

**QLDC Council
7 July 2022**

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [1]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara:

Adoption of the Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy 2022

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

The purpose of this report is to review and recommend for adoption the Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy 2022.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Recommend** to Council that the Tree Policy 2022 be adopted.

Prepared by:



Christine Skipworth
Parks & Reserves
Planner
16/06/2022

Reviewed and Authorised
by:



Briana Pringle
Parks & Open Spaces
Planning Manager
16/06/2022

Approved by:



Thunes Cloete
General Manager
Community Services
16/06/2022

CONTEXT | HORPOAKI

- 1 The previous Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy (Tree Policy) was adopted in 2006, with minor amendments in 2010.
- 2 Since then, the District has experienced rapid residential growth, infill development and a substantially increased public infrastructure programme. Subsequently this has intensified the built urban environment and put council trees under increasing pressure for removal.

- 3 An updated tree policy is required to ensure existing trees, tree spaces, canopy cover and succession planting meet the needs of the community, can provide for growth and continue to be protected and enhanced. Public interest in trees is high and it is also needed to ensure appropriate trees are planted and maintained.
- 4 The development of a new tree policy was workshopped with the Community & Services Committee and internal departments, was presented to the Executive Leadership Team and shared with the Climate Action Group in 2021-2022. The draft Tree Policy 2022 was made publicly available for feedback in January 2022.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

Comment

- 5 The Queenstown Lakes District Council Tree Policy 2022 (the Tree Policy), **Attachment A**, has been developed to provide direction for all tree decision making and management on Council land (excluding forestry) for:
 - Planting
 - Maintenance
 - Working around trees (protection during construction or earthworks)
 - Removal and mitigation
- 6 The Tree Policy follows best practice New Zealand arboricultural standards and is aligned with other recently adopted New Zealand council tree policies. It is concise, avoiding repetition of ideas, objectives and explanations in order to make it as approachable as possible to project managers and the public and to enable effective decision making.
- 7 The policy aligns with other QLDC plans and strategies, such as Vision Beyond 2050 and will complement a future Biodiversity Plan or Strategy as outlined in the Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan 2022.

Key changes from Tree Policy 2006

- 8 The Tree Policy 2022 clarifies the minimum mitigation requirements for tree replacement planting in the event of trees approved for removal.
- 9 It also clarifies council trees monetary value. The policy now states that trees will be valued. This allows for bonding of trees in the case of damage or destruction during construction works.
- 10 The changes improve the structure of the policy in order be more easily navigable, from planting, through maintenance and works, to removal.
- 11 The amended Tree Policy 2022 improves the process for approving tree works. A “Tree Works Application” form, **Attachment B**, has been developed in conjunction with the policy to ensure the public and project managers provides sufficient information,

alternative design and mitigation considerations when applying for works on a public tree and there is transparency in decision making about them.

Key Changes to Draft Tree Policy 2022 from Feedback

- 12 Prior to public consultation, local arborists and industry consultants were emailed the draft. Several written responses were received, mainly questioning and clarifying technical points in the maintenance and works around trees sections. Minor changes were made, and simplistic technical explanations were preferred over more technical options.
- 13 The Draft Tree Policy 2022 was publicly notified on 20 January 2022 and was open for feedback for four weeks. There were 23 written feedbacks via Let's Talk and email. Public Feedback Summary, **Attachment C**, related to three main themes: safety, public consultation and biodiversity. The changes resulting from this are:
 - A 'decision process explanation' was added. It includes consideration of relevant QLDC plans and strategies such as a future Biodiversity Strategy to achieve complimentary outcomes.
 - A 'decision tree' was added. It requires a completed 'Application for Tree Works' form from both public and internal departments for tree works requests, including removals. The requirement for the Application for Tree Works was also added as a policy.
 - A statement that both exotic and native species can be considered when determining appropriate planting was added.
 - Updated definitions, including amenity and critical infrastructure.
 - The management of safety risk over other tree values is already included in the policy.
 - A focus on improving internal processes and education, including gathering case studies, requiring tree surveys prior to works, and other ongoing education initiatives.

Additional policy about guidance for community planting initiatives

- 14 Option 1 Recommend the Policy for adoption by Council with the recommended changes.

Advantages:

- 15 Once adopted the District will have a more relevant, user-friendly Policy that will ensure the existing public trees and new tree planting meet the needs of the community, can provide for growth and will continue to be cared for and enhanced.

Disadvantages:

- 16 Some people may not be supportive of the proposed changes.

17 Tree scenarios may arise that are not covered within the policy. The policy can be reviewed more regularly to account for the speed of growth, climate change and biodiversity requirements in the District.

18 Option 2 Do not adopt the policy.

Advantages:

19 Members of the public that do not support the changes to the existing policy will be satisfied.

Disadvantages:

20 The current tree policy would remain active, cumbersome and ambiguous on mitigation planting requirements.

This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter as it will ensure all council departments plan for a quality tree district that responds to design, development, climate, biodiversity, as well as offer consistent direction for the public to support these endeavours.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

21 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it involves a high level of community interest.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

22 This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 Current and future development needs of the community (including environmental protection), as documented in the Council's risk register. The risk is classed as moderate within the QLDC Risk Register.

23 The recommended option considered above mitigates the risk by providing a current and relevant policy that provides clear guidance for how tree decisions and canopy will be met.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

24 There will be no immediate impacts to the Annual or long term plans. There may be projects impacts for QLDC projects and private consents and private projects. There should be workflow streamline improvements for processing tree works applications.

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

25 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Reserves Act 1977

- QLDC Vision Beyond 2050
- QLDC Tree Policy 2006
- QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan 2022
- Local Government Act 2002
- Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2021

26 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.

This matter is not included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan and will not have any impact on it. There is a risk of increased public and internal project costs due to requiring more accurate tree survey data and minimum replacement planting, which may be offset by the quality of the outcomes. There may be internal process time and communication efficiencies due to requiring information via the 'Tree Works Application' form.

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

- 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 because it provides support for a community activity

The recommended option:

- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly 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 | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| A | Draft Tree Policy 2022 |
| B | Application for Tree Works |
| C | Feedback Summary |

TREE POLICY

Introduction

Trees are a vital part of our district’s sustainable health and wellbeing. They provide wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, shade, and are part of our identity as an active outdoor adventure district with outstanding natural landscape values. Trees can be significant landmarks, providing an immediate impression to visitors and generate ongoing associations for residents. Stunning natural scenery is a hallmark of the Queenstown Lakes and trees are an integral part of the picture. A healthy, abundant, and well-maintained treed landscape reflects a caring community.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) provides a leadership role in the management of trees to maximise their social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for current and future generations. [All landowners are encouraged to contribute to urban greening on their own land.](#)

This Policy is aligned with other QLDC strategies including the QLDC Climate Action Plan, QLDC Vision Beyond 2050 and the requirements to maintain membership as a Tree City of the World.

Purpose

QLDC’s Tree Policy provides guidance on planting, maintenance, working around trees, and removals [on Council land](#). It aims to help manage trees to meet community aspirations, service requests, and provide clear direction for decision making while maintaining consistency in the approaches taken by QLDC, our consultants and contractors.

Policy statement

The principal objective of this policy is to provide consistency and clarity in decision making when planting, maintaining, working around, and replacing trees [on Council land](#).

