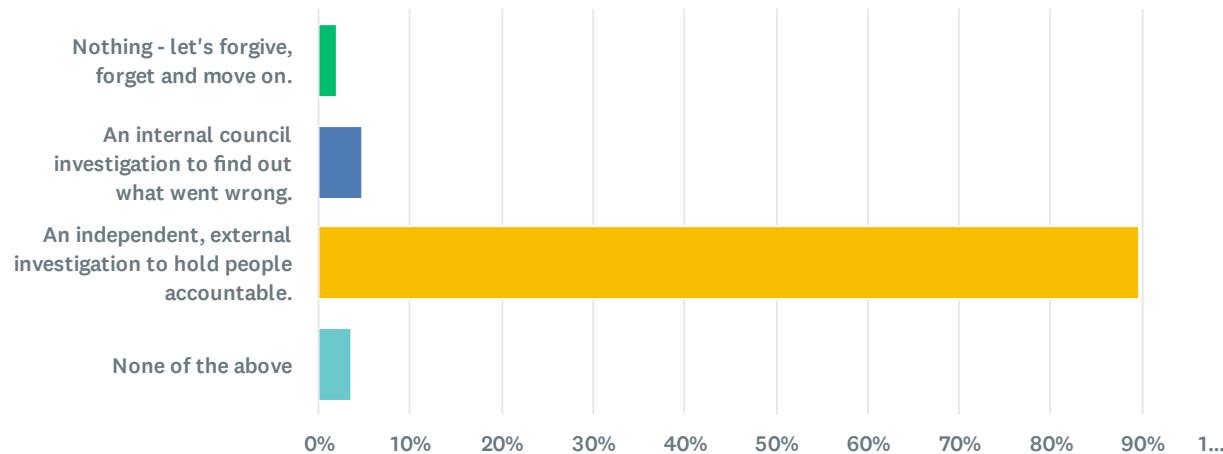


Q1 Outgoing QLDC CEO Mike Theelen has been at the helm through the council's biggest failures - the sewage cover up, Lakeview, the Toxic House and the Road to Nowhere as well as the new council HQ fiasco - Project Manawa. The total cost could be as high as \$400 million. What should happen next?

Answered: 1,216 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
Nothing - let's forgive, forget and move on.	2.06%	25	...
An internal council investigation to find out what went wrong.	4.69%	57	...
An independent, external investigation to hold people accountable.	89.64%	1090	...
None of the above	3.62%	44	...
Show comments			
Total		1216	

#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD A COMMENT OR OTHER SUGGESTED OUTCOMES.	DATE
1	This complete level of incompetence will cost generationaly and drive up the costs for home owners and renters further increasing the cost of living in this area	1/19/2026 6:36 AM
2and go back in time, these turds have been smelling for a long long time....	1/19/2026 3:30 AM

3	We all know he is a crook, he needs to be accountable for stealing ratepayers money the way he did. It truly is theft in a disgusting abhorrent way.	1/18/2026 11:12 PM
4	a independent external investigation to make sure we don't make the same mistakes again	1/18/2026 10:47 PM
5	Council need to be transparent and accountable. From the outside it seems like they are completely incompetent and wasting millions of ratepayers money. I just hope that things aren't as bad as they look?	1/18/2026 10:41 PM
6	Unbelievable that Mike Theelen was given the reins with no accountability - incompetent at every level.	1/18/2026 9:30 PM
7	Council should be more focused on their job and stop spending ratepayers money without any accountability. You got this QLDC! You can do better!	1/18/2026 9:09 PM
8	Mindful that not just one single person caused all these issues..	1/18/2026 9:06 PM
9	Oh well, he will realize in due time how much damage he has done to an already burned council. Not for the council to go through more pain and suffering by trying to hurt him back. The council is on its last few breaths and he will have to live with the fact that he disappeared and abused his power instead of trying to save the council. He will have to live with that and everyone around him will know how much damage he caused time and time again. While the council will rest peacefully knowing that they always had good intentions for the people unlike him.	1/18/2026 9:02 PM
10	All recommendations to be made public. Lessons learned to be made public.	1/18/2026 8:47 PM
11	It's always middle management who fail to perform. CEO covering his own backside so too weak to look at those beneath him.	1/18/2026 8:08 PM
12	They are supposed to work for us, and be accountable!	1/18/2026 7:57 PM
13	Must happen to avoid a repeat!!! Marty Black	1/18/2026 7:54 PM
14	No doubts	1/18/2026 7:50 PM
15	Totally support an investigation - especially if it can lead to holding Theelen responsible - along with others I would imagine - but concerned re the cost to ratepayers if nothing formal in terms of responsibility can be achieved?	1/18/2026 7:35 PM
16	Only way to dismiss corruption from Boult on	1/18/2026 6:57 PM
17	Make an example and don't sweep anything under the carpet	1/18/2026 6:17 PM
18	Firing squad is the only way for these mogrels to put held accountable. Utter useless eaters!	1/18/2026 6:07 PM
19	Absolutely, no golden handshake at this point. Council also need to look at CEO'S job description and limit power for future appointments.	1/18/2026 5:39 PM
20	A full independent investigation and senior staff should lose their jobs if they are found to have been negligent in their roles	1/18/2026 5:11 PM
21	Bad decisions followed by cover ups.	1/18/2026 3:54 PM
22	Someone needs to finally be held accountable. This has been going on for fae too long. It's like you work for the council and you get unlimited "get out of jail free" cards. It's all hard earned money from locals that are already struggling, paying more for literally anything than anywhere else in the country and the well paid council staff throws money out the window, puts our health (and sanity) at risk and no one has to explain themselves and pay the consequences for reckless, wasteful, and even dangerous acts. That kind of carelessness and disrespect towards people that voted and put their trust into you needs to see consequences. How far are we going to let this go? Where does it end?	1/18/2026 3:49 PM
23	Previous mayor Jim Bolt needs to be held accountable also	1/18/2026 3:36 PM
24	It's ratepayers money. Enough said	1/18/2026 3:22 PM
25	This is how it should be- respect shown to every ratepayer and consequences for possible flouting of the CEO's position of responsibility of his role as CEO	1/18/2026 3:07 PM
26	Absolutely	1/18/2026 2:29 PM

