

Form 5

Submission on Publicly Notified Proposal for Policy Statement or Plan, Change or Variation

Queenstown-Lakes District Council Proposed District Plan (Stage 2) Chapter 25 – Earthworks

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Queenstown Lakes District Council

Address: Sent via email to: services@qldc.govt.nz

Name of Submitter: Queenstown Trails Trust (QTT)

Trade Competition: The submitter cannot gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Submission: QTT advocates for the development of an integrated trail network throughout the Wakatipu Basin to connect our communities, providing alternate modes of transport and recreational amenity for both locals and visitors. A copy of the Trust's 10 Year Plan 'Queenstown Trails for the Future' is available online at www.queenstowntrail.org.nz

QTT has submitted to the Strategic Chapters of the District Plan.

In respect of the proposed Earthworks chapter, the QTT submits that:

1. The identification and recognition of the "...use of land for recreation, including public walkways and trails" is supported in Proposed Policy 25.2.2.1. However the objective should not seek to achieve an outcome already being sought by another objective and the policy should not cross-reference a different objective. It is not unusual for two objectives to seek two different outcomes which might, in some cases, be in conflict. Such conflicts can be adequately considered and addressed during consent processes. The District Plan should not predetermine the outcome of such conflicts in such circumstances. QTT requests that:
 - (a) Objective 25.2.2 be amended by deleting the words "*... while being protected from adverse effects*".
 - (b) Policy 25.2.2.1 be amended by deleting the words at the beginning "*Subject to Objective 25.2.1 ...*".
2. It is always the intent of the Trust to minimise the extent of earthworks to minimise the visual impacts for trail users and to also minimise the cost of construction and on-going maintenance.

However, there are occasions where there is no other alternative route available and cuts, fill and retaining walls are necessary.

The trail network therefore relies upon earthworks activities to modify land to create a world-class trail network that provides widespread benefits to the community.

The exemption to earthworks (General Rule 23.3.4) should be amended to read:

“(o) The formation and maintenance of publicly accessible cycle and walking trails”

Relief Sought: QTT seeks the relief referred to above or such further, more refined, additional, other or alternative relief that might give effect to this submission and/or better serve the overall objectives of the district plan and the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Hearings: The submitter wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

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