Objectives:

1. To plant appropriate trees in appropriate locations
2. To sustain a high quality tree environment and tree spaces
3. To use acceptable maintenance practices
4. To use acceptable tree protection during construction or earthworks
5. To manage appropriate public safety risk
6. To effectively use public funds
7. To provide a clear framework for tree removal decision making and sustainable mitigation

Policy scope

This Policy applies to individual trees and groups of trees on Council administered reserves, civic open spaces and other Council-owned property (including QLDC owned land which is licensed and leased to third parties, such as campgrounds) and the road reserve (including unformed roads).

The following activities are included in this policy:

- 1.0 Planting
- 2.0 Maintenance
- 3.0 Protection during construction or earthworks
- 4.0 Removal and mitigation

This policy *does not* include trees located in the following areas:

On private land [not owned or leased by QLDC](#) (E.g. see the District Plan, subdivision covenants)

On state highway land (Waka Kotahi)

Public land not owned [or leased](#) by QLDC (E.g. Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand)

Not included in this policy:

~~Native revegetation or regeneration (For example: refer to Whakatipu Reforestation Trust)~~

~~Wilding~~ noxious and pest plant species (E.g. see the Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan)

Plantation forestry (E.g. see the District Plan)

Note: Historically some species now listed as noxious and pests have been intentionally planted to serve a purpose, such as for shade and wind screening. They therefore have not established as 'wildings' and are included in this policy.

Decision Process

Enquiries regarding public trees are dealt with by Parks Officers, including the Council Arborist. Decision-making considers:

- Significance of the tree/s
- Engaging with neighbours, community associations or other relevant stakeholders
- Relevant QLDC strategies, such as Vision Beyond 2050, the Climate Action Plan and potential future Biodiversity strategies and plans.

If the resolution does not satisfy all parties or is very complex, the decision will be escalated to the Parks Manager. The next recourse is for either party to take the decision to the relevant Committee or Board. See Process Diagram, page 18.

Note: 'Significance' is determined by a qualified arborist based on factors such as long-term life expectancy, amenity, heritage, location, number of trees identified and landscape and wildlife effects.

1.0 Tree planting

Tree planting

Tree planting is necessary to ensure long term sustainable benefits. Appropriate tree planting supports biodiversity, climate regulation and living well by providing habitat, shade, storm water regulation, flood mitigation, amenity, and by improving walkability and human health. The greatest benefits are derived from mature trees.

However, trees can also damage infrastructure, block drains, adversely shade properties and create hazards.

QLDC has a duty to optimise the quality of trees and manage their safety pragmatically while considering their long-term maintenance requirements. Optimum benefits will be achieved by careful species selection appropriate to the planting site.

Policy:

1.1

QLDC will seek planting opportunities to deliver ongoing social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits and ensure iconic landscape features are always present.

1.2

QLDC will endeavour to plant appropriate tree species in appropriate places. Appropriateness is guided by the characteristics of the tree, in both juvenile and mature form and its ability to support biodiversity, landscape character, urban walkability, the purpose of the land use, pedestrian and road user safety, climate resilience and community aspirations. This includes both native and exotic tree species.

1.3

Succession planting will be undertaken to provide replacement trees ensuring a continuity of trees in advance of when mature trees require removal.

1.4

All projects on Council land, including QLDC-led projects, will prioritise retaining existing mature trees and the incorporation of new tree planting and planting sites from the outset of the design process. Projects must allow for sufficient rooting environment for new trees and meet the minimum requirements of QLDC's Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Aligning underground services to allow sufficient rooting environment for new trees
- Including centre islands or median strips wide enough for tree planting
- Optimising potential width of grass berms to allow for tree planting
- Varying carriageway alignment (E.g., intersection improvements)
- Using setbacks, especially in commercial zones
- Using New Zealand Standard SNZHB 44:2001 Subdivision for People and the Environment
- Mitigating [adverse](#) effects from large car parking areas, by using trees to screen cars and provide shade, [whilst also maintaining a safe environment for car park users](#)

1.5

Large tree species will be selected, both individual specimens and groves, where space permits. Planning and development must include spaces that can accommodate large species.

1.6

Quality stock will be selected for planting to support longevity and heritage value and incorporate eco-sourced nursery stock where possible. Choosing quality stock maximises the health and longevity of the planting, which reduces long-term maintenance costs.

1.7

For trees planted in the road reserve, the species selected will have sufficient space to grow into mature and healthy specimens, without causing significant damage to existing infrastructure [in place prior to the planting of the tree](#) or impacting the safety of pedestrians and road users (providing there are no reasonably practical engineering solutions available).

Note: 'Significant damage' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

1.8

Trees will be planted under power lines only where the species selected is able to grow to maturity without requiring line clearance pruning, which can result in poor tree form or structure.

1.9

Developments are required to submit plans for any planting to be vested in QLDC for approval to the Council as part of QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice. As part of the consent process, a street tree planting plan detailing species, size, location, irrigation, and an outline of on-going maintenance regimes is required.

1.10

The cost of planting and establishing street and park trees within new subdivisions will be covered by the developer. All trees will have a minimum establishment maintenance period of 36 months. Planting must meet the maintenance standards required in the QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice.

1.11

Any private individual seeking to plant a tree on Council land will require a Licence to Occupy from the Council. ~~Unauthorised planting of trees on Council owned land is not permitted without a Licence to Occupy from the Council.~~ QLDC is entitled to remove unauthorised plantings and recover the costs of the removal process.

1.12

Council shall continue to partner with community groups which manage wilding control strategically, with an approach based on profile and vulnerability of landscapes. Vulnerable landscapes include sub-alpine tussock land and grey shrub land.

Note: Planting wilding exotic species, those with potential invasive growth, is prohibited for most species as identified in QLDC's District Plan Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter (Chapter 34 of the Proposed District Plan).

Note: For more information on tree planting refer to:

- *QLDC District Plan - Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter*
- *QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice*
- *QLDC Trail Design Standards & Specifications*

Tree replacement

QLDC acknowledges that trees have a finite lifespan and may require removal for a number of different reasons. QLDC is committed to ensuring that a tree renewal programme is maintained to ensure the canopy cover is not only replaced, but appropriate character and stature are accommodated to maintain and enhance a quality treed landscape for future generations.

Policy:

1.13

A minimum of two new trees will be planted for every tree removed, with the projected canopy cover replacing what is lost within 20 years. This means more than two trees may be required.

The location of replacement trees will be based on the following, **in order of priority**:

Removals within road reserves:

- (1) In the same road corridor where the tree was removed; or
- (2) If no further planting can be practically located in the road corridor, then in the closest road corridor that requires either new or additional planting; or
- (3) Within the urban forest.

Removals on land owned or administered by QLDC:

- (1) **On the same land or** in the reserve where the tree was removed; or
- (2) If no further planting **on the land or** in the reserve is required, then in the closest road corridor or reserve that requires either new or additional planting; or
- (3) Within the urban forest.

*Note: Trees approved for **relocation** are not subject to replacement policies.*

Note: 'Urban forest' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

Community tree planting & activities

QLDC supports community care and ongoing stewardship of public open spaces. Community planting is a way residents can become directly involved with the care of their local reserve and neighbourhood. ~~Community-initiated tree planting requires prior approval from the asset owner of the land (i.e. the specific Council department). Information to be provided for approval should include the proposed site, planting locations, species, the perspective of surrounding neighbours, effects on land uses such as tracks and infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance arrangements.~~

Policy:

1.14

QLDC encourages community involvement and will endeavour to support and enhance community planting and engagement opportunities.