27	At least it will save other organisations employing a person who is so non transparent and holds his community at arms length.	1/18/2026 2:10 PM
28	Ratepayer funds should be spent proactively with the future in mind, and not wasted on revisiting past efforts.	1/18/2026 1:21 PM
29	Let's see if they new mayor actually listens to the people with this resounding result and follows through with what we the people want done	1/18/2026 12:49 PM
30	Serious fraud office	1/18/2026 12:10 PM
31	There needs to be a new culture established and accountability enforced.	1/18/2026 11:55 AM
32	The independent review should include assessment of reasons for process failure and include recommendations to ensure such failure cannot happen again.	1/18/2026 11:49 AM
33	As long as ratepayers dont pay for everything as usual - already enough long term working residents leaving town as unaffordable now	1/18/2026 11:48 AM
34	It is most important to understand what went wrong so the council can establish systems, process and procedures to ensure that it does not happen again. Clearly the independent party must have prior experience and expertise to undertake the investigation otherwise it will be a waste of time. I brief outline the scope of the investigation, scope of services and time frame should be prepared. Good luck	1/18/2026 11:16 AM
35	Public trust will only be restored on e people are held accountable.	1/18/2026 11:12 AM
36	Don't forget the Oak Shores and Oaks Club fiascos. Also don't forget that if problems can be attributed to incompetence and stupidity rather than malice, there is a good chance that that is why the problems occurred.	1/18/2026 11:00 AM
37	Put a budget on the investigation and have the focus on making sure it can't happen again.	1/18/2026 10:59 AM
38	Let's learn what happened who did what and when (our history) with a view to not making the same mistakes in the future	1/18/2026 10:55 AM
39	Without this I don't see how we can rebuild Trust	1/18/2026 10:34 AM
40	Big Infrastructure investments need to be more transparent and accountable to the public. The people appointed to positions of leadership in these projects need to be accountable to the public.	1/18/2026 10:26 AM
41	Is there any point in wasting more money if the end result is just finding blame but no financial compensation to the council	1/18/2026 10:24 AM
42	There needs to be an investigation so that this type of issue can never happen again. There are too few rate payers, and too many important things at stake for money to be mismanaged in this way. I am reluctant to suggest an independent external investigation, however, I do not believe an internal investigation would be anything other than a cover up, given what has already happened.	1/18/2026 10:24 AM
43	Too many material failures? Or a difficult operating environment where they get many things right but a few high profile ones wrong. A review will determine the case.	1/18/2026 10:01 AM
44	What we are beginning to understand about what has gone on borders on the criminal. Someone must be held accountable, and the buck is supposed to stop with the CEO.	1/18/2026 10:01 AM
45	Don't throw good money after bad. Move on. Mr Glover might find now he's in power everything isn't as straight forward as he thinks.	1/18/2026 10:00 AM
46	An investigation will undoubtedly sheet responsibility back to the CEO and 2 x previous Mayors. Will provide some satisfaction but more importantly will highlight the capture of compliant Councillors by the Mayors and CEO.	1/18/2026 9:45 AM
47	This should not be a witch hunt, but an objective and serious independent expert investigation into the processes, decisions, information shared, shortfalls and strong points of the decision-making process that got us in these positions on so many major and poor, costly decisions.. Delegation of major issues like Lakeview development to the CEO, without any governance oversight and zero visibility, should never have happened and systems must be put in place to ensure that future executive leadership teams and mayors can not facilitate this happening again. Of particular concern in several of these cases is the senior staff shaping of agenda	1/18/2026 9:43 AM

items, (rather than providing the full and objective consideration of all viable options that is required under the LGA), refusal to give full and proper, objective answers to councillor questions etc to meet what appeared to be legacy ELT decisions with inadequate analysis and dismissive non-responses to new questions being asked by both councillors and community. there is a strong feeling of "being led by the nose" with many of these decisions,

48	Also investigate other dodgy deals	1/18/2026 9:40 AM
49	Firstly the pay rise that all the council members gave themselves need to be paid back, and then any works that was done an internal investigation with external investigators need to sift through and those responsible for their failures need to be charged and fined accordingly and publicly shamed. Far too often has this happened and swept under rug.	1/18/2026 9:37 AM
50	But keep brief tight ... it should not be a long a long expensive process.	1/18/2026 9:25 AM
51	If they don't start construction in time , cancel Lakeview. Put the Council buildings out at Lady's Mile (or not at all?) no more development until sewage is fixed. Or all new substantial residential developments should have their own mini sewage plants. All new builds should be mandatory to have solar panels.	1/18/2026 9:23 AM
52	Make sure he gets no redundancy payout	1/18/2026 9:19 AM
53	It would be nice to understand what went on so as to not repeat mistakes again in the future	1/18/2026 9:18 AM
54	External investigation is needed but also internal one straight away. New councillors & mayor need to be fully aware of all existing obligations so clear forward plan can be devised and provide transparency to ratepayers.	1/18/2026 9:18 AM
55	But not if the cost is insanely high, because there's no way we recoup it.	1/18/2026 9:13 AM
56	An independent external investigation (in itself that will determine if there is any accountability to be apportioned).	1/18/2026 9:11 AM
57	Any person did something wrong, they have to man up.	1/18/2026 9:10 AM
58	Will cost more to investigate just get on with it.	1/18/2026 9:09 AM
59	He, among others, has destroyed the integrity of the council and needs to be held accountable.	1/18/2026 9:06 AM
60	As long as the cost of this can be recouped by the individual not the rate payer. It would depend on what was in the individual contracts may be too late. Unfortunately these failings can't be undone.	1/18/2026 9:06 AM
61	Total accountability where the buck stops	1/18/2026 9:06 AM
62	Criminal charges should be pressed against those responsible	1/18/2026 9:05 AM
63	I want to know who knew what and when and who signed off on it. Then these people should be held to account!	1/18/2026 9:04 AM
64	Councilors have also been too weak to query proposals. The same will probably continue.	1/18/2026 9:02 AM
65	Depending on the outcome of the independent, external investigation, accountability for criminal misconduct or incompetence may be desirable, but it's also important to learn from past errors and to strengthen Council project preparation, procurement and decision-making processes & administrative rules.	1/18/2026 8:59 AM
66	Whatever I would wish for, he is getting away with it, criminal bullshit	1/18/2026 8:38 AM
67	A wider audit/ investigation should be made on QLDC as there's rot in other parts of the group.	1/18/2026 8:34 AM
68	We are tired of the financial waste and incompetence of QLDC.	1/18/2026 8:23 AM
69	A criminal investigation involving police and the SFO. Also the land deal with the Australian company needs to be investigated!	1/18/2026 8:08 AM
70	He should be made to go to all the towns and answer questions from the towns people about where the hell our way over priced rate money has gone. All major contracts should be audited as they will all be his mates that he is giving major amounts of our money too	1/18/2026 8:04 AM
71	Are ratepayers funds gathered and invested by the council subjected to money laundering rules ?	1/18/2026 7:47 AM

72	Accountability is crucial and those in 'positions' need to know and understand the repercussions	1/18/2026 7:44 AM
73	The councillors and mayor who lacked experience to hold him to account and instead gave massive pay increases should now be held to account.	1/18/2026 7:42 AM
74	All this wasteful spending needs a bright light shone on it.	1/18/2026 6:15 AM
75	However... what happened to the procedures to not have any of this happen in the first place? Has this been happening decade after decade and we didn't know because reporting on these issues was non-existent? An external investigation will only work if a bomb-proof procedure is implemented through the recommendations, and this might not happen (in our lifetime).	1/18/2026 5:31 AM
76	Sunlight is the best disinfectant.	1/18/2026 3:39 AM
77	In particular there are two things. First is the conflict of QLDC employees and either direct or indirect relationships with land/property developers. Secondly is to establish a sustainable future by understanding just how much more tourism or property development will simply destroy what QLD offers today and the relative unspoilt environment that makes it unique and attractive today. The lack of sustainability is already present in the overloading of the infrastructure and the inappropriateness of building design to enhance and protect what QLD has as its natural beauty.	1/18/2026 1:20 AM
78	The sewage plant and Lakeview require a full external investigation. It should NOT be led by a barrister or QC although legal input is needed. Legal reviews seldom add clarity and cost a great deal. The issues of the road to Nowhere is whether it was needed and is the contracting method being used a gravy train for the contractor and is has it resulted in a huge management team with contractor council and consultants man marking each other. Also, were proper boundaries maintained in the work environment and socially out of work. Also does QLDC employ the necessary level of engineering competence to perform the role required. Further why Councillors tolerated Mike Theelan on Lakeview claiming not only delegated authority but being above review. This culture seems to be embedded deeply in the culture of the officers of QLDC. Given the extraordinary level of delegation and refusal to allow review, is Mike Theelen personally liable for the losses date layers have suffered on this project. Also why on earth would QLDC undertake ground works on a low fixed price when these are impossible to cost without very detailed investigations and fixed price contracts. The toxic house issues seem to be a good idea gone wrong. Buying the house and land was a unique one off opportunity. However poor officer level work and poor Council and Mayoral oversight has led to the outcome. The same applies to Project Manawa. Is it worth review or is the problem well understood? The Council staff ultimately work for the elected members. They need to understand this. The councillor training courses run by central government keep emphasising the difference between governance and management. Unfortunately this emphasis is on Councillors doing very little review and receiving very limited amounts of information. There are a lot of fundamentals wrong in local government. The preferred contracting arrangements result in very expensive project delivery. QLDC demonstrates just how badly these things can go wrong !	1/17/2026 11:19 PM
79	He's an employee and should be treated as such. Overreach at it's worst!	1/17/2026 11:12 PM
80	Grow up,,, staff love MikeT	1/17/2026 10:07 PM
81	The commitment of un approved funds, contracting practices, governance, competency of certain staff members needs to be independently investigated and corrective action and criminal charges brought to bear, if warranted. Incompetency is not an excuse	1/17/2026 9:56 PM
82	Let's get the truth fully revealed - failings of the above magnitude need commensurate accountability and penalty, if found; not least for ratepayers sake.	1/17/2026 9:42 PM
83	This man needs to be held accountable it's democratic transparency he's held his hand out for a pretty good salary and now he needs to explain in full detail of his decisions and actions just like anyone else	1/17/2026 9:01 PM
84	The people who built the wall around the poo ponds should refund the taxpayer that money. Surely with all the consultants we have hired we have a plan in place going forward. Mike Theelan is accountable 100% and should be brought under the microscope for not doing his appointed job and misappropriating our money	1/17/2026 8:57 PM
85	Internal investigation will be a whitewash External will likely achieve little and cost a lot The	1/17/2026 8:32 PM

