

Proposed RPTP Variation - Water Taxis

The Queenstown Chamber of Commerce supports active travel and mode-shift initiatives undertaken by ORC, QLDC and NZTA and supports the proposed amendment of the current Regional Public Transport Plan to allow the continuation of the ferry trial on the Frankton arm of Lake Wakatipu.

Over the longer term, The Chamber notes that the Regional Public Transport Plan is currently under review and wishes to ensure that the updated plan will accurately resource the most effective way to provide public transport across the district, including the opportunity costs of providing the ferry service, at the expense of extension of the bus network.

We remain concerned that commuter bus services remain unpredictable and continued investment in improving the quality of our bus services remains a priority. We support a continuation of good planning processes and opportunities for early and informed stakeholder engagement in this process.

It is our expectation that the ferry trial will not just include quantitative measures of success (number of passengers), but qualitative data including the type of passengers (international versus commuter or residential), reliability, including proportion of trips commenced on time, and other quality of service metrics.

Additionally, to assess the impact of this service, a review of the visitor and resident's awareness of this service should be undertaken.

The Chamber notes the recent requirement from the Minister of Transport that travel demand management planning, with a view to encourage mode-shift, is undertaken for the Queenstown area and this should be included in the Regional Land Transport Plans and that these are also currently under review. We trust that this trial will also inform this planning process.

Regards

Anna