

**QLDC Council**

**1 June 2023**

**Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [5]**

**Department: Strategy & Policy**

**Title | Taitara : Queenstown Lakes District Council Submissions**

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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The purpose of this report is to present the submissions made to various government agencies on open consultations relevant to the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and the Queenstown Lakes District.

This report seeks Council's retrospective approval of the submissions' content.

**Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka**

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That Council

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2023-2024 Submission; and
3. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Ministry of Transport's 'Charging Our Future' EV Charging Strategy Submission.

**Prepared by:**



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**Title:** Acting Policy Manager  
**11 May 2023**

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Michelle Morss  
**Title:** GM – Strategy and Policy  
**11 May 2023**

## Context | Horopaki

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1. QLDC has responded to two government plans and strategies in April and May 2023 through Council submissions.
2. These consultations were:
  - The Otago Regional Council ('ORC') Annual Plan 2023-2024 – 21 April 2023 (Attachment A).
  - Ministry of Transport's ('MoT') 'Charging Our Future' EV Charging Strategy – 11 May 2023 (Attachment B).
3. Summaries of the consultations and Council submissions are outlined below and attached in full. Councillors have had opportunity to view and comment on the attached submissions in draft form prior to them be lodged.

## Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

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### **Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2023-2024**

4. The ORC consulted on its Annual Plan 2023-2024 recently, with submissions closing on 21 April 2023.
5. The Annual Plan proposed no significant changes to the commitments made in its Long Term Plan. Commitments include:
  - raise Otago's environmental standards
  - support communities to be more resilient in the face of climate change
  - improve and restore land and water quality
  - improve public transport
  - implement the Otago Pest Management Plan to better manage or eradicate the pest plants and animals doing the most damage in Otago.
6. QLDC sent a written submission to ORC as part of this consultation process.

### *QLDC Response*

7. The QLDC submission provided feedback on key issues to the district, such as public transport, environment and biodiversity, resilience, natural hazard management and emergency management. The common theme throughout the submission was around building a collaborative partnership between QLDC and ORC.

- Councillors have had the opportunity to view and comment on the attached submission in draft form prior to it being lodged. As the submission deadline did not align with a Council meeting, the purpose of bringing this paper retrospectively is to ensure the submission is formally sanctioned by Council and to give transparency to the community.

#### **Ministry of Transport 'Charging Our Future' EV Charging Strategy**

- The Ministry of Transport consulted on its 'Charging Our Future' EV Charging Strategy recently, with submissions closing on 11 May 2023.
- Emissions from transport have been identified as one of New Zealand's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. An action from the Emissions Reduction Plan is to transition to low-emissions vehicles which entails improving EV-charging infrastructure across New Zealand.
- The aim of the Ministry of Transport led 'Charging Our Future' EV charging strategy is to provide more certainty about the role government will play in supporting EV charging infrastructure.
- QLDC made a written submission to the Ministry of Transport as part of the consultation process.

#### *QLDC Response*

- The QLDC submission was supportive of the development of a national charging strategy to support the electrification of transport to move New Zealand towards more environmentally sustainable methods of transport.
- The submission outlined the significance of EV's and EV charging infrastructure to QLDC and the district in supporting the transition to net zero emissions by 2050. However, it also included several recommendations for further consideration such as the role of local government in implementing the outcomes in the strategy and the importance of overall continuity of power supply to the district.
- Councillors have had the opportunity to view and comment on the submission in draft form prior to it being lodged. As the submission deadline did not align with a Council meeting, the purpose of bringing this paper retrospectively is to ensure the submission is formally sanctioned by Council and to give transparency to the community.

#### **Resolution Options**

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- This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- The options for both submissions are the same.
- Option 1:** to retrospectively approve the contents of the relevant attached submission as outlined in the recommendations.

#### *Advantages:*

- The submission will remain in the relevant agencies' process and QLDC will have participated effectively.

*Disadvantages:*

- There are no clear disadvantages to this option.

19. **Option 2:** to request the withdrawal of the relevant attached submission from the agencies' process.

*Advantages:*

- The submission will be withdrawn from the agencies' process and any inaccurate representations of QLDC's position will not be considered.

*Disadvantages:*

- No aspect of QLDC's position will be represented in the process.

20. This report recommends **Option 1** for each submission (if representative of the council's position) to ensure that QLDC participates effectively in the relevant consultation process.

### Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

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#### Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

21. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This advice deals with a matter of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups, and sectors in the community.

22. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents and ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District communities.

23. No external consultation was undertaken in preparing these submissions, as there was insufficient time to do so given the tight timeframes provided.

#### Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

24. The Council did not engage with Iwi or Rūnaka in preparing these submissions, as there was insufficient time to do so given the tight timeframes provided by the agencies.

### Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

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25. This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation It is associated with RISK00038 – Lack of Alignment – Strategies and Policies within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low inherent risk rating.

26. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing it to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by monitoring future changes in legislation based on the advice to government, in particular addressing those issues that directly affect QLDC and the Queenstown Lakes District community.

#### Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

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27. There are no financial implications.

#### Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

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28. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The outcomes and principles of the Vision Beyond 2050
- The QLDC Spatial Plan
- The QLDC District Plan
- The Climate and Biodiversity Plan
- The Destination Management Plan
- The 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

29. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.

#### Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

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30. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

31. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

#### Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

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A	QLDC submission on the ORC Annual Plan 2023-2024
B	QLDC submission on the MoT 'Charging Our Future' EV Charging Strategy

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