current CEO will be gone and he is ultimately where the buck stops Even an the outcome of an external investigation is likely to be somehow predetermined These days investigations start with the answer and the process is manipulated to provide that answer - classic MO of current government. Local bodies no different.

86	This should be done but care needs to be taken as to the cost to ratepayers.	1/17/2026 7:11 PM
87	Mike Theelen should be made to remove the bike park planter boxes on Buckingham st Arrowtown as he is the one who vetoed their removal after very negative feedback on their temporary installation	1/17/2026 6:23 PM
88	As long as we can recover some of the money. He's not the first CEO to do massive damage & then skip to another position in Australia. Follow the \$\$\$ to see if anyone personally profited here or in Australia from these irresponsible decisions.	1/17/2026 5:45 PM
89	can we impeach him??	1/17/2026 5:25 PM
90	The process would be strengthened by being two-fold; identifying why Mike Theelen was at fault and the sequential risks that these failings have catalysed and how he was able to generate these risks without them being identified, communicated and managed. This is important as if weaknesses in the risk communication and management framework within local council remain, the next CEO is able to repeat history. The investigation and legal action/s against Theelen should set a deterring precedent for all CEOs in NZ politics.	1/17/2026 5:14 PM
91	It is not just about holding people accountable. All QLDC councilors should be held accountable. How did we get here the the first place?? Changes need to be made to ensure this does not happen again and that the best outcomes are put in place to rectify the problems with absolute transparency to the community.	1/17/2026 4:50 PM
92	I do believe we are at the point of gross negligence and would like to see everything in the light and positive strategies to move on and upward.	1/17/2026 4:17 PM
93	Hold all final pays until end of investigation , as in suspension with out pay . Like All tradesmen, the professional people must be held accountable. ratepayers should not have to pay for stupidity	1/17/2026 4:09 PM
94	It's the new appointment im concerned about.	1/17/2026 4:09 PM
95	I certainly don't want to forgive & forget, but I doubt very much that an internal investigation would be effective given the number of former Councillors & QLDC staff likely to be implicated in these many failures, as well as the CEO. An external investigation would be preferable, but I'm very reluctant to see the community landed with yet another cost on top of the money already wasted, and the likely future costs we'll all have to bear by way of rates & borrowing to fix all these messes. And who exactly could be trusted to undertake a truly independent investigation? In any case, Crux has already done most of that work!! Realistically, what matters more is that the new Mayor & Council can establish & meet high standards of integrity & governance (which don't include delegating sole authority on major property deals to the Chief Executive, or anyone else), mend the QLDC's relationship with the community they serve and most importantly, appoint a competent & honest CEO.	1/17/2026 3:41 PM
96	As the individuals responsible for these projects have moved on to other things i cant see that anyone will be held accountable or that any money will be recoverable. It will cost a lot of money and take up a lot of time from current council staff whose time would be better spent on getting on with their work for the ratepayers	1/17/2026 3:28 PM
97	At a reasonable cost and ensure that those responsible are held accountable with consequences.	1/17/2026 2:54 PM
98	Burnt at the stake	1/17/2026 2:17 PM
99	We elect the Mayor and Councillors to work with the Council Executive and management team, and at the very least the ratepayers deserve transparency which we haven't had. On another note the lack of housing for workers is totally due to allow homeowners to let out their houses short term 365 days a year, which the Hoteliers and Motel Association fought tooth and nail to avoid. Back in the late 90's we had workers accommodation in Lumsden and use to bus workers in and out daily!	1/17/2026 1:43 PM
100	Wanaka should have the choice to split off and have its own separate council like when I was a kid.	1/17/2026 1:32 PM

101	Its totally out of control as a ratepayer in arrotown it's disgusting they should be locked up	1/17/2026 1:23 PM
102	There has be accountability for the decisions made that has put queenstown in the position it's in	1/17/2026 1:21 PM
103	Council has been secretive and anything but transparent in Theelan's time. The Toxic House and Manawa examples. The new Council office should be on Ladies Mile. Cheaper, more easily built, easier transition, and closer to where the population is expanding.	1/17/2026 1:07 PM
104	The incompetence with rate payers money borders on criminal behaviour.	1/17/2026 12:56 PM
105	WE cannot have this going on in any council organisation	1/17/2026 12:50 PM
106	Let's clear up outstanding issues before more development is approved. Ideally, stop any new development: especially Ridgeburn. The concept of that development is so out of whack - it will ruin what we savour of Queenstown and surrounds.	1/17/2026 12:47 PM
107	The Extreme Excessive waste of rate payers tax and rates have been constantly spent and abused by council decision makers and bureaucrats has been bordering on criminal and potentially there maybe corruption involved. Our local community and citizens have next to NO faith support patience or tolerance and a LOT of Policy being decided and enacted on with council is an absolute disgrace... Parking infringements, explosion of CCTV installations and income generation from parking policing is in itself a disturbing.... not to mention the disgusting wasteful over spend for the so called RING ROAD development.. The ENTIRE last 6 to 7 years plus has seen the QLDC council deliver UN tenable rate rises and disgraceful spend... VERY ANGRY overall	1/17/2026 12:38 PM
108	Absolutely cannot be an internal one as this council has been far too corrupt and covered too many things up to be trusted at all!	1/17/2026 12:26 PM
109	Pathetic mess these folks have created	1/17/2026 12:04 PM
110	There is little to be gained for ratepayers by "hanging someone, or some people, out to dry". No doubt there are culprits but the main thing is to be sure new robust processes are put in place to make sure there is no recurrence. It may mean employing staff with proper project management expertise which appears to be lacking at present. It needs an investigation with the object of process improvement in mind, most certainly not done internally.	1/17/2026 12:01 PM
111	Ties between ex council employees and council contracts should be included	1/17/2026 11:54 AM
112	We need to stop the culture of nepotism, favouritism and outright corruption that has been part of council for years. Make an example of past perpetrators and put in place checks to prevent it happening in future.	1/17/2026 11:40 AM
113	If we don't move on quickly we'll be in further debt unnecessary	1/17/2026 11:38 AM
114	QLDC must be accountable for the expenditures of ratepayers' funds and for the outcomes of the expenditures. Regarding the "biggest failures" in question, the investigation must identify who made the expenditures and procurement decisions and why.	1/17/2026 11:32 AM
115	Theelen needs to be held to account for the cover ups , collusion and his abuse of power . Hopefully through the court system !!	1/17/2026 11:25 AM
116	Where is the responsibility?	1/17/2026 11:21 AM
117	Outcome of independent investigation should be more than just for lessons learned - it should be to hold people accountable (and potentially personally liable) . Need to make sure whoever is doing the investigation is truly independent and not handed the desired conclusions at the front end	1/17/2026 11:19 AM
118	Theelen, speedy, Avery, Mason, all need to be held accountable for their actions and inaction over these property and wastewater disasters	1/17/2026 11:18 AM
119	I accuse thus man of criminal negligence and fraud.	1/17/2026 11:16 AM
120	Anything less than independent and external won't fix people's confidence in QLDC.	1/17/2026 11:15 AM
121	This past regime has had no accountability for the debt they have landed locals and ratepayers in, yet they receive huge salaries to award them for their poor choices and performance. I	1/17/2026 11:14 AM

