

# Kruger, Janine

**PUBLIC HEALTH SOUTH**

## **6** Other Comments

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Would you like to comment on any other aspect of this draft 10 Year Plan?

See attached submission

**Public Health South**

Dunedin: Private Bag 1921, Dunedin 9054  
Ph: 03 476 9800 Fax: 03 476 9858

Invercargill: PO Box 1601, Invercargill 9840  
Ph: 03 211 0900 Fax: 03 211 0899

Queenstown: PO Box 2180, Wakatipu, Queenstown 9349  
Ph: 03 450 9156 Fax: 03 450 9169

**SUBMISSION ON THE QUEENSTOWN-LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL'S  
DRAFT 2015-25 LONG TERM PLAN**

**To:** Queenstown Lakes District Council  
Private Bag 50072  
Queenstown 9348

**Details of Submitter:** The Southern District Health Board

**Address for Service:** Public Health South  
Southern District Health Board  
Private Bag 1921  
DUNEDIN 9054

**Contact Person:** Tom Scott  
(03) 476 9746  
[Tom.Scott@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:Tom.Scott@southerndhb.govt.nz)

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**Introduction**

Southern District Health Board (Southern DHB) presents this submission through its Public Health Service. This Service is the principal source of expert advice within Southern DHB regarding matters concerning Public Health. Southern DHB has responsibility under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Additionally there is a responsibility to promote the reduction of adverse social and environmental effects on the health of people and communities. With 4,250 staff, we are located in the lower South Island (South of the Waitaki River) and deliver health services to a population of 306,500.

Public health services are offered to populations rather than individuals and are considered a "public good". They fall into two broad categories – health protection and health promotion. They aim to create or advocate for healthy social, physical and cultural environments.

This submission is intended to provide general commentary to the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) relating to the consultation document for the proposed Long Term Plan.

**General Comments**

The Public Health Service wishes to highlight the value of working together with local government to consider the impact of various activities and plans on population health. The positive community health outcomes that can accrue when local government is cognizant of its potential to impact upon the health of citizens cannot be overstated.

The Public Health Service supports the Council building a library hub in Frankton, this would enable the large population of older adults there to access library facilities. With implementation scheduled for 2020, we would support a mobile service in the interim where our older people could order their books by phone and with drop-off and delivery through the NZ Post outlet in Frankton.

#### Recommendation

- That pending the establishment of a public library in Frankton a mobile book issuing service is established to meet the needs of its older residents.

#### **Smoke-free**

In New Zealand about 13 people per day die each year because of smoking or second-hand smoke exposure (around 5,000 people per year). Internationally, tobacco smoke is responsible for about 1 in 10 adult deaths – about 5 million deaths each year.

As we head towards 2025 and a Smoke-free Aotearoa, it is disappointing to note that QLDC still does not appear to acknowledge any intention to either maintain or expand its Smoke-free environments. We believe that in order for QLDC to stand by its statement “Safe, Healthy, Strong Communities” it needs to have a clear policy of Smoke-free in all playgrounds and recreation/sports grounds. This needs to be backed up with clear signage.

#### Recommendation

- That QLDC develops a clear policy on the continuing roll-out of Smoke-free Environments under its jurisdiction.

#### **Increased Opportunities for Physical Activity**

In the consultation document referring to Transport, the Public Health Service would support linked cycle/walking tracks to ensure our children and also commuters have access to safe routes to commute to school. This in turn is likely to promote greater patronage and increased physical activity.

In the interests of promoting increased physical activity, we support the option where work on the Wanaka Pool would start in 2016-17 rather than 2023.

The Public Health Service supports increasing parking charges for the Central Business District if they serve to promote greater use of public transport and greater pedestrian activity. In addition we would support the views of the local older persons network to pedestrianise both Beech Street and Rees Street. This approach would ensure greater safety on these streets that in turn would encourage people to walk.

#### Recommendations

- Work to ensure that walking/cycling tracks in the Queenstown-Lakes District are linked to enable safe access for communities and schools and communities and workplaces.
- To promote increased physical activity we advocate for increased parking costs for the Central Business District.
- That QLDC gives consideration to the pedestrianisation of Beech and Rees Streets.

#### **Management of Alcohol**

Whilst we are happy with the objectives relating to the management of alcohol in your Regulatory Services section, we strongly advocate that the QLDC develops and implements a Local Alcohol Policy as enabled through the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. Such a policy enables the community to have a say in how alcohol is managed and provides an avenue for it to be made clear to the community and industry how alcohol in Queenstown-Lakes will be managed.

### Recommendation

- That Queenstown-Lakes District Council develop a Local Alcohol Plan as enabled through the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

### Sanitary Works

In general the Public Health Service supports the general direction of water supply and wastewater upgrades in the Plan and is particularly pleased to see that there is provision for both Glenorchy and Cardrona reticulation. We are disappointed to discover that whilst it appears as a line item in the plan there is no provision for development of a wastewater system for Kingston.

We note that with the recent experience at Cardrona, in the future there is a probability that Council will need to take the responsibility for community infrastructure in other subdivisions that currently rely on their own systems. With this in mind, we would encourage council to proactively monitor these communities to address potential public health risks before they become an issue.

We are supportive of Council's intention to provide toilets and sewage dump points at various public reserves throughout the District.

With a heavy capital works programme, we need to remind Council that the implementation of approved Water Safety Plans (WSPs) for drinking water supplies cannot be deferred as it is the Ministry of Health's view that the "affordability clause" is not a valid reason to defer/delay improvements for the drinking water supplies.

### Recommendation

- That QLDC proactively monitor any community without, or with private arrangements for their water, wastewater and solid waste services.
- That the plan is amended to make provision for the need to establish if wastewater treatment required for Kingston.

### Environment

We note that the Environment chapter acknowledges the high quality of the Queenstown-Lakes District natural environment. In making that observation there is no acknowledgement of the role of the Otago Regional Council as a partner in maintaining that environment. We believe the Plan needs to be reworded to reflect the partnership arrangement that will need to be made to support air quality and that of natural waters. This is particularly true of air quality issues in Arrowtown, and a need to effectively communicate water quality issues to the public where there is contact recreation.

### Recommendation

- That the 10-year plan is reworded to reflect the relationship the QLDC needs to have with the Otago Regional Council to address the public health risk associated with air quality and the quality of natural waters.

### Summary

The Public Health Service of the Southern DHB would be a key partner in achieving many of the guiding principles outlined in your Long Term Plan. Thus we look forward to working with QLDC to realise these principles for our community.

We will wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



**Tom Scott**

Team Leader- Healthy Environments