic felt to be the most important. Currently tourists bypass Zeehan completely. We need to find a way to channel people into Zeehan. This intersection is recognized as vital to direct tourists into Zeehan coming from the Strahan and Rosebery/ Queenstown directions. We feel the information stop needs to be updated and to reflect what is currently on offer in Zeehan. We think that access into the information area carpark needs to also be accessible from the Zeehan Highway. We understand the dangers of vehicles travelling from Strahan, crossing the highway to access the area, so we would like to see a sealed pull over bay located across the road, so people can park and either walk across the road to access information, or have a sign located on that side of the road that indicates what we have on offer in Zeehan.