

**Wanaka Community Board
15 November 2018**

Report for Agenda Item: 4

Department: Property & Infrastructure

Temporary Road Closure Application – Challenge Wanaka 2019

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider an application for temporary road closures associated with the annual Challenge Wanaka sporting event scheduled to take place in February 2019.

Executive Summary

- 1 Southern Safety Services Limited on behalf of Challenge Wanaka have applied to Council for a set of temporary road closures for their annual event scheduled to take place in February 2019. 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.
- 2 The closure is sought to allow the events to take place in a safe and efficient manner. The recommendation is for approval with similar conditions that have been applied to the temporary road closures in prior years, but incorporating changes to reflect last year's post event feedback.

Recommendation

That the Wanaka Community Board

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** the road closure application for the annual Challenge Wanaka 2019 event subject to the following conditions:
 - a. No issues or concerns arise from the public notification of the road closure published in the 'Wanaka Sun' on 25 October 2018.
 - b. Approval of the final Traffic Management Plan by QLDC Planning and Development prior to the event taking place.
 - c. Radio advertising two days prior and on the morning of the event.
 - d. The event organisers shall arrange suitable disposal methods for recycling and rubbish/refuse.
 - e. The event organisers shall ensure access is available for emergency services and maintenance contractors if required;

- f. The applicant shall notify all affected parties/residents within the closure areas of the extent of the temporary road closure and ensure their needs are all catered for. Contact details for the event organiser must be provided in this notification.
 - g. A reminder notice advising of the duration and dates of the closure shall be 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.
 - h. The applicant must advise of the closures through their own social media and contact QLDC Communications to arrange the closures to be further shared through Council social media. Contact details for the event organiser must be provided in this.
 - i. 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.
 - j. 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.
 - k. 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.
 - l. The applicant shall provide APL Property with 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 13 February 2019 to 0300 Sunday 17 February 2019

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 16 February 2019 to 0300 Sunday 17 February 2019

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 16 February 2019 to 0300 Sunday 17 February 2019

For safe passage of athletes and motorists

Roads to be Closed: Single Lane closure of Mount Aspiring Road from Meadowstone Road to Hospital Flat

Period of Closure: 0615 to 1200 Saturday 16 February 2019

For safe passage of athletes

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

Period of Closure: 0615 to 1200 Saturday 16 February 2019

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

Period of Closure: 0615 to 1200 Saturday 16 February 2019

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

Period of Closure: 0600 to 1200 Saturday 16 February 2019

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 1500 Saturday 16 February 2019

Prepared by:



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31/10/2018

Reviewed and Authorised
by:



David Wallace
Manager – Resource
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QLDC

1/11/2018

Background

- 1 Challenge Wanaka is an annual triathlon event held in Wanaka. Southern Safety Services Limited have taken over the traffic management for this event and have applied on behalf of the Challenge Wanaka Sports Trust to temporarily close a set of roads in and around Wanaka. A schedule and map outlining the road closures is appended in **Attachment A**. The schedule also includes suggested alternative routes around the township during the event. The applicant has also supplied a Health & Safety Plan and Risk Assessment Management System for the 2019 event which is **Attachment B**. Because of its size it is not appended but is available upon request.
- 2 Unlike previous years in 2019 there will no longer be a Full Challenge race with the scheduled events as follows:
 - a. Thursday 15 February 2019 – A new Year 7 and 8 race on the Thursday morning together with the Secondary Schools race incorporating the Otago Secondary School Tri Champs in the afternoon.
 - b. Friday 16 February 2019 - the Puzzling World Junior Challenge Wanaka race for all ages up to Year 6.
 - c. Saturday 17 February 2019 - Challenge Half and an Aquabike event comprising a 3 kilometre swim and 120 kilometre bike ride.
- 3 The overall event involves the erection of infrastructure associated with the races 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.
- 4 Southern Safety Services have for the first year taken over managing the road closures for the event and advise that they have kept the road closures largely in accordance with those approved for the 2018 event with a view to making possible changes in 2020. They welcome any comments from the Wanaka Community Board that could assist in making the event safer and more convenient for the local community.
- 5 They advise they have 35 qualified Traffic Co-ordinators (TCs) most also being Site Traffic Management Supervisors (STMS's). All staff are experienced and have good local knowledge and they are confident this will be of benefit to the overall running of the event. Volunteers are also used to help run the event however qualified STMS staff will supervise all set ups and dismantling of the TMP.
- 6 A qualified STMS will be on site at all times and will be available to respond to any incidents if required. Qualified STMS's and TC's will also be in place at strategic points on the course including the Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd, Ardmore St & key roundabouts leading into Wanaka to ensure the correct operation of traffic management. Trained volunteers will also be used on course to guide competitors of the correct route and assist motorists where necessary.