1.15

~~Community-initiated tree planting requires prior approval from the asset owner of the land (i.e. the specific Council department). Information to be provided for approval should include the proposed site, planting locations, species, the perspective of surrounding neighbours, effects on land uses such as tracks and infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance arrangements.~~

Note: Community Harvest Gardens and orchards are subject to management agreements with QLDC.

Commemorative trees

Commemorative tree planting is generally undertaken to honour a significant person or event. The tree species and location need to be relevant to the commemoration and contribute to the amenity of the surrounding environment. Once planted, commemorative trees become a public tree asset and are mapped as commemorative trees. Commemorative trees do not apply to cemetery reserves.

Commemorative tree removals may be necessary. It is worth considering alternatives to commemorative trees, such as:

- Plant a commemorative tree on private land
- Participate in a community planting day
- Donate to QLDC's tree planting programme, the Heritage Trust, or a local community planting group

Policy:

1.15

Requests for commemorative tree planting in public open space will be dealt with by Parks Officers. Applications will be considered according to the commemorative purpose, site, and tree species. Decisions will be made by the relevant Committee or Board.

1.16

While QLDC will make every effort to retain a commemorative tree, we reserve the right to remove commemorative trees [in line with our removals policies](#). The [tree replacement policy](#) applies, however the replacement trees will not be commemorative trees.

Note: For more information on [commemoration and memorials](#) refer to:

- [QLDC Plaques, Memorials & Monuments Policy](#)
- [QLDC Cemeteries Handbook](#)

2.0 Maintenance

Tree maintenance

QLDC will care for and maintain public tree assets to maximise their benefits while minimising conflicts and disruptions.

Policy:

2.1

QLDC will maintain tree canopy clearances over footpaths, cycle ways, tracks and trails, carriageways, vehicle crossings, and on-street car parks where it is practical to do so. In instances when pruning is likely to cause long or short-term detriment to the tree, Council will prune the tree to the extent required for the interest of public safety.

2.2

Trees which compromise and/or conflict with shipping navigation aids or radio and telecommunications operations shall be pruned and/or removed as deemed necessary to maintain safety and essential services.

2.3

Trees on urban connector routes and roads shall be pruned or replaced to provide adequate visibility where they impede or obstruct access for pedestrian, [active travel](#) and vehicular traffic.

2.4

QLDC will prune trees to provide necessary clearances to [above-ground](#) infrastructure such as power lines and other overhead services. Where pruning is likely to cause long term detriment to the tree's health and structure, we will engage with the network owner to explore alternative options to pruning, such as the bundling of wires.

2.5

QLDC will prune trees obstructing street and reserve lights to limit any reduction in light penetration.

2.6

Where required, public trees will be pruned to improve public safety. This may include but is not limited to pruning to improve sightlines or pruning for crime prevention purposes.

2.7

All pruning shall be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by QLDC or a network utility operator. Where Council property leaseholders have agreements to maintain their trees, they must use a qualified arborist.

Note: 'Works arborist' and 'Qualified arborist' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

2.8

Tree work shall be carried out in alignment with the minimum recognised and accepted contemporary arboricultural standards according to the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZARB) [Minimum Industry Standards \(MIS\)](#).

~~2.9~~

~~All pruning methods will use [Minimum Industry Standards \(MIS 308\)](#).~~

2.9

QLDC will not undertake full height reduction pruning to alleviate tree issues such as shading or debris, or the establishment, retention or enhancement of views (trees shall not be topped). Maintaining trees in their natural form is best for tree health. Topping can create additional maintenance issues, e.g., by creating an entry point for decay. Topping is internationally recognised as unsound arboricultural practice.

2.10

QLDC may consider other forms of pruning, branch removal or targeted canopy reductions to alleviate boundary encroachment, views, adverse shading or debris [at the request of an individual](#). Provided, in a Council arborist's opinion, this will not negatively affect the health or structural integrity of the tree or the environmental, aesthetic, landscape or amenity benefits provided by the tree.

2.11

Where a tree pruning request has been approved by a Council arborist, and the benefits of the pruning are considered to be solely beneficial to the property owner(s), Council reserves the right to request the resident(s) meet(s) the financial costs of pruning. Expected costs will be provided prior to any works being undertaken.

Tree risk

QLDC acknowledges the risk posed to people and property through failure of a whole tree or individual branches. While the risk posed by trees is inherently low, we will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that tree risk is managed in a proportionate and practical way.

Policy:

2.12

QLDC will maintain our trees to promote structurally sound growth and reduce branch and whole tree failure where it is likely to increase risk to people and property to an unacceptable risk.

Note: 'Unacceptable risk' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

2.13

QLDC has developed and adheres to [an internal](#) Tree Risk Management Procedure to manage the risk posed by trees in a proportionate and practical way.

This includes the following:

- How to identify high risk trees
- Details of different types of assessments
- Frequency of assessments
- How these trees will be managed
- Process for escalating tree risk once identified.

Note: More information can be found in QLDC's Tree Risk Management Procedure

2.14

QLDC will improve and maintain a publicly available database of tree assets.

2.15

The management of risk posed by trees shall be prioritised over the amenity or historical value provided by the tree. The management of risk should include tree pruning and/or adapting the area surrounding the tree. Removal should only be considered as a last resort.

Ecological and heritage improvements

Trees make a significant contribution to the ecological environment within the Queenstown Lakes District. Many organisms would not be able to survive without the services trees provide, such as habitat or food sources. QLDC acknowledges the important role trees play in the natural environment and will strive to manage trees in a way that will foster and enhance the environment for indigenous flora and fauna.

Trees worthy of protection under QLDC's District Plan provide significant contribution to social and cultural heritage. These trees are landmarks in time and in the landscape that provide intergenerational connection.

Policy:

2.16

Council will encourage opportunities to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

2.17

Council will support the ecological benefits provided by trees through our tree maintenance programme.

2.18

Council will customise maintenance for Protected Trees [on Council administered land](#) and for trees of significance that are likely to be worthy of protected status in the future. Protected Trees have achieved their status through the public District Plan process due to attributes such as historic significance, species and health. They have been afforded a level of protection that means they should be well cared for.

3.0 Working around trees

Working around trees

Trees within the urban environment are often subjected to adverse conditions, particularly during construction activity. It is important to manage works around trees to ensure they are not subjected to work practices that are detrimental to their health or structural integrity. In the event this may occur, QLDC require a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) to be developed by the person(s) undertaking/managing the works. This must be approved by either the Council arborist or an approved consulting arborist prior to work commencing.

Policy:

3.1

A Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) for any activity or work proposed near a public tree where the works are within the ~~foot~~ [Tree Protection Zone \(TPZ\)](#), or likely to impact the tree, is to be submitted [by the person\(s\) undertaking/managing the works to QLDC for approval prior to works commencing](#). See Diagram 1.

