



## Wanaka Water Forum

85 attendees and 41 online responses<sup>1</sup>

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 6pm – 9pm

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### Introduction

The aim of this report is to capture the outcomes of the Wanaka 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 Queenstown on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018. A separate taskforce was established in the Queenstown 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 four 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

- Residents, visitors, commercial and industrial understanding, value and respect for our freshwater

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<sup>1</sup> (13 Upper Clutha specific and 28 district wide online responses)

- 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 Upper Clutha in 2040”

- Wanaka Water Treatment Plant no longer leader
- Lakes District becomes 100% Pure
- New economic model discovered
- Wanaka announces 1<sup>st</sup> water neutral town
- Lakes District water quality best in the world
- Impact of climate change reversed
- Healthiest underwater ecosystem in the world
- All rivers drinkable
- Water use slashed by 50% in the Upper Clutha
- No attendees at the latest water meeting as there are no problems!
- Worlds 1<sup>st</sup> closed loop farm announced in Wanaka

Prior to the forums over 800 school children shared their views on freshwater in our district. Their 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 65% of respondents having this as a value)
- Transparency of Lakes and Rivers
- All water is clean, low in nutrients, low in toxins, pathogens, low in protozoa, high in diversity
- Reduced agricultural water demand and better methods to reduce run off effects
- Recycling and cleaning of all water
- Water quality is better in the future than it is now
- Stormwater is clean and doesn't pollute waterways

### 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.



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
<b>Water Quality and Quantity</b>	Pollution from Land Use	<b>97</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforestation, farming and urban input (pesticides, chemicals, effluence)</li> <li>• Proximity of land use to water sources e.g. no development near headwater system catchments</li> <li>• The proximity of our people to our waterways impacts on our water quality – run off, stormwater etc.</li> </ul>
	Population Growth and its impacts on our water quality and quantity	<b>32</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid growth in both resident and tourism numbers</li> <li>• Increased recreational and commercial use</li> <li>• User pays, allocations of finances to assist with pressures from tourism.</li> </ul>
	Supply of water and availability and quantity for Hydro	<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing demand for our water e.g. electric vehicles, risks to supply and climate change all impact on the amount of water available</li> </ul>
	Invasive species	<b>9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plants and algae, animals, degradation of our waterways. Lake snow, didymo and introduced species impacting on our natural eco-system</li> </ul>
	Ecosystem resilience – e.g. after a shock	<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and protecting it – recreation vs ecosystem conflict</li> <li>• Protection of wetlands</li> </ul>
	Balancing diverse objectives and commitment to them	<b>11</b>	
<b>Strategic Management</b>	Lack of informed strategic leadership	<b>25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for an integrated shared vision, goals and objectives for everyone to work towards.</li> <li>• Courageous leadership and active management of lakes, rivers and catchments</li> <li>• The need for transparency in communication</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration and consistency – councils, individuals, communities</li> <li>• Economics and economical use</li> <li>• Public accountability for water rights</li> <li>• Need for partnerships and collaboration – scientific, policy community.</li> <li>• Investigation of alternative methods – embrace innovation, look at overseas models, communication, action. Funding</li> <li>• Water use rights allocated for the greater good</li> </ul>
	Lack of a value for water resource – societal and fiscal	<b>32</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This applies to the community culture section as well</li> </ul>
	Governance – need for change to regulation Government Policy E.g. National Government policy.	<b>21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for governance and regulation to change to protect and enhance our waterways e.g. National Government Policy</li> <li>• Collaboration and consistency between regulations at local, regional and national level.</li> </ul>
	Governance held captive by lobby and economic interest groups	<b>18</b>	
	User pays / polluter pays for all impacts	<b>17</b>	
<b>Community Culture – education and awareness</b>	Education, Awareness and behaviour change	<b>51</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disconnect of people in understanding the impact of their actions, the reality of our situation and the value of water not imbedded into the community.</li> <li>• Social apathy and understanding that we are part of the problem</li> </ul>
	Stories and identification with the environment	<b>24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imbedding a love of and appreciation for our freshwater through the stories we tell</li> </ul>
	Reconciliation and alignment of people for our natural surroundings.	<b>10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconnection of people to nature through culture change</li> <li>• Reconciliation and alignment of people with their natural environment – above and below the water.</li> </ul>

	Economic system – make a living with less impact.	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness for all members of the community about their actions and how they can assist e.g.</li> <li>• Riparian planting, consistent story telling (tourism), education and new methodologies</li> </ul>
	Willingness to pay to fix the problems	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness can assist with people’s willingness to apply rates, taxes, other contributions to be able fix problems and stop new ones occurring</li> </ul>
<b>Research and Monitoring</b>	Lack of data / relevant data to make informed decisions.	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and monitoring – the establishment of good baseline information, future triggers, indicators and remedial actions were identified as themes throughout the workshop.</li> </ul>

## Workshop Information

Attendees then workshoped the top priorities in small groups, identifying critical driving influences, ideal future outcomes and potential next steps/solutions. Note despite the majority of attendees agreeing that the key biggest issue was pollution of our waterways there was insufficient interest to establish a group. This may be due to a number of factors including the depth and breadth of the subject, differing views and reluctance to enter into what might become heated discussions.

