

Full Council

29 May 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Department: Strategy & Policy

Title | Taitara: Draft QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-28 public engagement

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to present the draft *Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-28* (CBP) for noting and approval ahead of its release for public engagement.

The CBP is an important, high-profile plan for Council and the community, and actions are funded through budgets within the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

The plan does not require a formal Special Consultative Procedure under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, but as a key strategic document for Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) a public engagement and feedback process is recommended.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohu

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** the draft QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-28 for public feedback and engagement.

Prepared by:



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Title: Resilience and Climate Action Manager
9 May 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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Title: General Manager – Strategy & Policy
9 May 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. On 27 June 2019 Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in response to the significant risks of climate change and biodiversity loss in the district¹. In the same meeting Council also approved the release of its first [Climate Action Plan 2019-2022](#) to coordinate actions in response to the dual emergencies.
2. In October 2021 the Office of the Auditor-General released a report into local government risk management practices². This investigation included a focus on the 17 Councils who had declared a climate emergency. QLDC was presented as a positive case study of a Council that had taken steps to embed climate action into its current and future risk framework.
3. On 30 June 2022, Council approved the adoption of its second [Climate and Biodiversity Plan \(CBP\)](#) for the period 2022-25. This plan placed a stronger focus on the environment by committing to a range of biodiversity protection and restoration actions in addition to those focussed on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate adaptation.
4. In September 2022, the Local Government Funding Agency released a report on Climate Emergency Declarations and Responses by Councils³. QLDC again received praise for its comprehensive and timely response.
5. In addition to external feedback, Council also receives regular insights into community expectations through the annual Quality of Life (QoL) Survey. Although there are incremental changes in results each year the broad trends show a significant majority of the community are concerned or very concerned with the impacts of climate change (*2024 results - 71% concerned/very concerned, 15% neutral, 13% not concerned*).

Concerns about the impacts of climate change

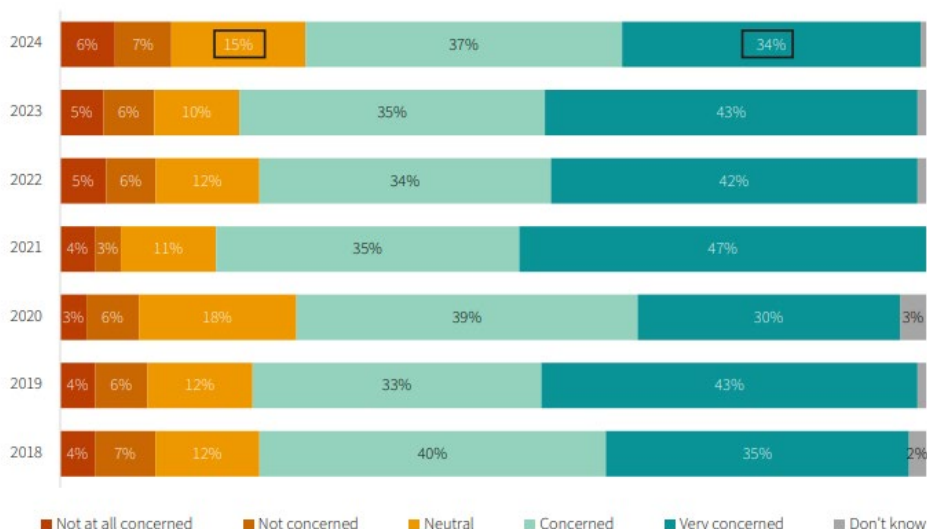


Figure 1: Quality of Life - Concerns about the Impacts of Climate Change

¹ <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/jjratijd/0c-confirmation-of-mins-of-27-june-2019.pdf>

² <https://oag.parliament.nz/2021/risk-management/docs/risk-management.pdf>

³ https://www.lgfa.co.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/LGFA_Climate%20Emergency%20DRC_2022-F.pdf

6. Previous QoL surveys have also assessed the level of community satisfaction with Council's response to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, protection of environment, protection of biodiversity and waste minimisation. The results (see Figure 2) show a modest level of satisfaction but with an improving year on year trend.