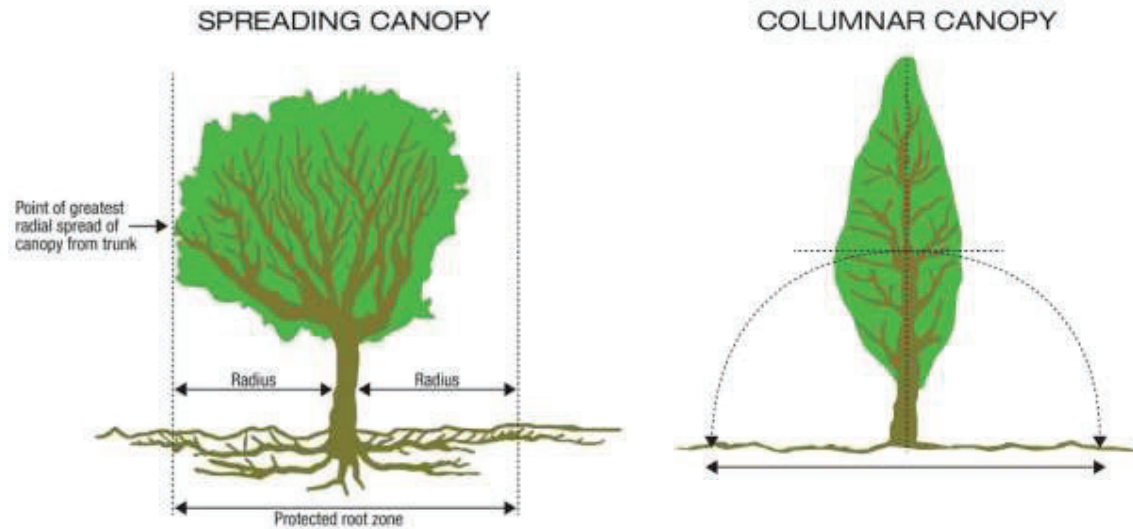


Diagram 1: Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). For a spreading canopy it is the area beneath the canopy and for a columnar canopy it extends to a radius half the height of the tree.

Note: An incursion of any more than 10% of the area of the TPZ is considered a major incursion. No works should take place within the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) which is a circle taken from the centre of the trunk with a radius equal to 3.31 times the diameter of the trunk measured just above the above the root buttress.

3.2

~~TPMPs are to be developed by the person(s) undertaking/managing the works and be in accordance with the QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice. QLDC must approve a TPMP prior to work commencing.~~

3.2

Development projects on Council land will prioritise the retention of mature trees through all aspects of the project.

3.3

QLDC reserves the right to seek compensation and/or remediation for loss or damage to public trees and their immediate environment as a result of works. Damage or loss will include but is not limited to:

- Death or decline of tree(s) health
- Physical damage to the tree(s)
- Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil
- Loss of environmental and ecological benefits provided by the tree.

QLDC will determine the value through either the cost of replacement/repair of loss/damage or through an approved tree valuation method (refer to Policies 3.4-3.6), whichever we deem to be most appropriate.

Replacement costs include removal of tree debris, stump grinding, new tree establishment, irrigation, and formative maintenance.

Note: Compliance with QLDC's District Plan tree rules for works within the vicinity of trees is required. This may mean in some instances a resource consent will be required, an example being for works within the dripline of a tree.

Tree value

In order for trees to be acknowledged for the value which they provide to the district we need to have a valuation system in place. Tree value includes social, cultural, environmental and economic community benefits. Unlike most infrastructure, trees provide greater value with age, rather than decreasing in value over time.

Policy:

3.4

QLDC will implement, and adapt if required, a recognised system for valuing public trees.

3.5

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture's (RNZIH) Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) shall be used as the standard for assessing the health, condition, heritage significance and if required monetary value of trees, unless superseded by a more appropriate method.

3.6

If a monetary value has been deemed the most appropriate compensation method, see Policy 3.3, payment to QLDC will be required prior to the removal of any tree approved for removal on Council land, at the rate used in the recognised valuation tool.

4.0 Tree Removal

Removal of trees

Like all living things, trees grow, age, and eventually die. Land development and decreasing lot sizes can limit the opportunity for landowners to have trees, especially large species.

Tree removal is a last resort option. The benefits of trees must be sustained for future generations. However, selective tree removal and replacement may be required to manage safety risks, poor tree health, or unsustainable maintenance requirements.

But even in decline, a tree can provide numerous benefits, such as wildlife habitat and shade.

Policy:

4.1

Trees in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound, as determined by a Council

or technician arborist, may be removed as part of routine maintenance and renewal programmes, or sooner, if urgent action is required for public safety or to avoid damage to property.

4.2

Trees that are unhealthy, dead and/or structurally unsound may be retained for ecological purposes if they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the public or property. This is established through the Tree Risk Management Procedure, described in Policy 2.13.

4.3

Tree removal will be considered where the tree is causing, or likely to cause, significant damage to buildings, services or property (both public or privately owned), and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree. More suitable replacements will be sought and planted in the same location or vicinity if it can be achieved.

4.4

Trees that are posing an unacceptable safety risk to the public and cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions will be removed as per the tree replacement Policy 1.13.

4.5

Trees that are impeding consented legal access will be removed only when all other alternatives have been explored and are not viable.

4.6

Council will approve tree removal to carry out repairs or replace underground infrastructure only when available alternatives have been explored and are considered not viable.

4.7

Council approval for tree removal to facilitate projects on Council land will consider the value of the project to the community, including public health and/or the local environment, in conjunction with the benefits of retaining existing trees compared with their loss and proposed replacement planting.

4.8

Council may consider tree removal where the necessary pruning clearances for overhead electrical lines (as required by the relevant 'hazards from trees' regulations) are not able to be achieved without causing long term detriment to the tree and no alternative to removal can be reached with the network utility operator.

Note: Electricity Act (1992) takes precedence over this tree policy.

4.9

Council will only accept tree removal in emergency situations where the removal is considered absolutely necessary for immediate access to critical infrastructure. This will only be undertaken where failure to access critical infrastructure will lead to an unacceptable risk to public health, or significant property damage or harm to personnel.

Note: 'Critical infrastructure' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

4.10

Healthy and structurally sound trees may be removed to manage or prevent the spread of pests and

diseases. This includes the removal of pest trees where they are deemed a threat to indigenous flora and fauna and non-pest species.

4.11

Wilding [exotic noxious or pest](#) trees may be strategically removed where they are determined to be a threat as a pest species or cause a nuisance in a particular location, to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases. This includes the removal [or poisoning](#) of pest trees. [Requirement for replacement planting will be determined by any amenity values the trees provided.](#)

4.12

Tree removals must be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by QLDC or a network utility operator.

4.13

QLDC will not remove trees for the following reasons:

- To minimise obstruction of views
- [To minimise obstruction of commercial or advertising signage](#)
- To reduce leaf or fruit litter and other debris
- To reduce shading
- For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.17.
- When the risk posed by the tree meets the requirements of the Tree Risk Management Procedure

Note: Tree Removals will be subject to the tree replacement policy.

Public requests for tree removal

QLDC often receives requests for trees to be removed from public spaces. Tree removal requests will be processed under the following policies:

Policy:

4.14

[A 'Tree Works Application' form must be submitted for any tree work requests, including tree removals.](#)

Note: A Tree Works Application form can be found on the QLDC website or requested from QLDC Customer Services, or the Parks & Reserves Department.

4.15

A [tree removal](#) request will be assessed against Policies 4.1 - 4.5. Should the request meet any of the policy requirements, the tree may be removed as part of routine maintenance, or sooner if the risk posed is unacceptable. If it does not meet the policy requirements QLDC will work with the applicant to seek alternative solutions to removal, e.g., targeted pruning.

