

CUBE - WANAKA AIRPORT SUBMISSION

23 November, 2016

Queenstown Lakes District Council. By Email:

The Centre of Unique Business Evolution (CUBE) makes the following submissions in respect of the proposed options to change the way Wanaka Airport is managed and governed.

1. The CUBE considers that the while QLDC have presented several options (and a preferred option) for the future management/governance, there is insufficient detail in what has been presented and therefore insufficient information for the public and interested parties to make informed decisions around the future of the Wanaka Airport.
2. In particular, there is no detailed information on the proposed future (from a strategic perspective) on Wanaka Airport should a long-term lease be entered into with QAC (or any other party). It is felt that before decisions around the long-term future of Wanaka airport can be made there is a need to have sufficient meaningful consultation and the articulation of the strategic priorities for airport (including future uses and services that the airport will engage in).
3. The CUBE believes that an expert 3rd party should be engaged by QLDC to facilitate a consultation process with key stakeholders with regard to developing a clearer picture around the future strategic priorities of Wanaka Airport. Importantly, it is proposed this engagement and strategic refinement process should occur prior to entering in a long-term lease agreement.
4. Should a long-term agreement be entered into, it should be a requirement of the lease that the lease holder is mandated to keep identified key stakeholders consulted and informed around future plans for the Wanaka Airport.
5. Should a long-term lease be entered into it is proposed that QLDC and the lease holder should consult the CUBE regarding future plans that involve business and economic development initiatives. This consultation will ensure that there is alignment with the Wanaka Airport and broader business and economic development strategy for the Upper Clutha.
6. In the spirit of transparency and robust decision making it is strongly recommended that the public and key stakeholders are well informed around the key elements and terms of any proposed lease and that these should be advised prior to the closing date on any public round of consultation and submission prior to the confirmation of the lease.
7. The CUBE wishes to make a verbal submission at a public hearing.

Yours faithfully

Jason Watkins

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