Year on year trend (satisfied and very satisfied)



Figure 3: Quality of Life 2023-Level of satisfaction with Council Climate & Biodiversity Actions

7. To help continue this trend the Resilience & Climate Action team has taken steps to improve the public visibility of the Climate & Biodiversity Plan and to align and embed its objectives and actions into service delivery work programmes, strategic planning frameworks and infrastructure investment planning of Council.

CBP 2022-2025 PROGRAMME STATUS

8. Updates on the delivery progress of the CBP 2022-2025 are presented quarterly to the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee as well as on the new QLDC Climate Action website⁴. This website provides an improved platform for communicating progress and celebrating stories of success from across the district.
9. Of the 81 actions that were committed to in the plan, 77 are either completed or in-progress.

ACTION STATUS	Count	%
Complete	27	33%
In progress	52	72%
Not started	2	2%
On hold	2	2%
	81	100%

Actions completed or in progress	77	95%
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⁴ [Our Actions | Climate Action and Biodiversity](#)

10. The Resilience & Climate Action team will provide a close-out report on the achievements of the CBP 2022-25 at 8 July AFRC meeting.
11. A high level summary of the progress of key CBP 2022-25 actions can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2028

12. The learnings from the delivery of the current plan have been factored into the development of the draft Climate & Biodiversity 2025-2028 Plan (CBP 2025-2028). These include a commitment to stronger communication, storytelling and relationship building, as well as the need to continue the progress of a wide range of actions that are currently underway.
13. Development of the draft CBP 2025-2028 began in July 2024 with support from the Climate Reference Group. An early priority that was identified by the group was to strengthen the relationship between Council and the local partner network to help accelerate the transformational progress that is already underway across sectors within the district, and the role of QLDC in supporting this work.
14. To fully understand the scope of opportunities and priorities, an extensive review was undertaken across a wide range of climate and biodiversity information sources. These included government policies, council strategies and plans (e.g. Destination Management Plan, Waste Management & Minimisation Plan, Spatial Plan, District Plan, 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, Economic Diversification Plan) as well as a wide range of Climate Action Plans from other institutions (both national & international).
15. Targeted engagement with internal staff and local partner organisations⁵ was also undertaken to discuss and identify actions and initiatives that align with the Vision 2050 outcomes that guide the CBP. The CBP plays a key role in progressing these priorities, with a particular focus on:
 - **Biodiversity Protection & Regeneration** – Supporting the vision of “a deafening dawn chorus”, where native flora and fauna thrive.
 - **Climate Adaptation & Resilience** – Strengthening preparedness and response to environmental risks, in pursuit of “disaster-defying resilience”.
 - **Emissions Mitigation** – Driving progress toward “zero carbon communities” through emissions reduction initiatives and sustainable development.



⁵ <https://climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/our-partners/>

16. A significant focus was placed on aligning the CBP with the Kāi Tahu climate change strategy and climate action plan. The strategy, *He Rautaki mō te Huringa Āhua o Te Rangi*⁶, speaks to creating a legacy for whānau to come. This intergenerational focus is a key theme within the draft CBP. The priorities areas within the Kāi Tahu's Climate Action Plan *Te Kounga Paparangi*⁷ regarding GHG emissions reduction, water protection, biodiversity protection, waste elimination and communication also align well with the draft CBP structure and actions.
17. The draft CBP 2025-2028 has sought to embed the Kāi Tahu values framework more clearly in the prioritisation of actions. The principle of whakapapa underpins all of these values. It recognises the connection to place, people and the natural world and reinforces the importance of enduring partnerships with people and nature and intergenerational responsibility. References to the Kāi Tahu values framework has been incorporated throughout the draft action plan to demonstrate how they are being embedded into our actions.
18. The draft CBP 2025-2028 also attempts to communicate the importance of a partnered approach to action delivery. New models have been introduced to illustrate important concepts such “braided knowledge” which speaks to the importance of weaving scientific, indigenous and local knowledge together to achieve the best outcomes.
19. A new strategic framework has been developed to help structure the action plan and embed it into QLDC's broader planning systems and key work programmes. This framework is based on a circular model that places the natural environment | Te Taiao at the centre of our decision-making. The framework is intended to illustrate the interconnected nature of the CBP work programme and how the theme of partnership connects across our work programmes. The updated outcome areas that structure the plan are as follows:
- The mauri of our Natural Environment is protected and restored
 - QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate & biodiversity leadership
 - Our Communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate
 - Our Energy System is resilient, renewable & responsive
 - Our Built Environment is resilient with low environmental impact
 - Our Transport System is low-emission and better connected
 - Our Economy leads the transition to a low emission future
20. The plan includes a total of **51 actions** across these seven outcome areas. The actions are a mixture of Council led or partnership driven, and either new or continuing projects based on work that has started during the CBP 2022-2025. All actions will be funded from budgets that have been set in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