Applications [for tree removals](#) can be made under the following Policies' criteria 4.16-4.18:

4.16

Health - Requests for removal of tree(s) will be considered for health reasons where there is confirmation from either the applicant(s) medical practitioner, a clinical immunologist or the medical officer of health confirming that the tree(s) is/are the sole cause of the applicant(s) condition and that removal of the tree(s) is the sole option available for improving the applicant(s) condition.

4.17

Property damage - Requests for removal of tree(s) that are causing property damage will be considered where the damage is confirmed [by the Council arborist](#) to be a direct result of the tree and where no alternative measures (including engineering solutions) can be used to mitigate the problem.

4.18

Other - Requests for removal of tree(s) due to other issues will only be approved under exceptional circumstances and will be required to meet all the criteria below:

- The issue caused by the tree has a significant effect on the applicant's day to day living
- The tree is the sole cause of the issue
- The issue is not able to be mitigated through general maintenance [by the applicant](#) (e.g., clearing gutters of leaves)
- The issue caused by the tree cannot be mitigated by pruning
- No reasonable engineering solution can mitigate the issue caused by the tree.

4.19

If no alternative resolution [to a tree removal request](#) is acceptable, the person requesting the removal of the tree will need to raise a request to the relevant Committee or Board to consider the decision. This must be accompanied by a tree report prepared by a technician arborist and include any other relevant information pertaining to the application. [If a resource consent is required, the request for tree removal must be made prior to applying for resource consent. If a resource consent is required, this must also be obtained prior to any application being submitted to the Committee or Board.](#)

All reporting and consents must be provided by the applicant at the applicant's cost. Payment for removal is determined by Policy 4.21.

Cost of tree removal

The removal of trees can result in a considerable cost. In some instances, it may be considered appropriate for these costs to be recovered.

Policy:

4.20

Where the removal of a tree is requested [and subsequently approved by QLDC](#), and the tree can be removed in accordance with Policy 4.15, then QLDC will undertake the removal as part of routine maintenance and renewal programmes at no cost to the applicant.

4.21

Where the tree removal request does not meet the criteria of 4.15, but is approved by the relevant

committee or board, the committee or board may resolve that the applicant is required to pay part or all of the costs, including the application fee (as per Council's Fees and Charges Schedule), including:

- Any additional costs associated with reporting on the tree removal application
- Actual cost of tree removal and replacement
- The value of the environmental, economic, and social services provided to the district by the tree (as determined by our approved tree valuation method)

Note: Projected costs will be supplied to the applicant for approval prior to any removal works.

Vandalism

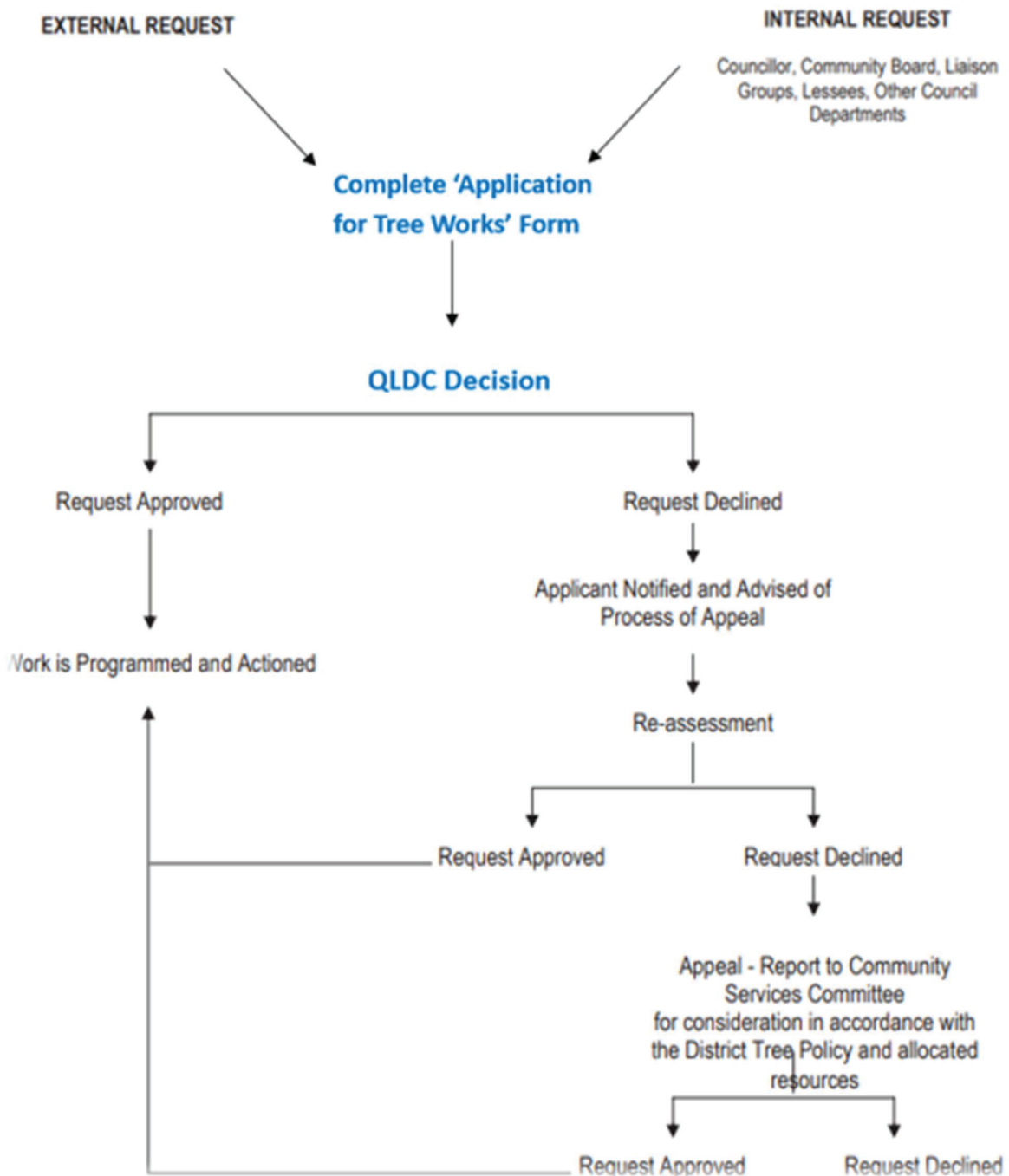
Policy:

4.22

QLDC takes damage, vandalism and unauthorised removal of public trees very seriously. We will investigate and enforce under the appropriate legislation, including the Reserves Act (1977) and the Local Government Act (2002). Matters will be referred to the Police when appropriate.

Note: Damage includes ring barking caused by slacklining.

