

QLDC Council
30 June 2022

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [4]

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Queenstown Lakes District Council Submissions

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present submissions made to various government agencies on open consultations relevant to the Queenstown Lakes District Council and the Queenstown Lakes District.
- 2 This report seeks the Council's retrospective approval of the submissions' content.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Driving Change: Reviewing the Road User Charges System submission (Link A).
3. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan submission (Link B).
4. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the National Adaptation Plan submission (Link C).

Prepared by:



Erin Auchterlonie
Policy Advisor, Corporate
Services

9/06/2022

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Meaghan Miller
General Manager, Corporate
Services

9/06/2022

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 QLDC has responded to several government plans, policies, Bills, and inquiries from late-April until early-June 2022 through Council submissions.
- 4 These consultations were:
 - Driving Change: Reviewing the Road User Charges System – 29 April 2022 (Link A).
 - The Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2022 – 13 May 2022 (Link B).
 - The National Adaptation Plan – 3 June 2022 (Link C).
- 5 Summaries of the consultations and Council submissions are outlined below and links provided to the full submissions.
- 6 Councillors have had opportunity to view and comment on the attached submissions in draft form prior to them being lodged. As submission deadlines do not always align with Council meetings the purpose of bringing these papers retrospectively is to ensure the submissions are formally sanctioned by Full Council and to give transparency to the community.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

Driving Change: Reviewing the Road User Charges System

- 7 The Ministry of Transport consulted on Driving Change: Reviewing the Road User Charges System for New Zealand recently, with submissions closing on 29 April 2022.
- 8 The Ministry is reviewing the current Road User Charge (RUC) legislation, which is focussed on recovering the costs of damage to the New Zealand road network, especially that caused by heavy vehicles.
- 9 This consultation sought feedback on a range of potential changes to the system, such as the proposal to include externalities in Road User Charge rates, and a proposed shift from paper display of Road User Charges to electronic.

Council Response

- 10 Council is supportive of the work done by the Ministry of Transport on Reviewing the Road User Charge System.
- 11 Council is supportive of changes to the proposed Road User Charges system that take into account externalities, especially greenhouse gas emissions.
- 12 The submission noted that Queenstown Lakes District residents are climate conscious, and any change to the Road User Charge system should reflect the significance and effort required to meet New Zealand's climate change obligations.

- 13 Changes proposed to the paper display of a Road User Charge and other transport paper labels will not affect Council operations, as officers currently access this information electronically using licence plates as a reference point.

Otago Regional Council Draft Annual Plan 2022-23

- 14 The Otago Regional Council consulted on its draft Annual Plan for 2022-23 recently, with submissions closing on 13 May 2022.
- 15 The proposed Annual Plan 2022-23 was broadly consistent with the 2021 -2031 Long Term Plan, however, there were some adjustments including:
- additional external grants-funded work including the Jobs for Nature programme, the Mt Pleasant/Te Haka Pupu River restoration project, and the Wallabies Pest Contract Management programme
 - additional staffing for Emergency Management Activities
 - increasing Iwi liaison staff capacity in the governance and engagement activity
 - a requirement to reclassify natural hazards in the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) work programme expenditure from capital to operational expenditure
 - reprioritising existing expenditure tagged to developing the Land and Water Plan to complete an economic assessment of Otago's natural fresh water.

Council Response

- 16 Council's submission outlined support for the plan and outlined some issues of particular concern to the district.
- 17 As one of the taonga of the district, the continued inclusion of the rehabilitation of Lake Hayes in Otago Regional Council planning is very much appreciated. Council looks forward to seeing a programme of improvement that will restore both the amenity and ecological value of this lake.
- 18 The submission includes comment on some key issues relevant to the district, including air quality in Arrowtown, adaptation pathways in Glenorchy, emergency management, public transport and climate change. A common theme across all of these issues is the desire to continue to build a collaborative partnership with the Otago Regional Council to achieve good outcomes for the district's communities.
- 19 Council welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Otago Regional Council in relation to climate change, and to build on the work that is already underway in this regard. Efforts to collaborate on the development of a consistent approach to data and emissions measurement are already in progress.
- 20 Council also welcomes a closer working relationship with Otago Regional Council through the changing landscape of local and regional government as the central government reform programme progresses.

21 The Chief Executive attended hearings held by the ORC, spoke to the submission and responded to questions.

National Adaptation Plan

22 The Ministry for the Environment consulted on the National Adaptation Plan and managed retreat with submissions closing on 3 June 2022.

23 This plan is linked to the Emissions Reduction plan and resource management reform programme and aims to build the foundation for adaptation action so that all sectors and communities are able to live and thrive in a changing climate.

Council Response

24 Council is supportive of the work by the Ministry of the Environment in developing the draft National Adaptation Plan and managed retreat. This submission has been endorsed by the Climate Reference Group, which contributed significant knowledge and expertise on the strategic priorities for adaptation planning in the district.

25 Council and the Climate Reference Group have several points of emphasis and recommendations regarding the implications of the draft plan that are outlined in the submission. Key points include:

- establishing a foundation to work with Māori on climate actions is critical, and Council consider that the Rauora approach should underpin the draft plan as a whole, rather than the draft plan merely drawing on certain key concepts of the Rauora framework
- while an all-of-Government response to climate adaptation is critical, and an “adaptation lens” needs to be applied to all government work programmes, it is difficult to understand how the draft plan in its current form will provide a coherent management, reporting and governance framework across this wide range of government activity

26 Council is currently leading the Gorge Road natural hazards project, that addresses hazards in an already developed, mixed use, urban area of Queenstown. This is a situation where a significant event has not yet happened, and therefore provides a contrast to other examples where a natural hazard event has occurred. This context provides unique lessons that can help inform options for an effective legislative pathway.

RESOLUTION OPTIONS |

27 The options for each of the three submissions are the same.

28 Option 1: to agree retrospectively to the contents of the relevant attached submission as outlined in the recommendations.

Advantages:

29 The submission will remain in the relevant agencies' processes and Council will have provided its feedback to these processes.

Disadvantages:

30 There are no clear disadvantages to this option.

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

Advantages:

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

Disadvantages:

33 No aspect of Council position will be represented in the process.

34 This report recommends **Option 1** for each submission (if representative of Council's position) to ensure that Council participates effectively in the relevant consultation processes.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

35 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.

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

> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

37 The submission on the National Adaptation Plan was drafted in partnership with the Climate Reference Group (which includes Kāi Tahu representatives) and feedback from the group members was incorporated.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

38 This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation. It is associated with RISK00038 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low inherent risk rating.

39 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us 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 | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

40 There are no financial implications.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

41 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 QLDC Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2018
- The QLDC Climate Action Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

42 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. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Infrastructure Strategy;
- 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.

LINKS |

A	QLDC Submission to the Ministry of Transport’s Reviewing the Road User Charges System
B	QLDC Submission to the Otago Regional Council’s Draft Annual Plan
C	QLDC Submission to the Ministry for the Environment’s National Adaptation Plan