⁶ <https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Ngai-Tahu-Climate-Change-Strategy.pdf>

⁷ https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/assets/TRoNT_NT_Te-Kounga_Paparangi_2024_FINAL.pdf

21. The layout of the plan takes a “storyboard approach” to try and improve the storytelling around the progress that Council is making and what is being committed to over the next three years.
22. A Council workshop was conducted on 4 April 2025 to discuss the structure, content and design direction of the plan. An early draft copy of the document was then shared along with a survey to invite feedback. This model was repeated with internal staff and the external partner network. All feedback has been reviewed from this process and has been incorporated into the final draft.
23. The final draft CBP 2025-2028 is now being shared for noting and approval for release for community feedback and engagement. The purpose of the community engagement is to gather feedback on the structure and content of the plan to allow future improvements and refinements to be made. The plan does not require a formal Special Consultative Procedure under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, but as a key strategic document for QLDC a public engagement and feedback process is recommended, nonetheless.
24. The community engagement period is scheduled for 30 May 2025 to 27 June 2025. After engagement has been completed the final updated CBP 2025-2028 will be presented to Full Council for adoption on 31 July 2025.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

25. 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.
26. **Option 1** Council does not approve the draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 for public engagement and feedback.

Advantages:

- There are no clear advantages.

Disadvantages:

- There is a reputational risk for Council if it fails to demonstrate ongoing commitment and progress in responding to the declared climate and ecological emergency and *Vision Beyond 2050* community outcomes.
- There is a strategic risk that delaying the process may hinder the planning and delivery of CBP actions, resulting in missed opportunities to align and integrate into a broad range of Council work programmes.
- Council will miss the opportunity to gather and evaluate community feedback to improve the plan, prior to its final adoption in late July
- Council will lose the opportunity to foster community engagement and support through a transparent and inclusive consultation process.

27. **Option 2** Approve the draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-28 for public engagement and feedback.

Advantages:

- Council can maintain momentum and demonstrate progress towards ambitious climate and biodiversity action by integrating the plan into key Council work programmes and projects.
- The community will have the opportunity to provide input into a high-profile plan that will influence current and future wellbeing.
- Council will have the opportunity to build improved levels of engagement and awareness of the plan through running an open and transparent feedback process.

Disadvantages:

- There will be a small cost to Council for undertaking the public engagement and feedback process.
- The public engagement process may result in negative feedback and concerns from some members of the community.

28. This report recommends **Option 2** for addressing the matter because it delivers the best outcomes for the community and is in line with obligations on Council to consult under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. It allows the community feedback period to commence as planned and momentum towards developing the next plan to continue.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

29. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. It is consistent with existing policy and strategy including the current CBP 2022-25, QLDC's strategic framework, and Vision Beyond 2050. It does not impact on objectives in the Financial Strategy, Long Term Plan or Annual Plan. While the CBP 2025-2028 is of importance to the district and there is community interest due to the impact on current and future wellbeing, it does not meet the criteria for having a significant impact on decisions in these areas.

30. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, Council employees, community partners and stakeholders.

31. The Council has engaged with all internal directorates within QLDC and individual teams (strategic growth, planning policy, transport, waste minimisation, parks, community partnerships,

property, economic futures, infrastructure, sport and venues, libraries, governance, finance and policy), Elected Members, the Climate Reference Group and other external partners and stakeholders in preparing the draft CBP 2025-2028.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

32. The Council has worked with Kāi Tahu representatives throughout the development of the CBP 2025-2028 and has regular engagement with representatives from Aukaha and Te Ao Marama through the Climate Reference Group.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

33. This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with: RISK10012 Ineffective mitigation response to the declared climate and ecological emergency within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.

34. Approval of the recommended option will allow Council to implement additional controls for this risk. This will be achieved through the 51 actions within the CBP 2025-2028 which together give a broad risk control response for emissions reduction, climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection and restoration. Effective implementation of these risk controls is supported through the advisory oversight of the Climate Reference Group and the governance of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

35. There are no variances to operational budgets or resource implications to consider at this time.

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

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

- Vision Beyond 2050⁸: the outcomes of zero carbon communities, disaster-defying resilience and a deafening dawn chorus.
- 2024-2034 Long Term Plan: climate and biodiversity action as a priority in the district.
- 2024-2054 30-year Infrastructure Strategy: infrastructure resilience.
- Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan
- Queenstown Lakes District Plan
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (2025 draft)
- Regenerative Tourism Plan: Travel to a Thriving Future
- Economic Diversification Plan: New Pathways to a Thriving Future
- Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027
- The QLDC Disability Policy.

⁸ [Our Vision and Mission - QLDC](#)

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

38. This matter is included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

39. The Council has statutory responsibilities under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 as a reporting organisation.

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

40. 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 CBP 2025-28 plays a central role in delivering upon this purpose through its focus on environmental stewardship, community resilience and intergenerational equity. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

41. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term 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	Draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028
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Attachment is presented as a separate document.

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN CURRENT CBP

OUTCOME 1. QLDC DEMONSTRATES AMBITIOUS CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

1. **Toitū carbonreduce Certification:** Achieved and maintained Toitū carbonreduce certification, showing QLDC's leadership in tracking, reporting, and reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions. Retrospective auditing of Council emissions from FY2019-2020 to current year has been completed. Commitment to annual recertification has been embedded into organisational KPIs.
2. **Organisational Emissions Reduction Plan:** QLDC finalised its Organisation Emissions Reduction Plan in September 2023, outlining pathways to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by 44% from the 2019 baseline. The plan was shared with AFR committee in December 2023.
3. **Emissions reduction projects:** Council's EV fleet conversion has progressed strongly, with QLDC receiving the "Sustainable Journeys" award in 2023. The major project to replace the LPG boilers at Council aquatic centres has progressed through community consultation in the LTP 2024-2034. The clean energy upgrades for Arrowtown Pool, Alpine Aqualand, and Wānaka Pool are scheduled between 2025 and 2027.
4. **Strategic Planning-** The 2024-2034 LTP and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy were developed with a strong focus on climate change and environmental impact. This was exemplified by the inclusion of social and natural infrastructure (e.g. reserves) in the 30YIS and having the first two significant decision areas relating to climate change and low environmental impact infrastructure.
5. **Internal change programmes:** Internal change projects have been completed to assess how climate and biodiversity are integrated into Council processes and identified best practice standards. These insights are now being embedded across governance, procurement, project management, policy, and operations. Implementation will continue under the next Climate and Biodiversity Plan.
6. **Workplace Emissions Reduction:** Staff commuting surveys have been completed and the Workplace Travel Plan updated. A range of employee education and behaviour change campaigns have been launched which have helped contribute to reduction in per-employee emissions.
7. **New Website:** The new Climate & Biodiversity website was launched in March 2024. It includes quarterly updates on the progress of all actions within the CBP, celebrates stories from across the district, shares new research and information, and profiles our partnerships with Kāi Tahu, local climate-oriented organisations, and the Climate Reference Group.
8. **Memberships and Partnerships:** QLDC has partnered with a wide range of local organisations including WAO, Wastebusters, WAI Wānaka, Lightfoot Initiative, Sustainable Queenstown, Te Tapu o Tane, Mana Tāhuna, Southern Lakes Sanctuary, Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, Te Kākano, Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control, Whakatipu Wildlife Trust to support climate action, biodiversity restoration, and community resilience across the district. In 2024, Council increased its funding for the Community Fund, allocating an additional \$200,000 from the Climate & Biodiversity budget to strengthen its support of partner organisations.