Process



Definitions

| Term | Definition |
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| Actual costs for removal and replacement | The cost incurred by the Council to remove the tree(s) and stump(s), purchasing and planting of a replacement tree(s) including 2 years establishment maintenance for the tree(s). |
| Amenity | Means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people’s appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes. Includes usefulness, not just ‘beauty’. |
| Best industry practice | For example but not limited to the British Standard 3998:2010 ‘British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work’ and Australian Standard 4373 1996 Pruning of Amenity Trees MIS308 Tree Pruning. |
| Canopy cover | The area taken up by the tree canopy. |
| Commemorative trees | Includes memorial and sponsored trees. |
| Council/we/our/us | Means the Queenstown Lakes District Council or its authorised delegate. |
| Council land | Land that council owns or administers |
| Critical infrastructure | Infrastructure or assets that if damaged or obstructed would create a hazard to widespread public health, safety or wellbeing. |
| Eco-sourcing | Refers to the use of locally sourced plant material for restoration plantings. Eco-sourced plants are those grown from seeds collected from naturally occurring remnant vegetation in the same region as those to be planted. |
| Emergency | Means a situation that: |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is the result of any happening, whether natural or otherwise, including any accident, explosion, earthquake, eruption, tsunami, land movement, flood, storm, tornado, cyclone, fire, leakage or spillage of any dangerous gas or substance, technological failure, infestation, plague, epidemic, failure of or disruption to an emergency service or a lifeline utility, or actual or imminent attack or warlike act; and 2. causes or may cause loss of life or injury or illness or distress or in any way endangers the safety of the public or property in New Zealand or any part of New Zealand |
| Establishment maintenance period | Establishment maintenance shall include but not be limited to watering, weed control, application of mulch (where required), and installation and removal of support systems. All maintenance should be compliant with the relevant sections of the QLDC Subdivision Code of Practice (CoP). |
| Exotic | Species which are not indigenous to that part of New Zealand |
| Full height reduction | A method of pruning which results in the removal of the upper canopy to reduce the overall height of the tree (otherwise referred to as topping). |
| Irreversible decline | The decline of a tree's health which is to such an extent that it is unlikely to recover. |
| Mature | A tree reaching its ultimate potential size, whose growth rate is slowing down, with limited potential for any significant increase in size. |
| Native revegetation or regeneration | An area of native New Zealand plants which have been planted to form a closed canopy. This may be directly planted or naturally occur from a nearby seed source. |
| Plantation forestry | Plantation Forestry is as defined by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017. |

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| Pest tree | A parent tree from which seed disperses to create a “wilding tree” which causes major change to composition, structure and functioning of adjacent indigenous habitat. |
| Provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna | <p>This could be achieved by allowing dead trees to remain or keeping trees with cavities.</p> <p>The retention of dead wood and stubs could also be seen as providing habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.</p> |
| Public open space | Means any open space, including roads, parks and reserves, accessible to the public either freely or in accordance with a charge under the Reserves Act 1977. |
| QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice | Is a set of guidelines determining the standards required for the creation or enhancement of infrastructure assets either owned or to be owned by Council. Includes provisions for the protection and planting of trees. |
| Qualified arborist | A person who has a recognised arboricultural qualification (minimum of NZQA Level 4 Certificate in Arboriculture or similar), industry experience and is competent to carry out a specified task. |
| Root protection zone | <p>For a tree with a spreading canopy, it is the area beneath the canopy spread of a tree, measured at ground level from the surface of the trunk, with a radius to the outer most extent of the spread of the tree’s branches. And;</p> <p>For a columnar tree, it is the area beneath the canopy extending to a radius half the height of the tree.</p> |
| Significant damage | Damage that renders a place or a part unusable for the purpose it was intended. |
| Significant tree | A tree with long term life expectancy and/or high amenity value, or |
| Structurally unsound | The trees structure has been compromised to a level which is it likely to fail during normal weather conditions. |

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| Targeted canopy reduction | The targeted pruning of selected branches within the tree canopy to shorten their length. |
| Technician arborist | Means a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) by possession of a recognised arboricultural degree or diploma and on the job experience, is familiar with the tasks, equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations; and 2) has demonstrated proficiency in tree inspection and evaluating and treating hazardous trees; and 3) has demonstrated competency to Level 6 NZQA Diploma in Arboriculture standard (or be of an equivalent arboricultural standard). |
| Tree | <p>A single woody plant with the potential to reach at least 5 metres in height and have a stem diameter of, or exceeding, 150mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground.</p> <p><i>There are certain species, which could include fruit, nut and endemic species, which may not always fit within the definition of a tree. In these situations the decision as to whether or not to include the species, or individual tree, as a tree will be determined by a Council arborist.</i></p> <p><i>Assets that are currently recorded as trees but do not fit the definition of a Tree will continue to be managed as a Tree throughout their life cycle until they are replaced.</i></p> |
| Tree Protection Management Plan | Where it is not possible to complete the works without encroaching within the Tree Protection Zone, a proposed methodology in the form of a Tree Management Plan shall be produced by a technician arborist as per the specifications within the relevant sections of the CSS. |
| Value of a tree | A monetary value determined by a council recognised system such as the Standard Tree Evaluation Method 1996 (STEM). |
| Wilding tree | A self-sown tree growing wild or escaped from cultivation and growing wild and not planted for any specific purpose. |
| Works arborist | Means a person who: |

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| | <p>a) by possession of a recognised arboricultural degree, diploma or certificate and on the job experience, is familiar with the tasks, equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations; and</p> <p>b) has demonstrated competency to Level 4 NZQA Certificate in Horticulture Services (Arboriculture) standard (or be of an equivalent arboricultural standard).</p> |
| Works within the root protection zone | Includes paving, excavation, trenching, ground level changes, storage of materials, or chemicals, vehicle traffic and parking, soil compaction and construction activity, whether on the same site or not as the tree. |
| Urban connector | Provides safe, reliable efficient movement of people and goods. Includes roads and paths. |
| Urban forest | Urban forest is a forest, or the collection of trees, that grow within a city, town or urban environment. |
| Unacceptable risk | A level of risk determined through a recognised council approved method (e.g. Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) or Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)) which is elevated beyond what the Council considers acceptable. |

Other tree, vegetation and wildlife related policy and resources:

- Local Government Act (2002)
- Reserves Act (1977)
- Wildlife Act (1953)
- [Electricity Act \(1992\)](#)
- [Civil Defence Emergency Act \(2002\)](#)
- National Policy Statement - Biodiversity
- National Policy Statement - Fresh Water
- Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan
- Otago Regional Council Biodiversity Strategy
- QLDC District Plan - Protected Trees Chapter
- QLDC District Plan - Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter
- QLDC Vision Beyond 2050
- QLDC Wilding Control Strategy
- QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan
- QLDC Reserve Management Plans
- QLDC Plaques & Memorials Policy
- QLDC Cemeteries Handbook
- QLDC Spray Policy
- QLDC Verge Policy
- QLDC's Tree Risk Management Procedure
- QLDC maps



APPLICATION FOR TREE WORKS



APPLICATION FOR TREE WORKS ON COUNCIL LAND

Applications will be assessed by one of Queenstown Lakes District Council's arborists. If the necessary information is not provided, your application may not be accepted for processing.

Before submitting your application, we recommend reading the guidance around significant tree works available online at www.qldc.govt.nz/services/environment-and-sustainability/trees

Submitting an application:

Please send your completed application form to services@qldc.govt.nz. **If there is an immediate risk to public safety due to a tree please contact QLDC on 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka).**



APPLICANT'S DETAILS

Full name:

Physical address:

Postal address (if different):

Phone:

Email:

I am: a landowner a tenant a legal representative a consulting arborist
 representing a community association other



SITE LOCATION DETAILS

Address:



SCOPE OF WORKS

PROPOSED ACTIVITY TO TREE/S (TICK ALL THE BOXES NECESSARY TO COVER THE PROPOSAL)

- New planting
- Tree pruning works
- Tree removal (please attach Replacement Planting Plan, refer to QLDC Tree Policy)
- Tree relocation
- Works in the root zone (e.g., earthworks / trenching. Please attach an appropriate Tree Protection Management Plan)

There may be costs to be covered by the applicant. Please refer to the QLDC Tree Policy for more information.



