

Appendix 4 Section 32AA Assessment

Note: The relevant provisions from the revised chapter are set out below, showing additions to the notified text in underlining and deletions in ~~strike through~~ text (ie as per the revised chapter). The section 32AA assessment then follows in a separate table underneath each of the provisions.

New policies 34.2.1.2 and 34.2.1.3

Recommended new Policy 34.2.1.2

Ensure that any planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) is effectively and practicably managed to avoid the adverse effects of the spread of wilding trees and degradation to the landscape.

Recommended new Policy 34.2.1.3

That any proposal for the planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) shall satisfy the following to ensure the spread of wilding trees can be contained:

- a. The location and potential for wilding take-off, having specific regard to the slope and exposure to wind.
- b. The surrounding land uses and whether these would reduce the potential for wilding spread.
- c. The ownership of the surrounding land and whether this would constrain the ability to manage wilding spread.
- d. Whether management plans are proposed for the avoidance or containment of wilding spread.
- e. Whether a risk assessment has been completed and the results are favourable to the proposal.

Costs	Benefits	Effectiveness & Efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policies allow for the planting of <i>Pinus radiata</i>, potentially allowing for the continuation of the wilding threat to the District's landscapes and biodiversity values. • Does not accord as strongly with other initiatives to control wilding spread such as the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policies acknowledge the option and preference of planting of wilding exotic trees for rural activities, and domestic and commercial firewood stocks. • The policies offer decision makers the ability to consider the location and management and risk associated with proposals for radiata pine plantings on a case by case basis, thus minimising the potential for further wilding spread. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policies are more efficient in that they enable the use of <i>Pinus radiata</i> as a resource for uses such as shelter, firewood and forestry, while being able to manage the adverse effects of potential wilding tree spread. • The policies are effective in that they provide decision makers with the ability to determine whether a proposal would be appropriate, and directly influence the location and management of necessary radiata pine plantings to carry out various activities, including whether a management plan is necessary. • These policies still accord with Council's Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy 2013.

Updated rule 34.4.1

Rule	Table 1: Planting of wilding exotic trees	Activity Status
<u>34.4.1</u>	Planting of the following: a. Contorta or lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>) b. Radiata Pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>) be. Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylestris sylvestris</i>) cd. Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) de. European larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>) ef. Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>) fg. Bishops pine (<i>Pinus muricate</i>) gh. Ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus Ponderosa</i>) <u>h. Mountain pine (<i>Pinus uncinata</i>)</u> i. Dwarf Mountain pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>) j. Maritime pine (<i>Pinus pinaster</i>) k. Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) l. Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) m. Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>) <u>n. Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)</u> <u>o. Grey willow (<i>Salix cinereal</i>)</u> <u>p. Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)</u> <u>q. Cotoneaster (<i>Simonsii</i>)</u> <u>r. Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)</u> <u>s. Spanish heath (<i>Erica lusitanica</i>)</u>	Prohibited No application for resource consent can be accepted.

New rule 34.4.2

Recommended Rule		Activity Status:
<u>34.4.2</u>	Planting of the following: a) <u>Radiata pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>)</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>

Costs	Benefits	Effectiveness & Efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This rule allows for the planting of <i>Pinus radiata</i> subject to resource consent, potentially allowing for the continuation of the wilding threat to the District's landscapes and biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This rule acknowledges and allows for the potential to obtain resource consent for the planting of wilding exotic trees for various activities. The rule gives decision makers the ability to consider the location and management of Radiata pine plantings, thus minimising the potential for further spread. This rule allows the potential for planting of Radiata pine in the District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discretionary status is effective because under s104B is provides the ability to grant or decline a resource consent. The rule is effective in that it provides decision makers with the ability to not be constrained by specified matters, as would be the case with a restricted discretionary activity status.

1. General economic assessment of the wilding spread issue

The Cost Benefit Analysis on Wilding Conifers prepared by SCION (2015)¹ estimated that if the current management levels of wilding trees in New Zealand are maintained then by 2035 there will be an increase in wilding infestation nationally from 6.7% to 20% of New Zealand's land area. Losses to the country in international tourism were estimated at \$152 million if wilding trees were to be controlled as per the status quo. As Queenstown Lakes District typically has higher international tourist expenditure than the rest of New Zealand,² this figure will have a higher than average impact on the District's economy.

The analysis by SCION also cited that the following issues will have a high affect from projected wilding intensification:

- Increased wilding control costs
- Loss of landscape values *in particular for those characterised by indigenous tussock and other low stature indigenous vegetation.*
- Negative impact on indigenous biodiversity
- Loss in domestic tourism
- Loss in pasture production
- Reduction in water availability during low flow conditions
- Carbon sequestration

Furthermore this cost benefit analysis on wilding trees estimated a total cost to the country of around 1.120 to 1.254 million \$ over the next 20 years.

The Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Group have estimated total costs to manage the spread of wilding trees in the Wakatipu Basin over the next 5 years to be close to \$5million. Council has contributed to the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Group \$100,000 since 2004 and in 2009 the budget was increased to \$120,000 annually. The 2014/15 financial year saw council increase this amount by \$100,000 per annum.³

The high level analysis above shows that wilding spread is a national issue with particular importance in the Queenstown Lakes District. Council have put importance on this issue and invested significant funds since 2004 towards managing the spread of wilding trees.⁴ This further reinforces the importance of the prohibitive status in the recommend chapter 34 for plantings of trees with wilding potential for the District.

¹ Velarde, S., Paul, T., Monge, J., & Yao, R. (2015). *Cost benefit analysis of wilding conifer management in New Zealand*. (S0013). Rotorua, New Zealand: Scion.

² Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment. (2015) *Regional Tourism summary Queenstown RTO*. Retrieved from <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/tourism/tourism-research-data/regional-tourism-estimates/documents-image-library/regional-summaries/Queenstown-rto.pdf>

³ This information was taken from QLDC Annual Plans, which are available on the Council's website <http://www.qldc.govt.nz/>

⁴ See Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy 2013-2017 page 11 for figures on the total spend on wilding spread management in the District