

**Wanaka Community Board**  
**30 November 2017**

**Report for Agenda Item: 6**

**Department: Property & Infrastructure**

**Temporary Road Closure - Challenge Wanaka 2018**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to consider an application for temporary road closures associated with the 2018 Challenge Wanaka Triathlon event scheduled for Wednesday 14 February to Sunday 18 February 2018.

**Executive Summary**

Challenge Wanaka have applied to Council for a set of temporary road closures for their annual event scheduled to take place in February 2018. The event has a high number of competitors, spectators and associated infrastructure. The road closure areas are used to facilitate the construction of this infrastructure and to manage the safety of athletes and spectators by restricting access to vehicular traffic.

Challenge Wanaka undertake a schedule of notifications for affected businesses and residents prior to the road closures taking place and advertise widely. They will be required to obtain a number of other Council approvals prior to the event taking place and an approved Traffic Management plan must be in place before the event occurs. The event has been run successfully in the past and no formal complaints or concerns have been raised in association with the 2018 event. The recommendation is for approval of the temporary road closure application subject to conditions as per previous years.

**Recommendation**

That the Wanaka Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** the road closure application for the Challenge Wanaka 2018 event subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Approval of the final Traffic Management Plan by QLDC Planning and Development prior to the event taking place.
  - b. Radio advertising two days prior and on the morning of the event.
  - c. The event organisers arranging suitable disposal methods for recycling and rubbish/refuse.
  - d. The event organisers ensure access is available for emergency services and maintenance contractors if required;

- e. A reminder notice advising of the duration and dates of the closure being distributed to all residential and business properties located along the closure route at least ten working days prior to the event. A copy of this notice is to be supplied to APL Property Limited.
- f. Where safe and practical, vehicles delivering to businesses within the closure area, should be permitted by traffic management crew to undertake their deliveries and if applicable, they should be directed to appropriate detour routes.
- g. Clear signage is to be placed around the closure areas within the CBD advising the public that businesses in the affected area are still operating.
- h. Parks are not to be coned off except where required for traffic management. In those instances, cones are to be removed as soon as practical.
- i. The applicant providing APL Property Limited a copy of New Zealand Transport Agency's approval for the one way closure of Red Bridge.

3. **Authorise** the following schedule of road closures:

Infrastructure build up and breakdown

**Roads to be Closed:** Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to McDougall Street

**Period of Closure:** 0800 Wednesday 14 February 2018 to 1800 Sunday 18 February 2018

Infrastructure build up and dismantle at end of event

**Roads to be Closed:** Dungarvon Street from Dunmore Street to Ardmore Street

**Period of Closure:** 0300 Saturday 17 February 2018 to 0300 Sunday 18 February 2018

Infrastructure build up and safe passage of athletes and dismantle at end of event

**Roads to be Closed** Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to Lakeside Road

**Period of Closure:** 0300 Saturday 17 February 2018 to 0300 Sunday 18 February 2018

For safe passage of athletes and motorists

**Roads to be Closed:** Single Lane closure of Mount Aspiring Road from Old Station Road to Hospital Flat

**Period of Closure:** 0615 to 1200 Saturday 17 February 2018

*For safe passage of athletes*

**Roads to be Closed:** Ardmore Street from McDougall Street to Meadowstone Drive

**Period of Closure:** 0615 to 1730 Saturday 17 February 2018

**Roads to be Closed:** Mt Aspiring Road from Old Station Road to Meadowstone Drive

**Period of Closure:** 0615 to 1730 Saturday 17 February 2018

**Roads to be Closed:** McDougall Street from Brownston Street to Ardmore Street

**Period of Closure:** 0600 to 1200 Saturday 17 February 2018

*For safe transition of cyclists at aid station*

**Roads to be Closed:** Kane Road between Camphill Road and St Ninians Way

**Period of Closure:** 0815 to 1700 Saturday 17 February 2018

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31/10/2017

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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2/11/2017

## **Background**

- 1 Challenge Wanaka is an annual triathlon event held in Wanaka. Traffic Management New Zealand on behalf of the Challenge Wanaka Sports Trust have applied to temporarily close a set of roads in and around Wanaka CBD in order to set up associated infrastructure and run the event safely. A schedule of closures and a map outlining the road closures to accompany it are appended in Attachment A. This also includes suggested alternative routes around the township during the event.