REASON FOR PROPOSED TREE WORK/S

Include any details of related works or plans (please attach relevant consents / reports / supporting documents).

LIST THE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS YOU HAVE YOU EXPLORED AND WHY THEY WERE DISMISSED

For example: pruning rather than removal, installing gutter guards.

WHERE KNOWN, PLEASE INCLUDE SPECIES, APPROXIMATE HEIGHT

ARE ANY OF THE TREES PROTECTED UNDER QLDC'S DISTRICT PLAN?

Yes

No

Unsure

If yes, please provide the reference number, e.g. #277 – Sequoiadendron Gigantium:

**Please note: if any works are undertaken which affect a protected tree, resource consent is required.
Please contact QLDC's Duty Planner for more details.**

I HAVE ATTACHED THE FOLLOWING RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION

Photos

Plans

Relevant consents / reports / supporting documents (if applicable)

Replacement Planting Plan (if applicable)

Tree Protection Management Plan (if applicable)



QLDC OFFICER DECISION (office use only)

Reference (RFS/RM/Project):

Tree ID:

Asset owners/stakeholders:

Decision recommendation:

Recommendation comments and relevant Tree Policy clauses:

Cost of works and payee:

RECOMMENDER

Assessed and recommendation by:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

APPROVER

Review and decision by:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Public consultation Feedback Summary: QLDC Draft Tree Policy 2022

Dates: 20 January – 20 February 2022

Full feedback via Let's Talk and email can be found here: <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/draft-qldc-tree-policy-2022/widgets/362083/documents>

Date: 16 June 2022

| Name | Feedback Theme | QLDC Officer Response |
|----------------|--|--|
| Kirsten Wyatts | Preference for native tree replanting in lake areas and trails. Consider views when felling and planting. | Policy 1.2 - update It now specifically states that both natives and exotics are permitted when determining species for new tree planting. It allows for planting of both native and exotic species and requires consideration of many factors such as supporting biodiversity. (It is likely that natives will be more appropriate in sensitive areas such as riparian zones). Policies 2.9, 2.10, 4.13 - no changes They allow for consideration of views for tree maintenance and planting, but not at the expense of a tree's structural integrity. |

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| <p>Michael Farrier</p> | <p>More consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trip hazards on paths. leaf debris, sightlines for traffic movements, including driveways. - adverse shading, limiting sunlight - tree debris effects on quality of fresh and storm water - Biodiversity - safety risk assessments and Work Safe requirements | <p>Policy 2.13 - no change. It addresses QLDC's tree risk management procedure which prioritises tree assessments and maintenance based on public safety and property damage risk.</p> <p>Policy 2.3 and 2.6 - no changes. They address maintenance to improve sightlines and safety for vehicles, active travel and pedestrians.</p> <p>Policies 2.9 and 2.10, 4.13 - no changes. They allow for consideration of shading and debris, but not at the expense of tree removal. (Court decisions in other regions have determined that it is reasonable to expect some maintenance, such as leaf litter clearance, on private properties).</p> <p>'Decision Process' has been updated, to state that it will acknowledge other relevant plans and policies, such as a future QLDC Biodiversity Plan/Strategy.</p> <p>QLDC supports local native regeneration groups through the Annual Plan and through a full time Community Volunteer Groups Officer.</p> |
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| <p>Jay Cassells</p> | <p>Supports Brian Fitzpatrick and Cath Glimor's submissions</p> <p>submissions</p> <p>Recommends more consultation with stakeholders in regard to tree felling, succession and planting, especially in relation to QLDC projects.</p> <p>Supports more protection of trees during tree works</p> | <p>Policy 4.14 - new policy. Requires submission of a 'Tree Works Application Form' for any removal requests. This form requires a comment in the Parks Officer decision section about which asset owners/stakeholders have been considered or engaged with.</p> <p>'Decision Process' - updated. States that neighbours, community associations or other relevant stakeholders will be considered in decision making.</p> <p>Policy 3.1 - updated Some changes to clarify who needs to submit the Tree Protection Management Plan and more information about the Tree Protection Zone.</p> |
| <p>Bruce Hebbard</p> | <p>Wished to retain the right to provide more feedback once all the feedback was made publicly available.</p> | <p>No changes.</p> |

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| <p>Ken Allan</p> | <p>More consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality and appropriateness of tree species selection, particularly by developers. - adverse shading, limiting sunlight - Property damage | <p>No changes to the policy - However - a Tree (and shrub) Guide is in draft to help developers and the public to consider their plant species selection. This will be an appendix to the Land Development Subdivision Code of Practice (SCOP). There are also tighter reviews now by the Council Arborist and Parks Officers, than historically, of tree and shrub species selections on QLDC land in new subdivisions.</p> <p>Policy 4.17 - no changes</p> <p>Already allows for tree removal requests where the damage is a direct result of the tree.</p> |
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| <p>David Mayhew</p> | <p>Requests greater consultation - particularly with the local community association and individual neighbours</p> | <p>Policy 4.14 - new policy Requires submission of a 'Tree Works Application Form' for any removal requests. This form requires a comment in the Parks Officer decision section about which asset owners/stakeholders have been considered or engaged with.</p> |
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| <p>Jamie Seymour</p> | <p>Supports promotion of the health benefits of trees, particularly in relation to shade, helping to prevent skin cancer.</p> | <p>Introduction - no change It acknowledges the benefits of shade.</p> <p>Policies 2.9 and 2.10 - no changes They address tree maintenance to allow for sunlight if it does not affect the structural integrity of the tree.</p> |
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| Kim Badger | Request to exclude leased areas from policy scope. | <p>Scope - no changes</p> <p>The new draft policy clarifies the scope, where the incumbent policy is vague. Clarifying that the scope includes leased areas protects trees in leased areas where tree management clauses have been left out of individual lease agreements. The community expects transparency with the way QLDC manages trees, especially in large, open space, with visual landscape effects. The long-term nature of some leases makes it particularly important to ensure tree succession is taking place.</p> |
| Terry Drayton Representing Namaste healing retreat center | Recommends more encouragement or enforcement of retaining existing trees and planting new trees on private land | <p>Introduction - no change</p> <p>It states that 'All landowners are encouraged to contribute to urban greening on their own land'.</p> <p>Individual and groups of trees can be protected through the District Plan process.</p> |
| Catherine Davison | Clarify how safety is approached | <p>Policy 2.13 - no change</p> <p>Addresses the Tree Risk Management Procedure.</p> |
| Jill Barber | Improve the quality of tree maintenance, especially watering. In relation to new subdivisions. | <p>Policy 1.10 - no changes</p> <p>It reiterates that the minimum establishment and maintenance period is 36 months to support what is stated in the Land Development SCOP, which requires irrigation.</p> <p>The Tree (and shrub) Guide, in draft, will also help to provide guidance on appropriate species.</p> |

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| Alwyn Harvey | Improve the quality of tree species selection for new planting, ensuring avoiding suckering trees | Policy 1.2 - no changes Addresses planting appropriate species in appropriate locations. |
| Kim Badger | Support for Tree Protection Management Plans | No changes. |