would love to see what benefits these individuals receive that are under the radar - one can only imagine!!

122	It is vital to have a properly independent investigation so that lessons can be learned both by QLDC management, but also councillors and the new mayor. It is not normal to put in place such wide and apparently irrevocable delegations to any management!! Elected representatives need to take back control and stop all the "secret" dealings!	1/17/2026 11:12 AM
123	ASAP!!!	1/17/2026 11:12 AM
124	Plus. What changes have been put in place now to address the process failures that led to the economic leakage that the outgoing mayor referred to going forward?	1/17/2026 11:11 AM
125	If people are not held accountable then there is no reason for these situations not to happen again in the future .	1/17/2026 11:08 AM
126	It should be in other regions too and we all appreciate this being put forward	1/17/2026 11:07 AM
127	As a ratepayer i don't want to forgive and forget but we need to move on, with the council having processes to ensure we do not have repeat situations, that there is transparency and accountability	1/17/2026 10:42 AM
128	A thorough external review is essential to identify and to publicise the details of his evident mismanagement while CEO of QLDC. I feel Mike Theelen has a lot of serious mis-steps to answer for in this role. QLCD ratepayers need to know about every one of these and how he perpetrated them, as well as to provide an independent factual basis for any possible future legal action to be taken against this man.	1/17/2026 10:42 AM
129	Rate cap for 2 years and cut costs to cover shortfall.	1/17/2026 10:22 AM
130	unacceptable to have no consequences with that much money lost to us the rate payer.	1/17/2026 10:22 AM
131	Must be held accountable!	1/17/2026 9:34 AM
132	Needs held accountable. He's been paid very well so needs to take responsibility	1/17/2026 8:56 AM
133	If found guilty he should have to pay some money back to the rate payers. Didn't he get a pay rise last year?	1/17/2026 8:43 AM
134	More transparency is needed DURING any challenges that QLDC is facing so that ratepayers can be involved in finding solutions rather than just being made to pay for mistakes. QLDC has become corrupt through political egos, exorbitant salaries and too much power with no accountability.	1/17/2026 7:18 AM
135	Let him go asap...with no golden handshake.	1/17/2026 7:18 AM
136	Concerned at how much this will cost, consultants being paid again.	1/17/2026 6:52 AM
137	I feel people like Mike Theelen will never be held accountable unfortunately. Always gets away	1/17/2026 4:12 AM
138	Theelen was appointed by councillors and it was councillors who delegated him the powers he used. If anyone's at fault it was those councillors who voted those powers through. Individually the finger has to point ultimately at whoever was mayor during that process.	1/16/2026 11:27 PM
139	He was a thieving person	1/16/2026 11:26 PM
140	Your survey wording is inflammatory and biased ensuring any votes on this poll are worthless	1/16/2026 11:03 PM
141	External reviews cost money though! Important for accountability and not repeating the same mistakes but wouldn't want it to be a navel gazing exercise	1/16/2026 10:33 PM
142	CE, his execs, comms team and operational managers need to be held accountable and Go	1/16/2026 10:30 PM
143	"Follow the money"	1/16/2026 10:22 PM
144	This pattern of behaviour seems so pervasive that you'd have to wonder if there's been an unspoken influence behind the incompetence which in some countries would suggest corruption.	1/16/2026 10:20 PM
145	For too long the ratepayer has been paying and for what, more bad issues that just do not get fixed.	1/16/2026 9:57 PM

146	Additionally the report on the state of Queenstown by Economist Ralph Hanan should be seriously considered. Also get rid of VEOLIA (Multinational profits going to France). Council seriously consider a c Construction Developement Moratorium, to enable an Infrastrucure development long term impact plan implemented. Also urgent appeal to Govt to assist in Funding. The Govt wants more growth, More tourists, more immigration more housing and Rates Caps. It CANT have all that with out a REAL impact and Funding plan, that's the bottom.line!!!! It's current reforms packages WILL not deliver. I spent 26 years working in Central Otago and a lot of that time subcontracting to infrastructure projects So I have some insight into what's really been going on and it's not good.. Growth without a long term impact planning is a recipe for disaster and NOW the chickens are coming home to roost. The warnings have been there for Decades!!!!!!	1/16/2026 9:51 PM
147	This would save ratepayers money after all that has been squandered. Very difficult to previous costly decisions, rubber stamped by Council	1/16/2026 9:48 PM
148	Add Glynn Lewers to be investigated too	1/16/2026 9:36 PM
149	A big absence of good governance ought not be ignored. Do your staff get any training? We sure need transparency from now on to at least reduce anxiety and negativity.	1/16/2026 9:01 PM
150	What would happen if he it is found accountable? It is going to cost a lot of money to investigate. Just want to know the consequences	1/16/2026 8:31 PM
151	The regime whereby Council employees control the Council has to be overthrown – the principle reason public confidence has plummeted in local government. It is sickening to witness CEOs censoring the 'conduct' of councillors - the boot should be on the other foot. Perhaps civil/criminal actions for fraud if proven.	1/16/2026 7:56 PM
152	There has been much too much cover and run without accountability. it is also important that the investigation be independent.	1/16/2026 7:49 PM
153	Suspect all the right intentions were there, nobody in these roles attempts to waste money , they are trying their best.....Feel covid left hooked the council and Qtn along with 2 strong exec team members leaving . Not a good receipe!	1/16/2026 7:37 PM
154	Think we should all agree there has been some very dodgy crap going on but we will never get the wasted money back and further investigation is more money wasted. Lets try looking further forward and get the planning right for future generations.	1/16/2026 7:29 PM
155	A complete audit. Paid for by the government	1/16/2026 7:28 PM
156	Get a fucking life, Peter.	1/16/2026 7:20 PM
157	I pay over \$8k a year in rates. What percentage goes to this \$400m? Disgraceful	1/16/2026 7:09 PM
158	An internal investigation will not have the impression of transparency.	1/16/2026 7:09 PM
159	He has been responsible for multiple failures. He needs to be held responsible (and no farewell gifts)	1/16/2026 7:00 PM
160	Thelan, Boult, McCleod, Avery. They all should be fully investigated for their time at QLDC. Way to many back room deals and multiple millions wasted.	1/16/2026 6:42 PM
161	Crux is a joke	1/16/2026 6:38 PM
162	Make this a legitimate survey	1/16/2026 6:38 PM
163	The toxic house as you so idiotically put it was bought for the land not the house.	1/16/2026 6:37 PM
164	Let it go	1/16/2026 6:37 PM
165	He did a good job faced with the fastest growing district in nz	1/16/2026 6:36 PM
166	Cringe worthy survey. Crux is a one man blog that needs to get a grip	1/16/2026 6:35 PM
167	If we just move on it sets precedent for how future actions may be forgiven	1/16/2026 6:34 PM
168	This survey is another example of Peter Newport pushing his personal vendetta	1/16/2026 6:34 PM
169	Heads should roll from senior qldc management	1/16/2026 6:09 PM
170	Not sure if internal is going to be upfront either but external investigation is spending yet more	1/16/2026 5:55 PM

money QLDC doesn't have . So option is?

