QLDC Council

12 November 2026

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [9]

Department: Planning & Development

Title | Taitara : Request to update Officer Delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to request approval from Council for an update to Council Officer Delegations to align to amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), as enacted through the Planning Act 2026. The report also seeks to address administrative errors, remove inconsistencies, and close identified gaps to ensure delegations remain clear, current, and fit for purpose in supporting the effective delivery of Council's functions under the RMA.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and

2. **Approve** the updated Delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991. [Attachment A to this report.]

Prepared by:

Name: Fiona Blight
Title: Manager Resource Consents
16 October 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:

Name: David Wallace
Title: General Manager, Planning & Development
16 October 2026

Context | Horopaki

1. Approval is being sought from Council to amend and update the Council Delegations to staff for new amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as enacted through the Planning Act 2026 on 30 September 2026. Resource consent applications lodged and formally accepted after 30 October 2026 will be subject to the new transitional consenting amendments hence the requirement to change the delegations now.

2. The opportunity is also taken to address administrative matters, remove inconsistencies, and close identified gaps to ensure delegations remain clear, current, and fit for purpose in supporting the effective delivery of Council's functions under the RMA.

3. The RMA remains the District's primary planning legislation until its repeal in 2029. As such the Council's Delegations Register is required to be updated to reflect the changes.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

4. The current delegations are set out in the Register of Delegations. These set out the delegations for decision-making for each provision under the RMA.

5. Attachment A to this report shows the RMA delegations requiring a change. The proposed changes required are shown in **bold** in Attachment A to this report.

6. Those sections of the RMA that only have **bold** changes shown in the right hand delegation column reflect operational administrative tidy ups.

7. New sections introduced by the Planning Act 2026 are reflected by **bold** text changes in all columns.

8. Option 1 – Do not approve the proposed changes to the RMA delegations register

   Advantages:

   - There are no identified benefits in retaining the current delegation arrangements.

   Disadvantages:

   - Council's administration of the RMA will legally invalid and operationally ineffective

   - Without the administrative changes the delegations powers will not be applied to the correct staff.

9. Option 2 – Approve the proposed changes to the RMA delegations register set out in Attachment A to this report.

Advantages:

- The Delegations Register will properly reflect the decision-making role of Council as a Consent Authority and will delegate appropriate officers to make decisions.

- The Delegations Register will reflect the legislative requirements of the Transitional RMA amendments that Council as Consent Authority is required to use.

Disadvantages:

- There are no disadvantages in updating the RMA Delegations Register.

This report recommends **Option 2** because it aligns Council's delegations with legislative process and aligns to organisational changes to ensure the appropriate staff are being given the delegation powers.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

10. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because delegations for decision-making under the RMA pertain to the Council and Council Officers it has delegated functions to.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

11. The Council has not undertaken any consultation with iwi. The matter of delegating RMA functions from the Council to Council Officers is a legal and administrative matter, not a matter that requires any consultation with iwi. None of the delegations or the changes sought to these pertain to consultation and engagement with iwi, nor changes to current practices and requirements for consultation.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

12. This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk category. It is associated with RISK10034 Inadequate resource management or building consent systems, processes and/or people capability results in poor development outcomes and liability within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low residual risk rating. The risk is currently under review in its current form and will be reframed as a result of a number of different drivers including planning reforms.

13. Approval of the report will support the Council by allowing it to retain the risk at its current level. This shall be achieved as this provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of those exercising these delegations.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

14. There are no operational or capital expenditure requirements additional to existing approved budgets or the Annual/Ten Year Plan.

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

15. This report is requesting approval be given by Council to changes proposed to the Delegations Register for the RMA. As such no Council policies, strategies or bylaws have been considered.

16. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan.

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

17. The change in legislation has necessitated the requirement to update the officer delegations for administering resource consenting under the RMA.

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

18. 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; (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local — (i) infrastructure; (ii) public services; (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b). The proposed changes to delegations will enable the appropriate workstreams of Council to use the powers given under the RMA.

19. 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	Delegations from Council to Officers under the Resource Management Act 1991 as enacted through the Planning Act 2026

Attachment circulated separately.