

QLDC Council
20 April 2017

Report for Agenda Item: 4

Department: Property & Infrastructure

Title: Declaration of upper Beach Street as a pedestrian mall

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the hearing panel's recommendation to declare upper Beach Street (between Camp Street and Cow Lane) as a pedestrian mall with exceptions, and to take note of additional recommendations of the panel regarding the mall.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report, in particular the deliberations of the hearings panel;
2. **Declare** Beach Street, between Camp Street and Cow Lane, in Queenstown, a pedestrian mall.

The restrictions the pedestrian mall will impose are:

- The driving, riding or parking of any vehicle will be prohibited on all of the pedestrian mall area.
- The restriction will remain in place at all times.

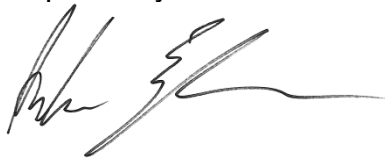
Emergency service vehicles are excluded from the restriction and may access the pedestrian mall area at all times.

Between the hours of 5am and 10am each day, goods service vehicles are excluded from the restriction and may access the pedestrian mall area.

Any other vehicles specifically authorised by Council are excluded from the restriction.

3. **Note** that the related additional loading zone, 9pm parking restriction and Smokefree requests raised during the hearing will be addressed through the Queenstown Town Centre Master Plan and Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy.

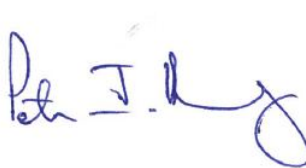
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16/02/2017

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29/03/2017

Background

- 1 The proposal for a pedestrian mall on upper Beach Street between Camp Street and Cow Lane arose from DowntownQT's Downtown Commercial Strategy (August 2015) which was also broadly in line with the Council's Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy (adopted December 2015).
- 2 After a formal consultation period in 2015, a trial was established in early 2016 to test whether pedestrianisation of upper Beach Street was a viable option.
- 3 Based on the trial showing no significant adverse effects, at its 24 August 2016 meeting, Council approved the special consultative procedure to be used to enable it to determine whether to permanently declare upper Beach Street as a pedestrian mall with the exceptions for goods service vehicles and emergency service vehicles as per the trial.
- 4 A hearings panel consisting of Councillors Ferguson, Clark and MacDonald heard submissions at a meeting on 15 February 2017. This report presents the hearing panel's recommendation.

Comment

- 5 Minutes of the hearings panel are attached (A). As noted, the discussions and deliberations included:
 - a. Upper Beach Street should be pedestrianised;
 - b. The proposed exception for goods service vehicles between 5am and 10am is reasonable and will ensure vehicle access through the street will be available for other uses such as events;
 - c. If the Camp Street end of upper Beach Street is blocked for any reason, emergency vehicles will still be able to access the street via the Cow Lane end.
 - d. On balance, the number of loading zones is adequate; however the inclusion of a loading zone at the Camp Street end of upper Beach Street when the barriers are in place should be investigated.

- e. Investigations into making upper Beach Street Smokefree should be undertaken.
 - f. That the 9pm parking restriction around the town centre should be revisited.
- 6 The hearings panel recommends to Council to declare Beach Street between Camp Street and Cow Lane a pedestrian mall with the exceptions as proposed in recommendation 2.
- 7 The loading zone, parking restriction and Smokefree issues raised in points d-f will be addressed through the Town Centre Master Plan and Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy.

Options:

- 8 This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the panel's recommendations as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 9 Option 1 Accept the hearings panel recommendation.

Advantages:

- 10 The special consultative procedure has been followed to ensure the community's view has been taken into account to enable the implementation of a component of Council's town centre strategy.

Disadvantages:

- 11 None.

- 12 Option 2 Reject the hearings panel recommendation.

Advantages:

- 13 None.

Disadvantages:

- 14 The views of the community will not have been taken into account and an element of Council's adopted town centre strategy will not be implemented.
- 15 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because the views of the community have been taken into account through the use of the special consultative procedure.

Significance and Engagement

- 16 The factors to be considered in assessing the significance of the matters addressed by this report are fourfold.

Factor	Assessment
Importance to the Queenstown Lakes District	Low. The proposed changes are of low impact in terms of physical changes.
Community Interest	Medium-High: the matters of high importance to sectors of the community, in particular the Beach Street businesses and their customers
Inconsistency with existing policy and strategy	Low. The pedestrianisation proposals are consistent with the DowntownQT commercial strategy and the Queenstown town centre strategy
The impact on the Council's capability and capacity	Low. The low cost nature of the proposal is within Council's capability to operate.

17 Overall, this matter is of low-medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Risk

18 This matter relates to the strategic risk SR1: Current and future development needs of the community (including environmental protection), as documented in the Council's risk register. The risk is classed as high. This matter relates to this risk because this proposal relates to the future function of town centre roads (with specific regard in this instance to upper Beach Street).

19 The recommended option considered above mitigates the risk by 'treating the risk – putting measures in place which directly impact the risk.'

In this case the risk is mitigated in the recommended option by still allowing some vehicles along upper Beach Street so any beautification of the street will have to take vehicle movements into consideration. If the pedestrianisation needs to be reversed it will therefore be easier to achieve because vehicle movements will still be possible.

Financial Implications

20 As the bollards needed to restrict vehicle movements are already in place there are no additional capital costs. Town custodians will still have to drop and raise the bollards each day.

21 Further beautification of the street may be needed to enhance the pedestrian experience, but this is not required to enable the declaration of upper Beach Street as a pedestrian mall.

Council Policies, Strategies and Bylaws

22 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- a. Proposed and Operative District Plan
- b. Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy.
- c. Significance and Engagement Policy.

23 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.

24 This matter is included in the 10-Year Plan/Annual Plan through the provision that has been made to the Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy implementation.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

25 The consideration of upper Beach Street as a pedestrian mall:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by increasing the walkability of Queenstown town centre;
- Can be implemented through current funding under the 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Consultation: Community Views and Preferences

26 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the Queenstown town centre businesses as well as residents and visitors travelling to and within the town centre.

27 The Local Government Act 2002, section 83 Special Consultative Procedure, has been used as the consultation process to enable this declaration to be considered.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities

28 In order to implement a pedestrianisation option the Council needs to make a declaration in accordance with section 336 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Attachments

A Minutes of the upper Beach Street pedestrianisation hearing