171	This is at the heart of our cost of living crisis . unaccountable bureaucrats pissing away tax payers funds	1/16/2026 5:46 PM
172	Sack the board!!	1/16/2026 5:46 PM
173	Although the ship has sailed on the losses as such, understanding how it happened so safeguards can be put in place to ensure it can't happen again does seem like the most prudent approach. This could be done internally but given the current issues around transparency and trust haven't been fully resolved as yet an independent investigation is the right response	1/16/2026 5:34 PM
174	SFO should be involved	1/16/2026 5:28 PM
175	The CEO needs to be held accountable. I think a declaration needs to be made by all QLDC employees and elected members if they are part of the Freemasons due to a conflict of interest.	1/16/2026 5:08 PM
176	Qldc has a history of "the old boys club" mentality and cronyism for many many years,making decisions that line their own pockets	1/16/2026 4:57 PM
177	Councilors and ratepayers need to understand how this went so wrong and the consequences of delegating governance to executives paid to serve. This is why an enquiry is needed. It needs to be truly independant.	1/16/2026 4:49 PM
178	I think it's important that there is a thorough independent investigation to insure it's not a witch hunt or scapegoating.	1/16/2026 4:47 PM
179	We can't just let this slide. Giving one man, without a proven level of competence, (as they are now doing in the ORC) is asking for trouble. It is not fair to the rate payers or to the CEO. But we need to know how it all happened. It wasn't just Theelen. We must know so we can learn.	1/16/2026 4:43 PM
180	We have to give clear message that, we will not tolerate incompetence or corruption. And that All council staff are working for the ratepayers, and are ruled by elected representatives. The culture that has developed over the last couple of decades has to change.	1/16/2026 4:34 PM
181	This investigation needs to look back to at least 2017.	1/16/2026 4:22 PM
182	All of the elected and appointed members of council need to be investigated as the corruption and failure to adequately account for expenditure of monies are liable for prosecution. The lack of knowledge or information is no excuse as everyone knows. How contracts have been repeatedly awarded to certain people and companies. Others have been paid repeatedly, multiple times by using the threshold where the expenditure does not require authorization. This is nothing less than corporate fraud at best to blatant dishonesty at a corporate level.	1/16/2026 4:12 PM
183	Needs to be accountable for spending other people's money	1/16/2026 4:10 PM
184	CEO should donate a years salary , at least, to QLDC to help ratepayers with the debt he has caused. His lack of integrity has caused a huge debt & rearrangement of Queenstown ,that will be felt for years. His fault, his cost.	1/16/2026 4:05 PM
185	Make him personally pay back the money as he took it in the 1st place	1/16/2026 4:03 PM
186	Can't see anything ever happening. No government departments are ever held accountable. Also, at the end of the day, unless they are found personally liable, it is always the tax payer who picks up the tab of any investigation or court case.	1/16/2026 3:55 PM
187	Absolutely disgusting: an non-elected employee of council (responsible first & foremost to the ratepayers) who can wield such power & control, deliver a complete shambles on most fronts & by most metrics, get paid an exorbitant amount for utter incompetence & then walk away with zero accountability. Sadly a reflection of society as a whole but in this case, Theelen has arguably left long-suffering ratepayers with a debt burden amounting in the \$100's of millions. If Mike had any decency, he would front up for his actions. Sadly, I don't think anyone believes he has the guts or decency to do so.	1/16/2026 3:52 PM
188	There must be accountability from Theelen and others. It's that simple.	1/16/2026 3:41 PM
189	Love to say - An independent, external investigation to hold people accountable - but that's going to cost more money - which we can't afford - to say that Theelen was wrong. Mike	1/16/2026 3:33 PM

	Theelen, Meghan Miller and mates should all go.	
190	Too much has gone on with nobody being held accountable. The last elections cleaned the elected membership out a bit, but the QLDC management have accepted no part of the litany of failures.	1/16/2026 3:19 PM
191	Doc his pay.	1/16/2026 3:17 PM
192	As a ratepayers I feel ripped off I pay a lot in rates and I work hard for my money I want a proper investigation	1/16/2026 3:14 PM
193	Please no bonus package. He doesn't deserve anything,	1/16/2026 3:03 PM
194	Absolutely needs an external investigation!	1/16/2026 3:02 PM
195	Transparency of every cent going to contractors and who they are in every failed project , but also projects going ahead that seem tremendously over budgeted.	1/16/2026 3:01 PM
196	Should be held accountable	1/16/2026 2:55 PM
197	Theelen needs to be held accountable. Theelen had been paid by the rate payers to oversee the Council(dont mention the under hand pay raise off 15.3 %) for doing a lack luster job and showing no transparency. By putting us the ratepayers in debt. Honestly Theelen must be laughing all the way to the bank.As he also made a poor job in Christchurch.	1/16/2026 2:54 PM
198	As ratepayers we must get the facts.	1/16/2026 2:47 PM
199	The massive overspending on so many aspects of WLDC affairs especially consultants as well as the exorbitant amount Mr Theelen was paid!	1/16/2026 2:47 PM
200	The ideal scenario would be for Options 2 and 3 (internal and external reviews) to be run concurrently. Option 2 would focus on process errors (policy or implementation) and be used to prevent repeats and Option 3 used to see whether anything untoward / illegal happened.	1/16/2026 2:40 PM
201	Some needs to go a prison for this fiasco.	1/16/2026 2:20 PM
202	See what back handers these people have received and hold them accountable	1/16/2026 2:17 PM
203	Mike Theelen needs to be investigated personally - You surely cannot make these poor decisions above without some sort of personal financial gain.	1/16/2026 2:12 PM
204	Ratepayers money! Not good enough and it's obviously going to result in ongoing costs for years after current ceo goes	1/16/2026 1:54 PM
205	I'm absolutely disgusted in what has gone on behind the scenes in the QLDC, it's not just the CEO who needs to be held to account the whole outfit needs an external review	1/16/2026 1:53 PM
206	The fact that one man can cost rate payers so much money is mind boggling. A forensic investigation will reveal back handers and activity that you would like to think will result in criminal charges .. this is beyond negligence, if it was negligence he'd have been fired instead he's been allowed to carry on for years	1/16/2026 1:52 PM
207	He exhibited criminal behaviour, fraud, misappropriation.	1/16/2026 1:46 PM
208	Let's not spend more money trying to fix things when looks likely that is not possible or sending good money after bad as the saying goes	1/16/2026 1:41 PM
209	Further investigations will not retrieve the wasted money and will only add further to costs. Council must take full oversight of its employees, stop secrecy and nepotism, pay down debt and manage properly the unfettered imbalance of development and infrastructure.	1/16/2026 1:25 PM
210	Theelen has to pay back 50% of his total salary	1/16/2026 1:14 PM
211	I think you can't cover this up. We have had a piss poor job happen and now look where we are! Absolute shit show	1/16/2026 1:02 PM
212	The decisions and implementations of this council have been unbelievably bad. There needs to be a comprehensive investigation into why so many issues were mishandled. The results of this should ensure future CEOs and councillors understand their duties and responsibilities to the community.	1/16/2026 1:01 PM
213	While identifying the persons responsible is always somewhat gratifying, the main thing is to	1/16/2026 12:57 PM

use the review to amend internal culture and lines of reporting to put better governance including full public transparency, at the forefront of the way the Council operates. To this end many of the questionable decisions stem from poor internal advice and clearly far too much autonomy to the CEO. An internal review would only serve to find no fault with those who have been in the thick of it. As the saying goes "It is difficult to get anybody to understand something, when their salary depends on them not understanding it"