OUTCOME 2. OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS LOW-EMISSION AND BETTER CONNECTED⁹

9. **Upper Clutha Shuttle Trials:** Council was the primary funder for a series of Community Shuttle Trials in the Upper Clutha that were led by Community Networks/LINK Upper Clutha. These trials tested routes, surveyed patronage numbers and collected feedback to help inform future public transport planning for the area.
10. **Active travel investments:** Significant investments in active travel infrastructure have been made to promote walking, cycling across the district. Key initiatives include the development of the Whakatipu Active Travel Network, and the Wānaka 'Schools to Pool' project, which established a 4.5 km shared pathway linking local schools with the Wānaka Recreation Centre.
11. **Aviation:** The Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) has made significant progress with an ambitious emissions reduction target aligned with a 1.5°C pathway, aiming for a 7.6% annual reduction and net-zero by 2040. Since the baseline year, it has cut Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 71% and achieved Toitū Net Carbonzero certification. QAC is transitioning to Airport Carbon Accreditation and targeting Level 3 by FY24. Key actions include clean energy use, waste reduction, biodiversity projects, and fleet electrification. QAC also actively engages in national policy discussions and works with airlines on aviation decarbonisation through infrastructure and innovation planning.

OUTCOME 3. OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS LOW-EMISSION AND RESILIENT

12. **Carbon Baseline Assessment:** A carbon baseline analysis of Council infrastructure for the LTP 2021-2031 was completed. This analysis highlighted potential methodologies and standards that can be adopted, asset categories that have high carbon intensity, and opportunities for future process investment and change management.
13. **Energy Demand collaboration:** Council has partnered with Transpower, Aurora, Powernet, and other stakeholders to model future peak electricity demand scenarios for the district, considering various population growth and decarbonisation pathways through to 2050. These scenarios help inform the scale and timing of infrastructure investment and highlight the importance of flexible demand management, such as managed EV charging. Council also supported Ara Ake in hosting a Flexibility Challenge workshop in October 2023, which brought together industry experts and major energy users to explore solutions for reducing peak demand on the local electricity network.
14. **Sustainable Design Guidance:** Council has joined the New Zealand Green Building Council and is supporting the Superhome Movement in updating its publicly available Superhome Design Guide and the new Super Reno Design Guide. Council has regular interactions with NZGBC to review and help disseminate their latest reports and guidance material.

⁹ Note: while transport-specific actions are limited in the climateaction.qldc.govt.nz updates, relevant strategies such as public transport and modal shift are likely embedded in other Council transport plans and long-term planning documents.