- 2 In February 2018 Challenge Wanaka will celebrate its 12th event. Voted as one of the world's most scenic triathlon events at the US based Triathlon Business International Awards, the event has grown from less than 100 participants to over 2,500 and has injected over \$28 million into the local economy.
- 3 In 2018 the Triathlon New Zealand Middle Distance National Championships are moving to the South Island for the first time in 20 years and will take place on the iconic Challenge Wanaka half distance course. The Challenge Half for the first time will feature the pro race rather than the traditional full distance Challenge Wanaka and it is anticipated this event will attract the 'creme de la creme' of international triathlon. The traditional full distance Challenge Wanaka will continue to run as normal as an age group race.
- 4 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the Puzzling World Junior Challenge Wanaka an event which now attracts over 900 children aged 5-11 and has become an integral part of the local schools' sporting curriculum and will be held on Friday 16 February.
- 5 A new Secondary Schools event will be included in 2018 which will take place on Thursday 15 February with the Otago Secondary School Tri Champs and races which will include a junior and senior category. A further new event has been added to the schedule being the AquaBike, a 3 kilometre swim and 120 kilometre bike ride amongst the alpine scenery of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea.
- 6 The main Challenge Wanaka race day is on Saturday 17 February 2018 and commences at 0530 when athletes are checked and body numbered. The swim leg takes part in Lake Wanaka followed by a two lap cycle leg from Wanaka – Glendhu Bay – Wanaka – Hawea – Luggate – Wanaka being a fast route with many flat sections and a few hill climbs.
- 7 The final leg on the race the run is over two laps from Wanaka – Outlet Track – Albert Town – Wanaka with athletes running along the lakeside and river track to a finish line in Pembroke Park welcoming the athletes into the night.
- 8 The Lake Wanaka Half runs concurrently with Challenge Wanaka with the pro athletes starting the course 0815 with one lap of the swim, bike and run course. Following the pro athletes, individuals and teams in the aged groups will commence the swim leg of the race.
- 9 The event involves the erection of infrastructure associated with the race and, with the large number of athletes, volunteers and spectators it attracts, the road closures are used to facilitate the construction of the infrastructure and manage spectator, volunteer and athlete safety.
- 10 The Council can close roads to vehicular traffic for events by using provisions of the Local Government Act 1974. The Wanaka Community Board is delegated to consider applications to temporarily close roads under this legislation.

## **Comment**

- 11 Challenge Wanaka is a successful annual event attracting a large number of competitors and spectators. A large number of volunteers are also required for

the event and maintaining the safety of the public, athletes and volunteers is imperative for this event to continue to run successfully. In order to achieve this temporary road closures are required to restrict vehicular traffic in the race areas.

- 12 There is, as expected for an event of this scale, infrastructure involved in running the event successfully and Council land is used to facilitate the erection of this infrastructure as part of the event.
- 13 The road closures applied differ slightly from those applied for and approved for the 2017 event due to the inclusion of the Secondary Schools race on the Thursday. It is proposed to close Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to MacDougall Street a day earlier from 0800 Wednesday 14 February 2018 to allow for infrastructure build up including the over bridge which will be used for all the events.
- 14 In the past the closure of Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to Lakeside Road and Dungarvon Street from Dunmore Street to Ardmore Street has occurred on the Friday however this closure is not required for the Junior Challenge Wanaka in 2018 and therefore the closure of this portion of road commences at 0300 on Saturday 17 February 2018 rather than on the Friday as was the case in 2017.
- 15 The single lane closure of Mount Aspiring Road from Old Station Road to Hospital Flat from 0615 to 1200 on Saturday 17 February 2018 was shown in the schedule provided by the applicant and attached to this report as being from Meadowstone Road to Hospital Flat however the applicant has confirmed that it is to be from Old Station Road.
- 16 In the past there has been a single lane closure of McDougall Street between Faulks Terrace and Ardmore Street however this has been replaced for the 2018 event with a closure of McDougall Street from Brownston to Ardmore Streets from 0600 to 1200 Saturday 17 February 2018. The applicant has advised that after midday this area will be opened and a bike lane created with a stop/go at Meadowstone Drive intersection.
- 17 The road closure for the Red Bridge included on the attached schedule is on a State Highway so requires New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) approval. The applicant will be dealing with Aspiring Highways regarding this closure.
- 18 As in the past for this event Challenge Wanaka want to encourage spectators from out of town to travel to the event as it increases the economic footprint for the town and they will again encourage spectators to cycle or walk to the event through their newsletter, web site, social media, radio advertising and athlete communication.
- 19 In 2017 the Wanaka Community Board expressed some concerns that the event would shut off access to Mt Aspiring National Park at a time of the year when many people were trying to go there and requested that the issue be addressed at the time the Traffic Management Plan was prepared. They also requested that the event organisers provide a Health and Safety Plan and consider accessibility for people with disabilities such as the provision of ramps to ensure universal accessibility.