- 7 To assist with peak traffic flows around the Ardmore Street road closures a Manual Traffic Controller (MTC) will be in place at the intersection of Dungarvon and Dunmore Street and also at Dungarvon and Brownston Street between 1430 and 1530 and there will be more signs and additional VMS boards (Variable Message Signs) than in previous years, set up at least one week before the event giving advanced notice of the road closures. The main detour for the 2019 event will be coming out of Warren Street as it is a wide street with more natural traffic flow.
- 8 All competitors will be fully briefed at prearranged meeting times and all Southern Safety staff, Challenge Wanaka staff, race officials, event marshals and course volunteers will be briefed at various times prior to the event. Communication will be in place for the entire event via radios with a designated private channel. A repeater will also be set up for increased communication and mobile phone numbers given to every traffic staff member and volunteer along with a run sheet of each person's individual tasks.
- 9 The cycle course will be closed by 1500 on Saturday 16th (sooner if possible) and the run course will be closed at 1700. Once the last competitor has passed the control point all TMP gear will be broken down and all sites put back to normal traffic flows. All road closures in Wanaka West are to re-open by midday on the Saturday. The final road closure will be lifted as soon as the transition/finish area on Ardmore Street has been dismantled.
- 10 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.
- 11 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

- 12 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.
- 13 The proposed 2019 road closures differ slightly from those applied for and approved for the 2018. The closure of Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to McDougall Street, which allows for infrastructure build up including the over bridge which will be used for all the events, is shorter next year (opening at 0300 on Sunday 17 February compared to 1800 in 2018) due to there no longer being the Full Challenge as part of the event on the main race day. The infrastructure breakdown will commence as soon as the last runner comes through, at what is anticipated to be around 5pm on the Saturday. The closure time through to 3am on Sunday will allow for time to dismantle the infrastructure including the overbridge at the end of the event and the roads will be open to the public as soon as this has been completed.

- 14 The exclusion of the Full Challenge will also allow Ardmore Street from McDougall Street to Meadowstone Drive and Mt Aspiring Road from Old Station Road to Meadowstone Drive to open earlier than they did in 2018 (at midday rather than 5.30pm). This also allows the events to commence earlier with the Challenge Half to start with the Pro racers entering the swim at an early time of 6.45 am followed by all individuals and teams. This race is then followed by the AquaBike event which will enter the swim leg at 8 am. With the earlier start times the events will finish sooner and the roads will reopen to the public as soon as possible.
- 15 Last year the Wanaka Community Board expressed some concerns regarding the single lane closure of Mt Aspiring Road from Old Station Road to Hospital Flat for the 2018 event. There were concerns that this would shut off access to Mt Aspiring National Park at a busy time of the year and it was questioned whether it should be closed for longer for the 2019 event or an alternative route sought.
- 16 Council Engineers have also advised that there was an issue which arose with the 2018 closures of Mt Aspiring Road which came through very late from an unhappy wedding planner. This was directed to the event organisers however they are unaware of what the outcome of this was. They note that similar issues could arise again and comment that the event organiser contact details need to be out to the public and available early on so that issues like this can be dealt with directly by them well in advance.
- 17 The closure of Mt Aspiring Road has always been a single lane closure reopening at midday and with there being no Full Challenge in 2019 it is anticipated the last rider will be through here around 10.30am with the road opened as soon as possible after this. The closure is of one lane heading out of Wanaka, traffic coming back into Wanaka is not closed although the organisers do request that traffic wait, if possible, until most of the cyclists are back through town.
- 18 The applicant has advised that they will contact all commercial tour operators that use Mt Aspiring Road prior to Christmas advising of the closure times and will arrange timing for them to go through the road closure if required. They are also aware that there may be a number of weddings on and arrangements need to be made in advance for set up crews and caterers to get through. They will be visiting key businesses along the Mt Aspiring Road closure to make them aware of the event and closure times and to highlight and work through any issues that may arise. At this time they will also do a mail drop to all residents along the Mt Aspiring closure route which will include contact details should any issues arise. A further reminder mail drop will be also be undertaken a week before the event. They further 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. A recommended condition is that they also publicise the closures (including contact details) through social media prior to the event.
- 19 The Wanaka Community Board were also concerned that volunteers would be manning the Mt Aspiring Road closure and questioned what would happen if drivers chose to ignore the temporary road closures as this was not covered in

