

## **Draft Eely Point Development Plan Feedback**

In 2017, QLDC engaged Garth Falconer from Reset Urban Design to prepare a Draft Development Plan for Eely Point; this was considered a natural extension of the Lakefront Development Plan produced in 2016 and was approved by the WCB for public consultation at the beginning of December 2017.

The plan was available in the QLDC Ardmore St office, Wanaka Library and on the QLDC website; people could leave feedback on the online form, feedback form available in the Ardmore St office or by emailing customer services. A public drop in session was held at the Scout Den at Eely Point in December. The plan was also discussed at the Link Upper Clutha Café in late November.

Feedback closed on January 19th, we received 164 submissions via feedback forms and 18 comments from the Link Upper Clutha Café. Feedback came from a range of people – residents, holiday home owners and visitors from a wide age range – 10 years old to retired people.

The submissions and feedback can be grouped into the following areas/points:

**Marine Rescue Centre:** Many people commented on the proposal to site the Marine Rescue Centre at Eely Point with 60 correspondents being in favour of this site and 13 against it. Those for the inclusion of the Centre felt that the proximity to the water was an important factor in ensuring an effective rescue service.

“A site on the East Side of Roys Bay minimises deployment time and hence radically increases the survivability of a person in trouble on the lake – during the Summer it can take between 30 to 90 minutes to deploy, the proposed site will enable a deployment time of between 20 to 25 minutes to be achieved. For those who are not wearing a wetsuit in our lakes the survival time is short ie: about 1 – 3 hours”

Those opposing the inclusion cited the conflict between the passive recreation offered by the area and the inclusion of further buildings and a rescue service operating from them.

“It is not a suitable place for a large emergency response vehicle and saddened that the council would even allow it to be considered. Quite apart from the compromised amenity values and inappropriateness of such a building in the heart of a reserve, the practicality of ensuring access and manoeuvring in such a tight area seem to be an insane proposition”.

There were also several comments regarding combining the Scout Den and Marine Rescue Centre or positioning the centre at Bremner Bay or in Ballantyne Road with the other emergency services.

**Pedestrian access:** 43 correspondents were in favour of closing the road around the point and making this area pedestrian or cyclist only. There was a strong feeling from the feedback that priority needs to be given to pedestrians/cyclists in this reserve. Active Transport Wanaka have submitted extensive feedback on the opportunities for cycling and pedestrian access in the Eely Point area and have requested the opportunity to discuss their recommendations.

**Trees:** 23 Correspondents wished to see the existing trees remain with these being assessed and dangerous trees removed. There was concern from many people that these trees provided essential shelter from the wind and removing them would change the nature of the area. There was some

support (11) for succession planting with natives and deciduous trees (7). Twelve people commented that they would like to see weed species removed.

**Scout Den:** there were several comments from people who would like to see the Scout Den upgraded and better utilised however there was feedback from the Scout and Guide committee indicating that the building is well used at present.

**Disc Golf:** 10 correspondents indicated strong support for retaining or improving the current Disc Golf course while 4 people thought this was not an appropriate activity for the reserve.

**Natural state:** 41 correspondents indicated that the natural beauty of Eely Point was the reason they enjoyed this reserve, it reminded them of 'old Wanaka' and was a welcome respite from the development and business they saw elsewhere in the district. They enjoyed the passive recreation the area offered and 'wild' nature of the reserve.

"Eely Point is a serene, sheltered green space in the middle of increasing development. Please keep it this way with lots of trees, grass and an absolute minimum of structures."

"Eely point is so beautiful because of its natural 'untouched' beauty. Please don't clutter it with a whole lot of unnecessary stuff that can be found in other places around town. I would hate to see the area filled with car parking and concrete structures."

**Boat launching/ trailer parking:** 19 correspondents supported an improved boat launching area with 8 people indicating the current system works well and only needs minor improvements. There was support for retaining the trailer parking in its current form on the top of the reserve and not creating formalised parking for boat trailers as these are used for a limited time of the year. There was some concern that the safety aspect of combining boating and swimming should be investigated.

**Playgrounds, Gardens, Sculpture:** Limited support for a natural playground with comment that children enjoyed playing in the natural environment. No support for formal gardens or sculpture (apart from one person who would like to set up an art installation in the reserve).

**Overall impression:** People love Eely Point as it is, unspoilt and natural and any further development will have to be carefully done to retain this feeling.

#### **Next steps/recommendations:**

Workshop to discuss feedback with Wanaka Community Board, Stephen Quin, Garth Falconer

Updated Development Plan produced reflecting public feedback