214	It seems that council CEOs as a group have the ability to just move on when the going gets tough. They then seem to reappear in another council's employment and carry on regardless of their past performance. It's time for them to be held accountable for any failures, as any other employee would be. They are paid supposedly at a rate similar to their counterparts in the private sector and thus should be held to a similar standard of performance.	1/16/2026 12:53 PM
215	However this would just be passed onto the rate payers, which it should not be - an internal investigation would probably be swayed in it's results.	1/16/2026 12:47 PM
216	He should never have been appointed. Christchurch business people couldn't believe his QLDC appointment. Go figure.	1/16/2026 12:45 PM
217	When there have been system failures, particularly ones as expensive as these appear to have been, any organisation is obliged to carry out a problem analysis to determine the cause(s) and implement corrective action(s) to prevent recurrence.	1/16/2026 12:45 PM
218	This will stop the next person by example	1/16/2026 12:22 PM
219	The investigation should have a broad scope to make senior council management accountable	1/16/2026 12:20 PM
220	There are still managers still working for the council who were involved	1/16/2026 12:05 PM
221	Nicki Gladding did her best to reveal the problem and look where that got her. Any investigation including where when and by whom should also be completely independent of the QLDC bureaucracy. Its a culture that needs to be eliminated from the top down.	1/16/2026 12:04 PM
222	Reclaim lakeview, even at the cost of braking the contract, and develop it for the community not for some "premium" foreign investors	1/16/2026 11:52 AM
223	explore criminal charges	1/16/2026 11:51 AM
224	Clearly with no members who previously served and have been implicated in the noted "failures".... Should be at minimal ratepayer expense. Ultimately legal advice/representation is likely to be necessary but where there has been corruption it must be exposed and those involved need to pay a price.	1/16/2026 11:48 AM
225	This person must not be a member of, or affiliated with, a political party. They need a proven record of efficiency, have the ability to be fearless in their conclusions and not susceptible to outside pressures. And have the ability to listen.	1/16/2026 11:43 AM
226	Block & Chains in The mall naked..	1/16/2026 11:40 AM
227	There is absolutely no way failure of governance at this scale can be simple incompetence combined with gross negligence ... this reeks of corruption and criminality and the matters Crux has listed here are just the tip of the iceberg that has ripped the side out of this region's finances and made it impossible to maintain, let alone upgrade, our rapidly failing infrastructure. Whatever has gone on with these major issues is also operating within a milieu of radical and dystopian bureaucratic overreach that is grinding our entire world to a halt. Time to call a halt to all of it. Time to expose and then bring criminality to account and to severely restrict the power of bureaucracy.	1/16/2026 11:36 AM
228	"To hold people accountable" to include any outside companies/persons that may have benefitted from the gross incompetence (could think of other words) of those in power who ripped off qldc ratepayers. Thank you.	1/16/2026 11:35 AM
229	An independent external investigation of the issues my find cause for liability-actions	1/16/2026 11:28 AM
230	Rather than trying to punish people, look at the systems that allow people to mismanage and make bad decisions, stop the public from knowing, and enable the hiring of people who don't care about the community.	1/16/2026 11:23 AM
231	Get rid of incompetent staff... make head of departments accountable for their respective responsibilities!	1/16/2026 11:22 AM

232	Definitely external, look what happened to the internal review of the road to nowhere disaster	1/16/2026 11:12 AM
233	As long as it doesn't add to the costs already incurred.... and its focus should be to find out what went wrong, rather than a witch hunt to assign blame. It is highly unlikely any of those responsible will be recompensing ratepayers to the extent of \$400m. Learning how to avoid similar situations in future would be a good outcome.	1/16/2026 11:11 AM
234	Huge Atlas scandal behind it, including the govt negotiator and tech representative.	1/16/2026 11:08 AM
235	So many worthy infrastructure projects have been held up by this gross negligence. QLDC have to improve its communication and not only talk to the community which in reality is a tick box exercise but LISTEN! So much of this heartache could have been avoided- we could see it happening but no one listened. Please don't make the same mistakes !	1/16/2026 11:07 AM
236	The buck ought to stop with the CEO and yet it appears that Mr Theelen, who was apparently sacked from CCC before being 'scooped up' by QLDC, will happily retire with a big fat bonus. He ought to be held responsible for the failures under his leadership and WITHOUT any end of contract gratuity. I work in construction claims and I'd be fired immediately for one failure let alone continuous failures over the course of employment/engagement.	1/16/2026 10:58 AM
237	There needs to be more weeding out of the toxicity that remains in QLDC. This will not be achieved from within.	1/16/2026 10:56 AM
238	an internal investigation will have little credibility. It's important that ratepayers know what went wrong and why and if necessary take appropriate legal action.	1/16/2026 10:54 AM
239	essential to have an independant investigation so the secrecy and cost to ratepayers doesnt happen again	1/16/2026 10:54 AM
240	An independent, external investigation to review these projects and to check that robust systems and processes are in place for the future.	1/16/2026 10:48 AM
241	Many of these issues are from Jim Boult era...stop blaming 1 person when there are many who should be held accountable	1/16/2026 10:43 AM
242	The governance group is responsible for the performance of the CEO. It is up to them to decide whether or not he has acted within the mandates of his performance agreement	1/16/2026 10:37 AM
243	Definately people need to be made accountable and those that have profited should pay the bill, not ratepayers. Seems to be a culture in Queenstown corruption and greed where only the genuine people and workers suffer	1/16/2026 10:35 AM
244	it has happened, let him go. Do not necessarily forgive but definitely move on. Do not waste money on an investigation, put it towards fixing and improving.	1/16/2026 10:24 AM
245	The behaviour was totally unacceptable, for too long many CEO's have not been made accountable for their blunders	1/16/2026 10:24 AM
246	Carefull selection of the external investigator needs to occur, we don't need that particular job given to another friend of someone that is being investigated.	1/16/2026 10:24 AM
247	Cronyism/nepotism and poor decision making wasting rate payers money must be investigated	1/16/2026 10:23 AM
248	This should not be a simple " get the CEO excuse" but rather a roots and branches review,including the role previous Mayors and Councillors undertook in behind the scenes decision making.The interrelationships between Senior Council staff,Mayors and Councillors and Contractor's and varied tenders and allocation of works and consents.	1/16/2026 10:21 AM
249	Will not happen because there is no "independent investigator" and NZ is too small and too accepting of the corrupt behaviour that is the culture at QLDC.	1/16/2026 10:17 AM
250	After 35 years here as a ratepayer I have never seen any single person, dept or CEO held accountable to the ratepayers. I could list many instances of failures the are well below accepted professional performance standards. Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, Police, all are held accountable. Never a council professional. Its costs me \$800 dollars a month in rates to live, here I expect delivery to a standard. Let's start enforcing it now.	1/16/2026 10:15 AM
251	Independent investigation to see if correct processes were followed, are those processes adequate or did someone make an Independent decision in which case, yes, they should be held accountable. And what processes can be added to ensure value for tax payers	1/16/2026 10:12 AM