the safety management plan. The applicant has confirmed that the Mt Aspiring Road closure will be manned by Southern Safety Services qualified staff at all key locations along the route and in all situations where there is a possibility that drivers chose to ignore the closure their staff will be there to handle the situation whether it be pulling the motorist over to a safe location to talk to them or visibly directing them to where they need to go.

- 20 Southern Safety Services qualified staff will also be provided at key intersections and closures with the Wanaka Town Centre to help ensure the safe and clear management of potential conflict locations, such as at the roundabout intersection at Ardmore St and Lakeside Road.
- 21 As mentioned above, the applicant Southern Safety are managing these road closures for the first time and for the 2019 event the race routes are to remain the same as for 2018 with a view to making possible changes the following year. Any feedback from the Wanaka Community Board regarding this welcomed.
- 22 There were also concerns raised last year by the Wanaka Community Board regarding the Riverbank Road rumble strips with complaints about these from participants following the 2017 event. Southern Safety Services has provided a photo of the area and it appears these have been removed or asphalted over and they advise they will therefore not be an issue for the 2019 event.
- 23 Challenge Wanaka Trust wants 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.
- 24 Council Engineers have been consulted and they comment that there are no real issues with the proposed closures and they will deal directly with the applicant over any issues that may arise through the Traffic Management Plan prior to it being approved. They further comment that communications regarding the closures need to be out well in advance including via the QLDC website and the event organisers social media and other press releases. We have advised the applicant of these requirements and have arranged for the road closure dates and times to be published on Council website of scheduled road closures which details road closures that have been publicly notified or approved.
- 25 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. The applicant has submitted a Traffic Management Plan to Council for approval.
- 26 In association with the event, Challenge Wanaka undertake a schedule of notification for adjoining businesses and residents prior to the road closures taking place. Southern Safety Services advise they will be doing a door knock in early November 2018 to let the local businesses know of any delays during Challenge Wanaka and communicating the key road closure and detour times. Another letter drop will be done a week prior to the event. The event itself is also widely advertised.

- 27 The intent to close the road has been advertised in the Wanaka Sun and at the date of this report no concerns have been received following this notification.
- 28 The event has run successfully in the past and the recommendation is for approval of the application, subject to the same conditions which have been applied in previous years.

Options

- 29 Option 1 To approve the application for a temporary road closure associated with the event.

Advantages:

- 30 Council will remain consistent with previous years road closures approved for the event.
- 31 The event will be able to continue to run as proposed.
- 32 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.
- 33 Alternative routes are available allowing traffic to still move freely around the surrounding area.

Disadvantages:

- 34 Road closures affect the normal flow of traffic which can affect businesses and can inconvenience the public.
- 35 Option 2 To decline the application for a temporary road closure associated with the event.

Advantages

- 36 There would be less inconvenience for the public that use the roads with them remaining open to normal vehicular traffic.

Disadvantages:

- 37 Council would be inconsistent with previous road closures allowed for the events.
- 38 It may mean the event will not be able to be run as planned or not at all.
- 39 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 events.
- 40 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter as the event will be able to proceed as planned in a safe, managed environment.