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| <p>Florence Micoud</p> | <p>Include more support for biodiversity, as it does not have land barriers, so how can council encourage urban greening on private land to support biodiversity corridors?</p> <p>Queried tree management transparency, such as budget for tree planting, how council celebrates trees?</p> | <p>Policy 1.2 - no changes as above</p> <p>It states that new planting will consider its ability to support biodiversity</p> <p>'Decision Process' - updated as above</p> <p>Includes statement that it will acknowledge other relevant plans and policies, such as a future QLDC Biodiversity Plan/Strategy.</p> <p>Scope - no change</p> <p>Does not cover private land. However, individual developers can create covenants about minimum planting requirements on private land.</p> <p>QLDC Tree management transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree planting budget can be found in the Annual Plan - The Council Arborist has been featured in Scuttlebutt - In June 2022 QLDC celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree in Wanaka and Queenstown. The Parks team plans to continue this practice in future years. - All QLDC mapped trees are available to view on the QLDC maps - There are improvements in draft for the Trees page on the QLDC website. |
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| <p>Suzanne Rose Representing Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc (WCG)</p> | <p>Clarify policies, including allowing for removal of wilding trees, trees that are a threat to 'iconic landscapes' and clarify scope of pest plants</p> | <p>Scope - update The term wilding has been added to pest plant species. And a note explaining that some pest species were instinctually planted for amenity values such as shade and wind screening and therefore are included in the policy. (This ensures removal of these trees that do provide amenity are subject to the replacement requirements to achieve similar amenity values for the community).</p> <p>Policy 1.12 - no changes All tree removal policies are in section 4.0 Note - updated to include a reference to the Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter in the PDP.</p> <p>Policy 4.10 - no changes Have not included 'iconic landscapes' as this may create confusion.</p> |
| <p>Gerry Spencer</p> | <p>Do not plant trees in public places that obstruct views. Maintenance - allow for crown reductions (topping). Align with District Plan rules about boundary planting heights and distances.</p> | <p>Policies 2.9 and 2.10 no changes. They address tree maintenance to allow for views if it does not affect the structural integrity of the tree. The PDP no longer has rules about boundary planting as this is seen as a civil matter. Policy 1.2 endeavours to select species that align with the public use of the land.</p> |

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| <p>Martin Spencer</p> | <p>Would like to see more support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity - Removal of pest species - Support for local restoration groups | <p>Policy 1.2 no change as above It states that new planting will consider its ability to support Biodiversity.</p> <p>'Decision Process' updated as above State that it will acknowledge other relevant plans and policies, such as a future QLDC Biodiversity Plan/Strategy.</p> <p>QLDC supports local native regeneration groups through the Annual Plan and through a Community Volunteer Groups Officer.</p> |
| <p>Brian Fitzpatrick</p> | <p>Recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more explanation about what will be considered when determining tree removal, such as public amenity value, botanical significance, vision of reserve management plan, Waahi Tapu sites, public interest in maintenance of aesthetically pleasing environment. - consultation with community before making a decision on the removal of any tree or group of trees, except where the tree is dead, structurally unsound, in a state of irreversible decline, an unacceptable safety risk, or in an emergency situation. - greater emphasis in the introduction on heritage, Tree Cities of the World and the establishment of Queenstown Gardens - supports more concise format | <p>Tree removals - updated Section 4.0 has had minor amendments to several of the policies. The tree removal policies confine removals to only a select few reasons for removal primarily unacceptable public safety risk and public or private property damage. QLDC Reserve Management Plans are listed as other relevant policies to consider.</p> <p>'Decision Process' - updated as above States that neighbours, community associations or other relevant stakeholders will be considered in decision making. This must be recorded on the 'Tree Works Application form, new policy 4.14.</p> <p>Introduction - no updates. However: - Updating the graphics in the final published document will allow for imagery that supports the heritage value of local trees and highlights trees, such as ones located in the Queenstown Gardens - Other process measures within QLDC have been updated, as above, such as: - In June 2022 QLDC celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree in Wanaka and Queenstown. The Parks team plans to continue this practice in future years. - All QLDC mapped trees are available to view on the QLDC maps - There are improvements, currently in draft, for the Trees page on the QLDC website to highlight value of trees and help find tree information.</p> |

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| <p>Cath Gilmour</p> | <p>Recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more clarity about consultation process and promotion of 4 wellbeing over individual property owners requests - more encouragement to plant fruit trees - stronger reflection of the Reserves Act to preserve trees and bush - outlining stating consultation with tangata whenua for waahi tapu vegetation - more emphasis on green environments for mental health and community resilience - Introduction should reference importance of trees amongst urban intensification and for ground water management - Policies need to be implemented by staff, including monitoring and enforcement - support for system to value trees, and requirement for a deadline on this - supports more concise format | <p>Decision Process' - updated as above</p> <p>States that neighbours, community associations or other relevant stakeholders will be considered in decision making. This must be recorded on the 'Tree Works Application form, new policy 4.14. It also includes statement that it will acknowledge other relevant plans and policies, such as a future QLDC Biodiversity Plan/Strategy. It is anticipated this will include bush as well as trees and reference to tangata whenua and waahi tapu sites.</p> <p>Tree value introduction - updated</p> <p>The community benefits of the 4 wellbeing are referenced.</p> <p>Policy 1.2 - no changes, however:</p> <p>The Tree (and shrub) Guide, currently in draft for an appendix to the SCOP, will help to provide guidance on appropriate species, this will include fruit and nut species.</p> <p>Section 4.0 Introduction - update</p> <p>Acknowledges that land development limits opportunities for tree planting.</p> <p>Policy 3.4 - no change. However,</p> <p>Currently council projects are trailing a system of bonding trees with a valuation for damage or destruction. The Tree Policy is recommended for review every two years. Reviews or amendments can take place at a shorter interval if required and supporting information is available.</p> <p>Policy 4.14 - new policy</p> <p>Requires submission of a 'Tree Works Application Form' for any removal requests. This form requires a comment in the Parks Officer decision section about which asset owners and stakeholders have been considered or engaged with</p> |
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| <p>Athol Stephens Representing Kelvin Heights Golf Club</p> | <p>Recommends - considering land use when determining appropriateness of tree species selection. - reducing minimum tree replacement requirements, based on context or purpose of lease</p> | <p>Policy 1.2 - updated 'the purpose of the land use' has been included as one of the variables when considering species selection. Policy 1.13 - no changes The minimum tree replacement requirement is in line with other district tree policy minimum standards. If replacement trees cannot be appropriately located within the leased area, the policy allows for use of other, ideally nearby, sites for replacement planting.</p> |
| <p>John Hilhorst Representing FlightPlan2050</p> | <p>Recommends - the protection of possible future designation of specific road sections within the Wakatipu Basin as lifeline utilities to serve as emergency runways and that this should be a requirement within the tree policy</p> | <p>Other related policy and resources' section - updated Now includes reference to the Civil Defence Emergency Act (2002). (QLDC acknowledges that Acts and the District Plan take precedence over this tree policy). 'Decision Process' - updated It considers relevant QLDC strategies, (naming climate and biodiversity, but not limited to these plans and strategies). Therefore if any QLDC roads are designated as Lifeline Utilities where trees,(whether existing currently or planted in the future) are subject to tree works, including removals, then appropriate mitigation can be determined through the tree replacement policy 1.13 which does allow for replanting where practical, even if outside the land parcel in which they were removed.</p> |