252	Learn from mistakes and become a transparent council, listening to the voice of the community, so these issues cannot repeat themselves. No point wasting more money on an investigation when it's clear he was the ringleader of it all.	1/16/2026 10:05 AM
253	Costs need to be kept in mind and a budget set that ratepayers could accept. If budgeted costs are unreasonable then I would prefer the internal council investigation.	1/16/2026 10:04 AM
254	The CEO & Mayor seemed to just spend ratepayers money add lib without any Audit	1/16/2026 10:03 AM
255	Despite potential costs, doing nothing implies accountability is non-existent. Future and past office holders should be held to account for negligence or corrupt decision making.	1/16/2026 10:02 AM
256	I feel it is crucial, just to see how deep the rot goes, I understand sometimes it's easier just to mow over and to be "seen" to tick the boxes.. there has been a lot of that going on I fear	1/16/2026 10:01 AM
257	The QLDC and community need to learn what and why there were major failures to put in place appropriate processes to ensure they don't occur in the future.	1/16/2026 9:59 AM
258	Transparency is vital so that future employers can clearly see any shortcomings in Theelen's approach.	1/16/2026 9:58 AM
259	The legal & punishment system sucks. Few wrongdoers receive a just & equitable sentence for crimes committed!	1/16/2026 9:56 AM
260	The secrecy and corruption appears to be rife in the previous council. Unless there is accountability future councils can be equally unaccountable at the ratepayers expense	1/16/2026 9:53 AM
261	Theelen has always done what he wanted. If found to be lacking he should be fined or jailed	1/16/2026 9:49 AM
262	CORRUPTION at the highest level. Theelen and the others involved in making the top failed decisions should be held to account.	1/16/2026 9:45 AM
263	As CEO you are where the buck stops. If there is no investigation then his resume is not tarnished and the next council that employs him may be caught unawares	1/16/2026 9:43 AM
264	There is abundant evidence of complicity by several senior staffers in covering up and obfuscating the various issues that have cost the ratepayers so dearly. The role of previous mayors needs to be examined also and whether any of them are culpable. The culture within council that allowed all of this to happen needs to be addressed and remedied (sooner than later)	1/16/2026 9:39 AM
265	The law needs to change so public servants can actually be held accountable as suing or prosecuting would then be possible.	1/16/2026 9:36 AM
266	Prosecution for whatever can be found	1/16/2026 9:36 AM
267	I've never seen a senior council employee personally held accountable for major mistakes — being quietly moved on or retiring seems to be the usual outcome. Calling for another investigation just wastes more ratepayers' money confirming what everyone already knows. The issues are well documented; what's missing is accountability, not information. At the end of the day, the Mayor is accountable — the CEO answers to him and the Council. That oversight clearly failed, and the close relationship between them only made things worse. The fact the Mayor was not re-elected because of these issues shows the community has already delivered its verdict. It's time to move on and stop wasting more ratepayers' money.	1/16/2026 9:36 AM
268	It is reasonably trying times for Queenstown Lakes with massive growth. I believe he has done a very good job. Sure we have some issues but they are working hard to resolve these	1/16/2026 9:35 AM
269	Serious questions need to be asked & answered in depth so accountability can take place	1/16/2026 9:31 AM
270	As a former RE agent I particularly feel insensed about Lakeview which has been a misuse of a outstanding property and not even involving local RE companies and agents.	1/16/2026 9:28 AM
271	Our mayor and councillors must act robustly to end the rot. That means investigating these matters with a view to identifying the source(s) of the failures, taking a view about whether they were merely acts of stupidity or negligence, or corrupt; determining how we fell victims to the stupidity/negligence so as to prevent repetition (e.g. employing a CEO with poor antecedents) and referring suspected criminal acts for prosecution. In short: reparative action.	1/16/2026 9:22 AM
272	He was a C greater from the beginning	1/16/2026 9:19 AM

273	Theelen has a history of this kind of mismanagement and arrogance and should never be in a position like this again he must be held accountable.	1/16/2026 9:19 AM
274	This is public money and a whole lot of darkness, secrecy and conflicts of interest. Of course independent and wide ranging.	1/16/2026 9:19 AM
275	Need to review this period to make sure it doesn't happen again. Needs to be more transparency and oversight.	1/16/2026 9:18 AM
276	Taxpayers' money have been spent and wasted, rates went up, these people are paid a lot of money with zero accountability. That's just not on.	1/16/2026 9:17 AM
277	Always good to try and figure things out so we can improve - not keep making the same mistakes. However I am loathe to give yet more money to external consultants for a job that should be able to be done in-house. And if it can't be done in house, why not?	1/16/2026 9:17 AM
278	Accountability is critical in maintaining trust, which is at a low ebb.	1/16/2026 9:13 AM
279	The purpose should be to identify where remedies or additional work is required - not just liked - and then move on. The new council needs to look forward, and not get lost in reviews.	1/16/2026 9:10 AM
280	Hope we don't throw good money after bad. Move on and the lessons should already be learnt. Don't approve development until infrastructure can keep up and make developers pay. Make all large council sales be overseen by a risk/ legal specialist. The elected members have to work with QLDC staff and those staff Who won't take on board checks and balances will go or be moved on	1/16/2026 9:09 AM
281	If those involved and committed crimes they must be prosecute	1/16/2026 9:08 AM
282	Only one way to find out what happened and stop it happening again is an external audit. If there is negligence people are accountable professionally and or criminally	1/16/2026 9:07 AM
283	We need the elected councilors to take back control of the major decision making, not just give staff power to do what they like!	1/16/2026 9:07 AM
284	Forgiveness shouldn't be a cover for a well-paid executive taking responsibility for his actions. The ratepayer didn't do this, the ratepayer shouldn't have to pay.	1/16/2026 9:07 AM
285	He's complicit if not leading in this criminal behaviour & cover up - he should face a full and deep investigation then be put in to the courts and take whatever jail term and financial hit he deserves, public humiliation, bankrupt him if that's just? I just think about what he has cost up the ratepayers for the foreseeable future by his decision making with that ex mayor and all the boys club that own QT, as he swans off having been paid so well to do a good job and maybe even some benefits in kind we don't know yet 😊 We can't let him off Scott free it's time an example was set and he's the first fall guy I'm optimistic it'll happen and a fair and just punishment that opens this can o worms up	1/16/2026 9:05 AM
286	Let's not throw good money after bad. Just make sure next ceo is not given such free reign.	1/16/2026 9:05 AM
287	Incompetence should not be excused	1/16/2026 9:04 AM
288	what a shamble whats wrong with otago region council ??	1/16/2026 9:04 AM
289	He should then be held accountable in court!	1/16/2026 9:02 AM
290	He should be in jail	1/16/2026 9:02 AM
291	If we dont hold people accountable, dont build appropriate guard rails, dont pick through the detritus of these affairs, then no lessons will be learnt and we run a significant risk of repeating them	1/16/2026 9:02 AM
292	All internal reviews will be a cover up. Staff are involved as well. A government review, will provide no more than their reviews of petrol prices and supermarket duopolies - a document with no consequences.	1/16/2026 9:01 AM
293	I feel very conflicted about this. At the end of the day the CEO is employed by and accountable to Council. I feel that successive Councils wanted to leave it all to him and not think about it. It is certainly more than possible Council was at least deliberately mislead or maybe lied to outright. Mike is a persuasive guy. Why two Mayors seemed to think Council should be party to lying to people and Councillors were fairly quiet on this as well. I think it cost Lewers the election. So who should be accountable?	1/16/2026 9:01 AM