- 20 The applicant has advised that in 2017 they contacted all commercial operators and arranged timing for them to go through any of the road closures. There were also a number of weddings on and arrangements were made in advance for set up crews and caterers to get through. They advise that they will place notifications in hotels, motels etc to advise people of the time they need to get through the road closure by to get to the national park.
- 21 The applicant also advises that they have never had any feedback on the event not being accessible for people with disabilities and have had a number of competitors in wheelchairs in recent years. They advise that their main crossing points are in the town centre and these areas have permanent ramps for people to cross the road to the lakeside however they are happy to supply additional ramps and will have some available if they are needed. If there are any specific examples that are required they are keen to have details of these. They have supplied the Health & Safety Plan and Risk Assessment Management System for the 2018 event which is Attachment B. Because of its size it is not appended but is available upon request.
- 22 Council Engineers have been consulted and they comment that the Traffic Management Plan will be addressed when it is received and the organisers must ensure the affected businesses are kept up to speed with the proposed closures. They further comment that their understanding is that in the interests of safety with the number of competitors using Wanaka – Mt Aspiring Road the one way closure for a few hours in the morning is a good compromise and that if there were any specifics with regards to the WCB's concerns could these be provided and they will be addressed when looking at the Traffic Management Plan.
- 23 A standard requirement of all temporary road closure approvals is that a Traffic Management Plan is approved before the roads are closed. This will ensure that all traffic and pedestrian flows are managed with appropriate signage, barriers and wardens. The plan also considers how all Council car parks are to be managed during the closure times.
- 24 In association with the event, Challenge Wanaka undertake a schedule of notification for adjoining businesses and residents prior to the road closures taking place. They also advertise widely and will be required to obtain a number of other Council approvals.
- 25 The intent to close the road has been advertised in the Wanaka Sun and no concerns have been received following this notification.
- 26 The recommendation is for approval of the application, subject to the same conditions which have been applied in previous years.

## **Options**

- 27 Option 1 The Wanaka Community Board approve the application for temporary road closure.

*Advantages:*

- 28 Council will remain consistent with previous years road closures approved for the event.
- 29 The event will be able to be continue to run as proposed.
- 30 The road closure will enable safe set up of the event, safety for athletes and spectators during the event and safety during the dismantling of the event.
- 31 Alternative routes are available allowing traffic to still move freely around the surrounding area.

*Disadvantages:*

- 32 Road closures affect the normal flow of traffic which can affect businesses and can inconvenience the public.

Option 2 The Wanaka Community Board can decline the application for temporary road closure.

*Advantages:*

- 33 There would be less inconvenience for the public that use the road with it remaining open to normal vehicular traffic.

*Disadvantages:*

- 34 Council would be inconsistent with road closures approved for this event in past years.
  - 35 It may mean the event will not be able to be run as planned or not at all.
  - 36 It could create an unsafe environment for the set up and dismantling of the event and for the athletes, spectators and general public during the event.
- 37 Option 3 The Wanaka Community Board approve the application for temporary road closure with additional conditions to those recommended in the application.
- 38 There are no specific advantages or disadvantages to this option but the Wanaka Community Board may recommend additional conditions to the closure should it wish.

This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter as it allows the events associated with Challenge Wanaka 2018 to proceed as planned in a safe managed environment.

## **Significance and Engagement**

- 39 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as it relates to Council's roading network which is identified as a significant asset.
- 40 The proposal for closure temporarily and on conditions to minimise the impact on traffic and pedestrian flows is in line with the Policy's recommendations.

## **Risk**

- 41 This matter relates to the strategic risk SR3 Management practice – working within legislation, as documented in the Council's risk register. The risk is classed as moderate. This matter relates to this risk because the options highlighted require the Council to follow a regulatory process in order to notify the temporary closure of parts of the roading network. A variety of operational risks (such as meeting levels of service, regulatory compliance and the health and safety risks associated with parties using roads) are triggered when the Council considers whether or not to grant the temporary road closure.
- 42 This matter also relates to strategic risk SR6a – assets critical to service delivery (infrastructure assets), with the risk classified as low. This is because the impact of the occupation is minimal for the public and does not have a significant permanent impact on Council's infrastructure.
- 43 This matter also relates to operational risk SR27 levels of service, as documented in the Council's risk register. This risk is classed as moderate. This matter relates to this risk as it requires a decision from Council for a private activity.
- 44 The recommended option treats the risks by ensuring conditions are included in any road closure approval which address the risks.