OUTCOME 4. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE LOW-EMISSION AND CLIMATE RESILIENT

15. **Community Resilience Groups:** QLDC continues to collaborate closely with Emergency Management Otago to strengthen the capacity and capability of local Community Resilience Groups (CRGs). More than \$40,000 worth of emergency equipment has been distributed to CRGs, alongside training programmes and planning support to enhance their operational readiness.
16. **Wildfire Risk Reduction:** Council has launched a Wildfire Risk Reduction Programme focused on Council reserves. Key actions include a wildfire threat analysis to identify high-risk areas, a reserve closure plan initiated in December 2023, and the deployment of a new environmental monitoring network in early 2024. Ahead of the 2024–25 summer, QLDC worked with Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) and reserve stakeholders to improve risk reduction, preparedness, and response.
17. **Glenorchy Head of the Lake Natural Hazards:** Council is partner in the Head of the Lake Natural Hazards programme, led by ORC's Natural Hazards team. In February 2024, community engagement sessions were held in Glenorchy to share and seek feedback on the draft Adaptation Strategy. Council has contributed technical input and support to a wide range of community engagement workshops and technical investigations over the course of this programme.
18. **Food Resilience:** In partnership with WAO, QLDC has completed Phase Two of the Queenstown Lakes Food Resilience Project. This included the launch of the Southern Lakes Kai Collective at the 2024 Wao Summit in Wānaka—an initiative aimed at addressing key regional food challenges, such as dependence on imports, limited local market access, and low food diversity.
19. **Community Composting and Waste Education:** With co-funding from the Ministry for the Environment, QLDC has established four community composting hubs in partnership with local groups to divert organic waste from landfill. These efforts are supported by the Dr Compost programme, which provides education and advice, and the Enviroschools programme, which promotes composting in schools. Council also offers subsidies for bokashi kits and continues to operate green waste drop-off sites in several communities, including Kingston, Lake Hāwea, Luggate, Makarora, and Glenorchy.

OUTCOME 5. LOW-EMISSION BUSINESSES THRIVE

20. **Destination Management Plan:** Council is a key partner in *Travel to a Thriving Future*, the district's destination management plan aiming for a regenerative tourism model and a carbon zero visitor economy by 2030. The Resilience & Climate Action team has helped shape and align the plan with Council's Climate and Biodiversity Plan. Key climate-related projects include:
 - **Project 9 – Carbon Zero by 2030:** Ongoing collaboration to align climate targets and actions across the Destination Management Plan and QLDC's Climate & Biodiversity Plan.
 - **Project 18 – Emergency and Climate Adaptation Preparedness:** Joint planning with Emergency Management Otago and tourism partners to improve resilience and response systems for visitors in the face of climate-related risks.

21. **Sustainable events-** Council has developed and released an Event Waste and Emissions Reduction Guide and Toolkit, offering practical templates, checklists, and resources to help event organisers minimise environmental impacts. The toolkit is available on the QLDC website. Workshops with event organisers have been conducted and a new Sustainable Events Working group has been established.

OUTCOME 6. A FLOURISHING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

22. **Project Tohu:** This major ecological restoration initiative has been launched with Te Tapu o Tāne, Citycare and E3 scientific. The project aims to convert the former Douglas fir plantation into a thriving native forest, helping to restore biodiversity and control the spread of wilding pines. Spanning approximately 200 hectares, it will see the planting of over 500,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses over several years making it one of New Zealand's largest revegetation projects.
23. **Optimal Biodiversity Research:** Council has supported an ecological research project in partnership with Southern Lakes Sanctuary, Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust, and WAI Wānaka to explore ecosystem mapping and identify priority sites for invasive predator control and species translocation across the district. The final report was released in November, followed by the launch of an interactive mapping tool in December.
24. **Blue-Green Network Plan:** The Blue Green Network Plan (BGN Plan) has been developed as a long-term strategy for integrating natural systems and open spaces into urban planning in Queenstown Lakes District. It focuses on preserving water systems and land ecosystems to enhance biodiversity, community well-being, resilience, and recreational opportunities.
25. **Agrichemical reduction:** An investigation of the options to reduce the environmental impact of Council's pest plant & weed control practices have been launched. Literature reviews have been completed to gain an improved understanding of the best practices and the experiences of other authorities when it comes to reduction plans. A measurement programme has been implemented with contractors to track the usage of agrichemicals, and the results of this tracking will feed into an agrichemical reduction plan.
26. **Community-Led Biodiversity Action:** Council supports local revegetation efforts by providing plants, materials, and in-kind support to 46 volunteer groups across the Whakatipu and Upper Clutha basins. It also partners with Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust and Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, which manage key planting sites. The newly formed Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group as well as Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Arrowtown Choppers are also removing invasive species to enhance native biodiversity.