294	A line needs to be drawn so the new council can really change the culture of the place.	1/16/2026 9:00 AM
295	Needs to be a lot more accountability across distircit councils with rates skkyrocketing and all ratepayers as stake holders. Be good to go to a public toilet that costs more than my yearly rates to build; or drive past road repairs without 5 health and safety people on their phones. Coming from a private sector the dichotomy of health and safety people sitting on their phones is beyond belief. Anyway yes accountability	1/16/2026 9:00 AM
296	As long as Theelen doesn't get a payout of any kind for having ruined QLDC in terms of financial mismanagement and trust, I'm not sure it'd help ratepayers to spend yet more money investigating what went wrong to this point! Any organisation with half a brain wouldn't have let him do what he did so shouldn't be too hard to avoid making the same mistakes going forward!	1/16/2026 8:59 AM
297	Difficult decision between an internal council investigation and an independent external one. If it's external it could get lost in some system for ages. However an internal one would place so much extra work on the council. As a ratepayer of 26 years I am seething over the corruption and waste of monies that have been spent.	1/16/2026 8:59 AM
298	Mike applied and was shortlisted last year as a potential CEO replacement at another large council in New Zealand. Need an investigation, because without one done, then people like Mike in the public sector continue leading and being incompetent. - just in another region.	1/16/2026 8:58 AM
299	Secrecy & possibly conspires have plagued this CEO , all paid for by ratepayers - this needs to be stopped investigated so the same thing doesn't occurred going forward. He's a disgrace to our region. Hold this accountable to task.	1/16/2026 8:57 AM
300	It's about time that those at the top of our institutions, the power brokers and executives, are held legally accountable for the outcomes which result from their incompetence and/ or are found to be criminally managed / directed by these people. Standing Orders etc. both in parliament and local government need a complete overhaul. The people deserve compensation for what these people are costing the country.	1/16/2026 8:56 AM
301	We need people to realise there can be repercussions. However, we also don't have a lot of spare money to spend on investigations.	1/16/2026 8:55 AM
302	Just make sure the new appointment is capable of doing the job correctly and there are systems in place to hold them accountable	1/16/2026 8:55 AM
303	Cancel all the stupid crap he approved.	1/16/2026 8:52 AM
304	Nobody at that level is that incompetent, therefore forensic accounting analysis is the only option to allow proper closure on this individuals chapter in Queenstown.	1/16/2026 8:52 AM
305	more QLDC bullshit at the cost of us ,the rate payers!!	1/16/2026 8:50 AM
306	As a minimum an internal investigation into what went wrong is needed. Both the CEO and mayor (Lewers) are jointly responsible for the fiasco over the last few years and they should be held accountable in some way.	1/16/2026 8:50 AM
307	An external investigation is likely to cost rate payers more money and enough has been wasted	1/16/2026 8:50 AM
308	Something needs to happen!	1/16/2026 8:49 AM
309	Public flogging	1/16/2026 8:48 AM
310	Corruption needs to be rooted out.	1/16/2026 8:47 AM
311	Appoint someone competent and independent. Drain the rest of the swamp. Half of that QLDC office needs to go. Get streamlined.	1/16/2026 8:47 AM
312	Accountability starts at the top	1/16/2026 8:46 AM
313	There is not a lot of benefit at this point in spending a lot of time and money solely for holding a person or persons accountable. Just throwing good money after bad. But, I would like to see some independent outside persons contributing to the investigation to find out what went wrong and how to prevent such failures in the future. I still have concerns that there may be sufficient self interest within Council and the Executive to sweep stuff under the carpet.	1/16/2026 8:44 AM
314	Lessons need to be learned about delegating unlimited authority to a council employee without	1/16/2026 8:44 AM

council setting the authority limits and direction, while retaining the power to revoke the delegation. In the corporate world the CEO is accountable to the board.

315	As long as the costs aren't blown out for an external investigation.	1/16/2026 8:43 AM
316	Should not only investigate the CEO but all of the sitting councillors and Mayor at the time who gave him unprecedented delegated authority to run amok unchecked.	1/16/2026 8:42 AM
317	Getting \$400 m out of anyone is impossible. But put in the rules and controls to stop it.	1/16/2026 8:41 AM
318	If this was in the North Island he would not have got away with it	1/16/2026 8:41 AM
319	A lot of the people that live here and work to keep the place going are being mocked by these kind of decisions. Awarding millions in contracts to consultants and advisors for doing essentially nothing other than kick the can around, whilst the districts infrastructure is failing and regular hard-working people struggle to make ends meet let alone get on the property ladder in the town they call home. Stop sending all our resources to their chums in parliament and Auckland. It's a proper piss take.	1/16/2026 8:41 AM
320	Time for accountability. Queenstown ratepayers have had enough of the waste of money and need answers	1/16/2026 8:40 AM
321	Internal reviews always end up adding more staff! The back office is so inflated now with 'managers' who do little to add value.	1/16/2026 8:39 AM
322	Lakeview should have an SFO investigation	1/16/2026 8:38 AM
323	The culture at QLDC is one lacking accountability, being conclusively shown how arrogant and wasteful they've been would hopefully be the first step to changing mindsets from top down that the council serves the people, not the other way around.	1/16/2026 8:38 AM
324	We need to learn from mistakes. 400 million dollars of tax payers money. Of course there needs to be accountability, always, for people who are entrusted with care and responsibility	1/16/2026 8:38 AM
325	Make sure ratepayers get value for their dollar and keep key decisions independent	1/16/2026 8:38 AM
326	As ratepayers, we have been exposed to huge, apparently unnecessary costs through what appears to be poor executive performance and governing oversight. If this is wrong an independent investigation will confirm that. If this assumption is proven correct, then the new Council needs to implement wholesale change -- including backing out of some commitments.	1/16/2026 8:37 AM
327	Mike Theelan wasn't only arrogant he was also incompetent and a bully. I had dealings with him regarding the removal of our cabin in the camping ground and found him to be the worst CEO I had ever dealt with.	1/16/2026 8:37 AM
328	Until full independent review into QLDC council (present & previous), council staff, consultants, and appointed contractors is undertaken & publicly released, there is NO gold watch, NO golden handshake, NO performance bonus, etc - to anybody!	1/16/2026 8:37 AM
329	I would like to see an independent investigation to identify what's gone wrong, LEARN from it, and identify guardrails so it doesn't happen again. Mistakes are one thing; wilfulness with intent to benefit self, mates, or to override the will of the people should come with accountability.	1/16/2026 8:36 AM
330	We are talking about an awful amount of wasted ratepayers money at a time when most of us are tightening our belts. The lack of transparency and secrecy has been appalling.	1/16/2026 8:34 AM
331	I am sick of these people who can just walk away with no accountability	1/16/2026 8:34 AM
332	You can't just walk away and say " sorry, I got that wrong" and never be seen again. Mike needs to front up along with Paul Speedy and start admitting some bad decisions and poor negotiating .	1/16/2026 8:33 AM
333	How can you do better if you don't learn from past mistakes	1/16/2026 8:33 AM
334	Let's hope he doesn't request a Reference for his next Job. It's a failure in all areas as mentioned above. Maybe retirement is a good option!!	1/16/2026 8:33 AM
335	We need to hold our Council leadership accountable. The state of our infrastructure and our finances are in terrible shape. This is what council is supposed to do.	1/16/2026 8:32 AM

336	Steps taken to ensure this can't happen again.	1/16/2026 8:32 AM
337	An external investigation to the Ombudsman nz, enough is enough.	1/16/2026 8:30 AM
338	unfortunately this option comes with a cost to ratepayers but no one in a public office should be above scrutiny and accountability	1/16/2026 8:29 AM
339	He better not leave with a golden handshake	1/16/2026 8:28 AM