## **Financial Implications**

- 45 There are no cost implications resulting from the decision. The applicant has paid a fee for the road closure application and will pay for any advertising that is required as part of the process.

## **Council Policies, Strategies and Bylaws**

- 46 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- *Significance and Engagement Policy 2014* – providing clarity on Council's decision making processes and assessing the extent to which individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community are affected by the Council's decisions.
  - *Criteria for Closing Significant Road Policy* - Ardmore and McDougall Streets are listed in this policy as significant roads however routes in and out of Wanaka are not disrupted by the road closures with alternative detours available.
- 47 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.
- 48 This matter is not included in the 10-Year Plan/Annual Plan as the costs associated with the proposed road closures will be met by the applicant.



## **Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions**

49 The recommended option:

- 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 ensuring that Challenge Wanaka 2018 can continue in the preferred format;
- 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**

50 The temporary road closure has been advertised in The Wanaka Sun inviting comment and will be advertised again before the closure takes place. This is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 1974. No issues or concerns have arisen from this notification.

51 Council Engineers have been consulted in the preparation of this report and they concur with the recommendations and conditions proposed.

52 We have publicly notified the intent to close the road, advised Emergency Services, NZ Police, Ritchies Connectabus, InterCity, Council contractors and Council staff who would have an interest in the road closures and followed the statutory administrative requirements of the Local Government Act 1974.

53 A standard condition of any temporary road closure application is that the applicant provide an affected party notification to any businesses and residences within the road closure area prior to closing the road. The applicant will provide a letter to affected homeowners and businesses that will provide notification of the closure for the event to all affected parties.

## **Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities**

54 Temporary road closures are controlled by Schedule 10 Section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974. As authority for approval of road closures is delegated to the Chief Executive and considering Section 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002 the advice recommends a decision that is efficient, effective and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

## **Attachments**

- A Schedule and Maps of Road Closures
- B Health & Safety Plan and Risk Assessment Management System 2018 (*available upon request*)

## Attachment A Schedule and Maps of Road Closures

### Challenge Wanaka 2018 Road Closure

Road Closure	Date and Time	Purpose	Alternative Route
Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to MacDougall Street	Wednesday 14 February 2018 from 0800hrs to Sunday 18 February 2018 at 1800hrs	Infrastructure Build up and breakdown	Via Brownston Street
Dungarvon Street from Dunmore Street to Ardmore Street	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0300hrs to Sunday 18 February 2018 at 0300hrs	Infrastructure build up and dismantle at end of event	Via Helwick Street or Brownston Street
Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to Lakeside Road	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0300hrs to Sunday 18 February 2018 at 0300hrs	Infrastructure build up and safe passage of athletes plus dismantle at end of event	Via Brownston Street
Single Lane closure of Mt Aspiring Road from Meadowstone Drive to Hospital Flat	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0615hrs to 1200hrs	Challenge Wanaka to allow safe passage for both athletes and motorists	Via Old Station Road to return to Town until road opens. Access to residents and tourism operators will be permitted
Ardmore Street from MacDougall Street to Meadowstone Drive	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0615hrs to 1730hrs	To allow safe passage of athletes	Via Faulks Terrace and Meadowstone Drive. Access to residents permitted
Wanaka- Mt Aspiring Road from Old Station Ave to Meadowstone Drive	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0615hrs to 1730hrs	To allow safe passage of athletes	Via Old Station Road to return to Town until road opens

MacDougall Street from Brownstone Road to Ardmore Street.	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0600hrs to 1200hrs	To allow safe passage of athletes travelling back along Ardmore Street / Mt Aspiring Road	Via Faulks Terrace and Meadowstone Drive or Golf Course Road.
Kane Road between Camphill Road and St Ninians Way	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0815hrs to 1700hrs	To allow safe transition of cyclists at Aid Station B3	Via Camphill road and St Ninians Way
One way closure of Red Bridge, Closed to North Bound Traffic	Saturday 17 February 2018 from 0815hrs to 1700hrs	Challenge Wanaka Event, to prevent long traffic delays to northbound traffic (a detour will be quicker)	Via Shortcut Road, Wanaka Luggate Highway (SH6), Lake Hawera Albert Town Road (SH6), Camphill Road, St Ninians Way and Kane Road





