

HEAD OF LAKE WAKATIPU

COMMUNITY UPDATE 04 | NOVEMBER 2020

Here's what we've been working on at the head of Lake Wakatipu since our last update in October. We hope to meet a lot of you at our session in December. Read on to learn more.

1. **An opportunity to chat to our project team about the active landscape and impacts of natural hazards at the Head of Lake Wakatipu**

In early December we along with experts from NIWA and Tonkin and Taylor, and representatives from QLDC, will be holding the first community session to hear about your experiences of impacts from natural hazard events in the area.

The first session will be focused on hearing about your experiences, which will help develop the adaptation strategy at the Head of Lake Wakatipu. There will be several sessions held to ensure you are informed and have the opportunity to collaborate with us on this project.

We hope to confirm this date in the coming days and will ask the Glenorchy Community Association to share the details of the community session once confirmed.

2. **Send us your observations and photos of changes in the natural landscape**

Ahead of our first community session, we'd love to hear your stories or observations, and see your photos of how the community has been affected by natural hazard events during your time living in the area. This could include storms, flooding and landsliding, as well as how the river channels and deltas have changed over the years.

This will help us paint a picture of the natural hazards of the area. Please send your observations and photos to headofthelake@orc.govt.nz

3. **QLDC bank protection at the lower Dart floodplain**

ORC contributed funding of \$50,000 to support, the Queenstown Lakes District Council installing rock riverbank protection along a section of the lower Dart floodplain. For more information about this work, please contact QLDC.

For our future

4. The water level monitor for the lagoon was approved by DOC and we installed it in late October

The water level monitor was installed in the lagoon along the south-eastern shoreline in late October, providing data that will help us better understand how the water level in the lagoon is changing over time and assist in responding to flood events.

The monitor still requires some surveying before it is up and running, but once it is, data will be available in real-time on our WaterInfo website (water.orc.govt.nz).



Above: The water level monitor in-situ at the lagoon.

5. River flow forecasting model being developed

Behind the scenes, our hydrologists have been developing a river flow forecasting model for the Dart River. The initial model is being tested for its accuracy during high flow events, and these tests will inform how valuable it can be for a flood warning. If the forecasting model proves accurate, we will use it in the coming months.

6. Glenorchy flood event response

The first draft of the Glenorchy flood event response plan is under review by QLDC and ORC. The plan will be available for feedback from the Glenorchy community before being finalised.

7. A bird's eye view – 27 October

As part of our river management activities, we took a helicopter flight to survey how the realigned channel at the Rees delta and the clearance of vegetation at Lagoon Creek has been performing.



Above: an aerial photo showing heavy vegetation in Lagoon Creek - October 2019 .
[The dashed red line shows the creek location in both photos.](#)

Below: an aerial photo showing the clearance of vegetation in Lagoon Creek – October 2020



8. Summary of 2020 ORC activities

<p>Clear vegetation in Lagoon Creek to assist draining Lagoon Creek into the Rees River</p>	<p>Completed August 2020</p>	<p>This work was intended as a short-term measure as it's inevitable the vegetation will return overtime. We'll keep an eye on how it is performing, particularly at times of moderate to high river flows.</p>
<p>Realign channel at the Rees River mouth toward the western side of the delta to assist with drainage into Lake Wakatipu during high river flows.</p>	<p>Completed September 2020.</p>	<p>As with vegetation clearance, it is a short-term measure and we will keep an eye on how the realigned channel performs.</p>
<p>Glenorchy riverbank erosion and floodbank stability investigations.</p>	<p>Completed September 2020</p>	<p>Management of the floodbank sits with QLDC. QLDC will be undertaking the funding of any upgrade and/or additional protection. ORC is collaborating as needed with QLDC providing support with scoping from the investigations report.</p>
<p>Additional lake level recorder and river flow monitor</p>	<p>Funding for an additional lake level recorder and river flow monitor is being proposed in the draft Long-term Plan, which will be open for consultation in early 2021.</p>	
<p>Water level monitor in the Lagoon</p>	<p>This was installed late October, and data is expected to be available on the WaterInfo website in December water.orc.govt.nz</p>	
<p>Glenorchy flood emergency evacuation plan</p>	<p>The first draft of this plan will be expected to be circulated in December.</p>	

**Head of Lake
Wakatipu natural
hazard adaptation
strategy**

The first public facing session to hear real-life experiences from impacts of natural hazard changes will be held in early December. We hope to confirm the date in the next few days.