Significance and Engagement

- 41 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it relates to Council's roading network which is identified as a significant asset.
- 42 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

- 43 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 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 whether or not to approve a temporary road closure is considered.
- 44 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 temporary road closure is minimal for the public and does not have a significant permanent impact on Council's infrastructure.
- 45 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 the Wanaka Community Board for a private activity.
- 46 The recommended option mitigates the risk by Treating the risk - putting measures in place which directly impact the risk. Conditions are included in any road closure approval which address the risks.

Financial Implications

- 47 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

- 48 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- a. *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.
 - b. *Criteria for Closing Significant Road Policy* – Ardmore Street from Brownston Street to Sargood Drive Street is listed in the Criteria for Closing Significant Roads Policy as a significant road and the proposed road closure comes within this portion of Ardmore Street. However, routes in and out of Wanaka are not disrupted by the closure with alternative

detours available. Ardmore Street has been temporarily closed on other occasions, without complaint or incident. This closure is often associated with key Wanaka events.

49 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

50 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 the events associated with the 2019 Challenge Wanaka event can continue in the preferred format;
- 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

51 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the general public who may use the road and businesses on the closure routes.

52 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. At the date of preparing this report no issues or concerns have arisen from this notification.

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

54 We have publicly notified the intent to close the road, advised Emergency Services, NZ Police, Ritchies Connectabus, InterCity, QLDC Events office, 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.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities

55 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 2019 (*available upon request*)

Challenge Wanaka 2019 - Road Closure Overview

Road Closure	Date and Time	Purpose	Alternative Route
Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to McDougall Street	Wednesday (13/2) from 0800 to Sunday (17/2) at 0300	Infrastructure build up and break down	Via Brownston Street
Dungarvon Street from Dunmore Street to Ardmore Street	Saturday (16/2) from 0300 to Sunday (17/2) at 0300	Infrastructure build up and dismantling at end of event	Via Helwick Street or Brownston Street
Ardmore Street from Dungarvon Street to Lakeside Road	Saturday (16/2) from 0300 to Sunday (17/2) at 0300	Infrastructure build up and safe passage of athletes; dismantling at end of event	Via Brownston Street
Single Lane closure of Wanaka Mt Aspiring Road from Meadowstone Drive to Hospital Flat	Saturday (16/2) from 0615 to 1200	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 McDougall Street to Meadowstone Drive	Saturday (16/2) from 0615 to 1200	To allow safe passage of athletes	Via Warren St and Meadowstone Drive. Access to residents permitted
Wanaka – Mt Aspiring Road from Old Station Ave to Meadowstone Drive	Saturday (16/2) from 0615 to 1200	To allow safe passage of athletes	Via Old Station Road to return to town until road opens
McDougall Street from Brownston Street to Ardmore Street	Saturday (16/2) from 0600 to 1200	To allow safe passage of athletes travelling back along Ardmore Street / Mt Aspiring Road	Via Warren St and Meadowstone Drive or Golf Course Road
Kane Road between Camphill Road and St Ninians Way	Saturday (16/2) from 0815 to 1500	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 (16/2) from 0815 to 1200	Challenge Wanaka Event – to prevent long traffic delays to northbound traffic (detour will be quicker)	Via Shortcut Road, Wanaka Luggate Highway (SH6), Lake Hawea Albert Town Road (SH6), Camphill Road, St Ninians Way and Kane Road

Road Closures

- Ardmore St - 0800 - Wednesday 13th to 0300 Sunday 17th February
- Dungarvon & Ardmore St - 0300 - Saturday 16th to 0300 Sunday 17th February
- Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd - 0615 to 1200 Saturday 16th February
- Ardmore St & Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd 0615- 1200 Saturday 16th February
- McDougall St - 0600 -1200 Saturday 16th February



Date: 2018 **Author:** Kelsey Brownrigg **Project:** Challenge Wanaka 2019
Contractor: Southern Safety Services Limited

Comments:

Layout 34 - Wanaka Road Closure Overview

All signage set up as per COPTM

Roads to be Closed: Single Lane closure of Mt Aspiring Road from Meadowstone Drive to Hospital Flat

Period of Closure: 0615 to 1200 Saturday 16 February 2019



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

Period of Closure: 0815 to 1500 Saturday 16 February 2019

