

Introduction

We are reviewing our Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (the policy) and we would like your feedback on whether we continue to permit shops to trade in the Queenstown Lakes District (district or QLD) on Easter Sunday.

Background

Easter Sunday is a restricted trading day under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 ('Act'). All shops are to remain closed, except for certain shops under certain conditions. These include dairies, cafes, service stations, garden centres, pharmacies, souvenir and duty-free shops.

In 2016, amendments to the Act enabled councils to adopt a policy which permits all shops to open on Easter Sunday in the whole or a part of their district. This provision is only applicable to Easter Sunday and does not include Good Friday and Easter Monday (which are also public holidays). Councils can not specify what type of shops can open or times that shops can open.

Council adopted an Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy in 2017 in consultation with the community. This policy allowed all shops in the district to open if they wished to. The policy supported local businesses who benefit from tourist trade, in particular, and provided greater options for the large volume of visitors to the district over this time period. It also eliminated any confusion on what shops can open on Easter Sunday.

Employees have the right to choose not to work on Easter Sunday.

The policy does not apply to the sale or supply of alcohol. Alcohol sale and supply is regulated under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This statement of proposal is prepared under sections 83 and 86 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and contains:

- the reasons and options for the proposal
- a copy of the draft policy
- how you can have your say
- timetable for consultation.

The reasons for the proposal

The reasons for this proposal are:

- the review requirements of the Act mean that the current policy is no longer in effect. Council is consulting with the community as part of this review.
- to seek community views on the draft
- to encourage people to give feedback on the draft bylaw
- to let people know how they can give feedback.

The 24 October 2024 Council report contains more detailed information on these points:

<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/agendas-minutes/full-council>

Options

Council considers that the current policy is working well for the district and proposes that the policy continues with minor amendments to the style and structure of the document. However, the following options show how Council could proceed after it has undertaken the consultation process, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Option 1 – Adopt the draft policy so all shops in the district can open on Easter Sunday, as has been the case since 2017.

Option 2 – Change the policy so only shops in certain parts of the district can open on Easter Sunday.

Option 3 – Elect not to have a policy, so only those shops specified in the Act can open on Easter Sunday. These include dairies, cafes, service stations, garden centres, pharmacies, souvenir and duty-free shops.

Option 1 – Adopt the draft policy so all shops in the district can open on Easter Sunday, as has been the case since 2017.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All shops in the district will be able to open on Easter Sunday if they wish. • There is no confusion about what type of shop can open. • Visitors to the QLD have the option to shop on Easter Sunday. • Workers can choose to work or not to work on Easter Sunday. • This approach has been in place since 2017 and will therefore represent continuation of the status quo, which may reduce the risk of confusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers are able to opt out of working on Easter Sunday, but they may feel pressured to work. • Easter Sunday is an important day on the Christian calendar and parts of the community may not agree with the draft policy.

Option 2 – Change the policy so only shops in certain parts of the district can open on Easter Sunday.

Advantages	Disadvantages

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communities that wish to have this policy in place can do so. • Businesses in certain communities would be able to benefit from the high visitor numbers during this time of year. • Workers in certain communities could work if they wished to. • Visitors to the district would have the option to shop in certain communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors may be unclear about which communities are able to open their shops. • Workers in the communities that the policy doesn't apply to cannot work, even if they wish to. • Workers in the towns that the policy applies to may feel pressured to work. • Businesses in parts of the district that cannot open on Easter Sunday cannot benefit from the high visitor numbers during this time of year. • Easter Sunday is an important day on the Christian calendar and parts of the community may not agree with the draft policy. • This changes the approach that has been in place since 2017 and may cause confusion.
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Option 3 – Elect not to have a policy, so only those shops specified in the Act can open on Easter Sunday. These include dairies, cafes, service stations, garden centres, pharmacies, souvenir and duty-free shops.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although workers can opt not to work, this ensures there is no pressure for them to work. • Respects Christian traditions for those who celebrate Easter Sunday for religious reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses not specified in the Act do not have the choice to open. • There remains confusion about what type of shop can open. • Businesses cannot benefit from the high visitor numbers during this time of year. • Workers cannot work, even if they wish to.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors to the district do not have the option to shop. • This changes the approach that has been in place since 2017 and may cause confusion.
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How you can have your say

Anyone can make a submission online at <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz>. Submissions will be accepted from 8am on 31 October 2024 and must be received by 5pm on 30 November 2024.

All submissions should state:

- the submitter’s name¹
- the submitter’s contact details
- whether or not the submitter would like to speak to Council about this matter.

Copies of this statement of proposal and draft policy may be obtained at no cost from either of the Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown, 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka, any Council library within the Queenstown Lakes District or the Council website at <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz>. If you need help submitting, please contact Council at 03 441 0499, or call in to one of Council’s offices. All written submissions made to Council will be acknowledged and made available to the public.

Council intends to hold a hearing in February 2024. This is when anyone who has made a submission and who has said they would like to speak to Council, can do so. This meeting will be open to the public. If you indicate you would like to be heard, Council staff will get in touch with you to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing either in person or via audio-visual link. If at the hearing you have any requirements, please let us know.

Timetable for consultation

The dates below outline the timetable for the consultation process. Any changes to these dates will be publicly advised on Council’s Facebook page and website.

Date	Activity
24 October 2024	Council adopted the proposal for consultation

¹ Note: if you do not feel comfortable providing your name or contact details in a submission, please contact Council, who can facilitate an anonymous submission.

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31 October 2024	Consultation period begins (8am)
30 November 2024	Consultation period ends (5pm)
February 2025	Hearing panel meeting (date to be confirmed after submission period ends)
20 March 2025	Deliberations and adoption by Council