

Press Release

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OLIVIA WENSLEY - WHY I'M RUNNING FOR MAYOR OF QLDC

The key driver behind my decision to run for Mayor is to build a better future for our children. Our children deserve a bright future in the region they grew up in.

A promising future for our children means having a wide range of career opportunities in high productivity jobs. We can achieve this by diversifying our economy and working with educational institutions to provide more options for our communities.

We must diversify our economy. Urgently. We need to create higher-value, higher productivity roles, and attract high-value talent.

We all know our region is the best place to live. Our communities deserve a Mayor who will actively advocate for the unique interests and challenges we face across our region.

Covid-19 has changed everything. However, whenever there is a crisis, there is an opportunity. This is a time for our communities to unite and envision the future we want to have for our children.

Our children's future relies on a community which actively addresses important issues. We must take the climate emergency seriously. We need practical solutions and more importantly, action - so we can act as the best caretakers for our future generations.

Our business community needs support during the tough economic challenges they are facing. The community needs a leader who understands business needs. I have worked with hundreds of business owners in our region - I deeply understand the pain and frustrations they face. For the past two years I have been meeting with Government bodies and Ministers - to discuss the particular needs of our region.

I'm a truly independent candidate. This means I can constructively work with whoever is in Government.

The Queenstown Lakes doesn't "fit in the box" with the rest of the country. We are a truly diverse community, which attracts international talent - and we can leverage this to our advantage. As the world faces political disruption and climate challenges, our region is only going to become more desirable. To protect what makes our region special, we need a clear strategy for sustainable growth.

I understand that our region is diverse and our communities have different needs. For example, the needs and wants of Wanaka and other townships in our region are very different from Queenstown. We need a strategy which carefully considers these differences.

Our region needs a leader who deeply understands the impact that technology will have in addressing our region's issues. Traffic congestion is a serious problem - however there are fantastic opportunities to solve these issues with autonomous network transit technology - and I have already met with a provider who would like to launch a test-pilot in our region.

We can truly be a model destination that other regions aspire to be. Embracing technology and creating more opportunities for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) education and careers.

With visionary leadership, and clear messaging, I firmly believe we can attract high quality talent to not just visit our region - but to stay, and invest here.

Economic diversification is something I deeply understand - because I live and breathe it every day. After working closely with the Economic Development team at QLDC, I appreciate the importance of this work. We can't just pay lip service - we simply cannot have all our eggs in one basket anymore. Economic diversification is a form of insurance which will future-proof our region's economy.

For those of you who know me - you already know I'm someone who gets things done. My track record speaks for itself - I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk.

Why do I believe I'm the candidate who can deliver this? Because I've already been doing the work. I have spent my entire career solving problems and finding solutions - I have worked as a lawyer (Investment Banking + Construction Litigation), as a Tech Startup executive, as a CEO for the non-profit Startup Queenstown Lakes Trust.

However, my most important role is as a mother - and every decision we make must put the next generation's well-being front of mind.

I know that solutions can only result from bringing people together to improve our communities. I believe in innovation. I believe in unity. I believe in listening to everyone. For all these reasons, I believe the future will be bright for the Queenstown Lakes region.

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