### Theme: Water Quality and Quantity

#### Key Issue: Impact of land use on water quality and quantity

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic models systems</li> <li>2. Tradition and heritage</li> <li>3. Government policy and regulatory frameworks</li> <li>4. Incentives for intensification</li> <li>5. Lack of payment for resource and accountability</li> <li>6. Gap between research and application in land use.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land use is within limits/is limited</li> <li>2. Match land use with capability/sustainability</li> <li>3. Understanding how natural systems work back to first principles</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Question whether effects based or more prescriptive governance/regulation</li> <li>2. More monitoring</li> <li>3. Need a lot of data – find the limits, indication and investment in research</li> <li>4. Economic Incentives – internal/external</li> <li>5. Shared vision with a strong commitment by all stakeholders</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Strong leadership – effective planning and shared values</li> <li>7. Public awareness and education – its everyone’s problem.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Measures of Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced ecological footprint</li> <li>2. Water supply is not an issue</li> <li>3. Natural hydrological regimes supply indigenous or ‘novel’ ecosystems.</li> <li>4. Few cars, public transport resulting in better stormwater quality</li> </ul>	

**Theme: Strategic Management**

**Key Issue: Changing Government Policy**

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of ecological priorities</li> <li>2. Lack of diversity in decision makers – central and local</li> <li>3. Lack of balance between urban and rural communities</li> <li>4. Lack of courageous leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strong sustainable               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Vision</li> <li>b. Society</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Policy and Planning focused on eco-system-based paradigms</li> <li>3. Sustainable urban drainage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing political consensus across parties</li> <li>2. Constitution including environmental rights</li> <li>3. Consequences for non-compliant (fiscal – carrot and stick, taxes and rebates)</li> <li>4. Democracy</li> <li>5. Use of other political mechanisms (referendum)</li> <li>6. Use of example to mode e.g. water framework directive</li> <li>7. Apply sound eco-system service methodologies.</li> </ul>

**Key Issue: Reaching agreement, commitment and balance on differing objectives**

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drawing out interest groups and their differing objectives</li> <li>2. Communication</li> <li>3. Disseminating information about issues</li> <li>4. Existing policies and regulation and their ability to influence change</li> <li>5. Data Collection – definition of what is required to assign responsibility</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Best use and quality of water – balancing needs and wishes and those that the community is prepared to pay for</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Identifying interest groups and communicating</li> <li>3. Develop commitment from relevant agencies – particularly government – central, local and regional</li> <li>4. Clearly define and publicise process and objective.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Measuring success:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An agreed management regime with measures in place to assess progress/achievement</li> </ol>	

**Theme: Community Culture**

**Key Issue – Lack of stories and our connection to water**

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of awareness</li> <li>2. Lack of language</li> <li>3. Operators/Group – common conversation about use of lake</li> <li>4. Lack of information</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sense of ownership/pride in personal stories</li> <li>2. Museum / sense of history</li> <li>3. Documentaries and strong stories</li> <li>4. Clarity as a community and embedded as part of the culture</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long term scientific research in story format/documentary/factual/science based.</li> <li>2. More scientific programs in schools</li> <li>3. Space where we promote sharing of stories about water and lake – using different changes – physical space, radio, you tube, new invented</li> </ol>

		technologies e.g. 3D or Holograms, VR
Who: Operators, locals, tourists, holiday makers, Iwi	Measuring Success: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stories are an accurate reflection of the value we put on water</li> <li>2. Quantifiable change based on story-based projects.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Use Whanau – learning our local Maori history – words and stories that invite others to tell their story to create a generic, shared identity and love for Wanaka and a connection to the water.</li> <li>5. Examples include Love our Coast campaign and Iceland Tourism</li> </ol>

**Key Priority: Driving Behaviour Change**

Critical Driving Influences	2060 – Ideal future outcomes	Solutions/ Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ignorance and apathy</li> <li>2. Lack of connection to our water</li> <li>3. Lack of understanding of consequences in the short and long term</li> <li>4. Knowledge of alternatives</li> <li>5. Growth tourism and housing development</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People default to positive impact choices on the environment and consistently look for better options</li> <li>2. Measurable data outcomes</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education for personal accountability</li> <li>2. Education about consequences of actions e.g. car washing</li> <li>3. Legislation changes</li> <li>4. Charging for water use</li> <li>5. Taxing, citations for incorrect use</li> <li>6. Incentives and subsidies (carrot and stick)</li> <li>7. Zero waste / zero pollution</li> </ol>

Attendees: