

QLDC Council

10 August 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

The purpose of this report is to present the submissions made to various government agencies on open consultations and one in support of a petition 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

That Council

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approves** retrospectively the contents of the submission supporting the petition of Andrew Wilson: rezone accommodation supplement eligibility;
3. **Approves** retrospectively the submission to the Climate Change Commission on its draft advice to inform the development of the second Emissions Reduction Plan;
4. **Approves** retrospectively the contents of the Water Services Entities Amendment Bill submission;
5. **Approves** retrospectively the contents of the Draft Tourism Environment Action Plan submission.

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20 July 2023

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20 July 2023

Context | Horopaki

1. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) has responded to three central government consultation processes in the past two months and has made one submission to the Petitions Select Committee.
2. The submission in support of a petition was made to the Petitions Select Committee to Rezone Accommodation Supplement eligibility for Queenstown Residents – 6 June 2023 (Attachment A).
3. The consultations submitted on were:
 - The Climate Change Commission’s draft advice to inform the development of the second Emissions Reduction Plan – 20 June 2023 (Attachment B).
 - The Government and Administration Committee’s Water Services Entities Amendment Bill – 5 July 2023 (Attachment C).
 - The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s Draft Tourism Environment Action Plan – 19 July 2023 (Attachment D).
4. The summary of the 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 being lodged.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

Parliament Petitions Committee

5. A petition was submitted to Parliament by Andrew Wilson regarding rezoning the accommodation supplement eligibility for Queenstown residents.
6. The petition requested that the House of Representative amend Schedule 4, Part 7, clause 8 of the Social Security Act 2018 urban-rural statistical blocks so that urban-rural zoning for the purposes of accommodation supplement eligibility is based on the most recent population statistics.
7. The reason behind the petition is that the schedule defines four areas for the purposes of determining the maximum accommodation supplement a household can receive. The current areas are based on Statistics NZ 2017 information which reflects 1992 boundaries rather than current land use.
8. QLDC sent a written submission to the Parliament Petitions Committee as part of the petition process and will be presenting its submission orally to the committee on 20 July 2023.

QLDC Response

9. The QLDC submission strongly supported the petition of Andrew Wilson regarding rezoning the accommodation supplement eligibility in the Queenstown Lakes District. Council has been advocating on this matter for several years and working with central government to address the inequity is an outcome of the Grow Well Whaiora Spatial Plan.

Climate Change Commission's Draft Advice to Inform the Development of the second Emissions Reduction Plan

10. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) consulted on its draft advice on the second Emissions Reduction Plan recently, with submissions closing on 20 June 2023.
11. The government's second emissions budget has been set for 2026-2030, however the plan to deliver on this has not yet been set. The CCC drafted advice for public consultation to inform the development of the second Emissions Reduction Plan which is to deliver the second emissions budget for New Zealand.
12. The aim of the advice, once consulted on, is to provide detailed recommendations to the Ministry of the Environment to help in developing the second Emissions Reduction Plan that is well-rounded and takes into account specific areas of consideration.
13. QLDC made a written submission to the Climate Change Commission as part of the consultation process, supported by the QLDC Climate Reference Group.

QLDC Response

14. The QLDC submission was supportive of the draft advice to inform the development of a second Emissions Reduction Plan to reduce carbon emissions in New Zealand, combat climate change, and meet the country's net-zero emissions targets.
15. The Climate Reference Group endorsed the submission and contributed significant knowledge and expertise on the strategic priorities for emissions reduction.
16. The submission focussed on key strategic matters for Council including the built environment, transport, waste, and several additional matters. The key gap that the submission raises is the substantial role of tourism and the visitor economy to Aotearoa New Zealand and requested that the advice include tourism.

Governance and Administration Committee's Water services Entities Amendment Bill

17. The Governance and Administration Committee consulted on the Water Services Entities Amendment Bill recently, with submissions closing on 5 July 2023.
18. The Water Services Entities Amendment Bill ('the bill') is part of a suite of bills relating to water reform.

19. This bill would amend the Water Services Act 2022 through the disestablishment of four water services entities and replace them with ten water services entities. It would also amend the timelines for the establishment of these entities.
20. QLDC made a written submission to the Governance and Administration Committee as part of the consultation process.

QLDC Response

21. The QLDC submission stated, as per previous submissions, that QLDC supports the need for safe drinking water, efficient service provisions, and improved Māori participation in decision-making about three waters, but reiterated QLDC's significant concerns with the reforms.
22. Concerns were expressed that the 10-entity model proposed will not be effective in ensuring that the demands of high growth councils like QLDC are met. Furthermore, while the delay in implementation timing can be used to mitigate the potential future loss of performance and investment during transition, which is significant for high growth councils, there are areas where the Committee must consider additional amendments or clarification.
23. The further areas for additional amendments and clarification are:
 - Entities must be set up to support the investment needs of high growth areas, despite inevitable performance challenges during transition.
 - Transition dates must only fall at the beginning of a financial year.
 - Voluntary amalgamation must require a two-thirds majority of Territorial Authority members to support it – regardless of who raises it.
 - Implementation dates for requirements under the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill must be clarified.
 - The Minister's ability to direct under s.137A should be further limited by the need to prove the non-performance of an entity before directing for shared services.

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Draft Tourism Environment Action Plan

24. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment consulted on its draft Tourism Environment Action Plan recently, with submissions closing on 19 July 2023.
25. The Tourism Environment Action Plan is the second phase of work undertaken by the Ministry under the Tourism Industry Transformation Plan. This follows phase one, Better Work through the Better Work Action Plan.
26. The aim of the draft Tourism Environment Action Plan (draft Action Plan) is to ensure that tourism in New Zealand protects and restores the climate and the environment through phase two of the Tourism Industry Transformation Plan: Environment.

27. QLDC made a written submission that was endorsed by the Destination Management Group consisting of QLDC, Destination Queenstown and Lake Wānaka Tourism to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment as part of the consultation process.

QLDC Response

28. In principle, the Destination Management Group is supportive of the vision captured in the draft Action Plan. However, the Destination Management Group has serious concerns that are outlined in the submission that the draft Action Plan:

- has not taken a destination management approach at a national level that is required
- lacks the ambition, leadership and drive towards fundamental systems change that is needed
- does not reflect the urgent need to decarbonise tourism
- does not instil confidence that the actions are sufficient and will be achieved within the required timeframe.

Resolution Options

29. 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.

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

31. The options for the submissions are the same.

32. **Option 1:** to retrospectively approve the contents of the relevant attached submissions as outlined in the recommendations.

Advantages:

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

Disadvantages:

- There are no clear disadvantages to this option.

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

Advantages:

- The submissions 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.

34. 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

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

35. These matters are of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This advice deals with matters of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups, and sectors in the community.
36. The persons who are affected by or interested in these matters are all residents and ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District communities.
37. No external consultation was undertaken in preparing the Accommodation Supplement submission or the Water services Entities submission, as there was insufficient time to do so given the tight timeframes provided. Council has been a vocal advocate for change to accommodation supplement boundaries for many years. This has included public political leadership and campaigns in the community as well as consistent technical advocacy to central government agencies by officers.
38. The Climate Change Commission submission was developed with input and then endorsed by the Climate Reference Group to ensure accuracy and alignment with their purpose.
39. The Tourism Environment Action Plan submission was developed in conjunction with the districts' regional tourism organisations, Lake Wānaka Tourism and Destination Queenstown.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

40. The Council did not engage with Iwi or Rūnaka in preparing these submissions, as there was insufficient time to do so given the timeframes provided by the agencies. The Climate Reference Group has an Iwi representative who provided input on the Climate Change Commission submission.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

41. This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk. 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.

42. 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

43. There are no financial implications.

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

44. 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 Ten Year Plan
- The Homes Strategy and draft Joint Housing Action Plan
- The 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

45. 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

46. The recommended option:

- 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;
- 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

A	QLDC submission on the Accommodation Supplement
B	QLDC submission to the CCC on its draft advice to the second ERP
C	QLDC submission on the WSE Amendment Bill
D	QLDC submission on the TEAP