

3 Strategic Direction

3.1 Purpose

This chapter sets out the over-arching strategic direction for the management of growth, land use and development in a manner that ensures sustainable management of the Queenstown Lakes District's special qualities:

- a. dramatic alpine landscapes free of inappropriate development;
- b. clean air and pristine water;
- c. vibrant and compact town centres;
- d. compact and connected settlements that encourage public transport, biking and walking;
- e. diverse, resilient, inclusive and connected communities;
- f. a district providing a variety of lifestyle choices;
- g. an innovative and diversifying economy based around a strong visitor industry;
- h. a unique and distinctive heritage;
- i. distinctive Ngāi Tahu values, rights and interests;
- j. indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems.

The following issues need to be addressed to enable the retention of these special qualities:

- a. Issue 1: Economic prosperity and equity, including strong and robust town centres, requires economic diversification to enable the social and economic wellbeing of people and communities.
- b. Issue 2: Growth pressure impacts on the functioning and sustainability of urban areas, and risks detracting from rural landscapes, particularly its outstanding landscapes.
- c. Issue 3: High growth rates can challenge the qualities that people value in their communities.
- d. Issue 4: The District's natural environment, particularly its outstanding landscapes, has intrinsic qualities and values worthy of protection in their own right, as well as offering significant economic value to the District.
- e. Issue 5: The design of developments and environments can either promote or weaken safety, health and social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
- f. Issue 6: Tangata Whenua status and values require recognition in the District Plan.

This chapter sets out the District Plan's strategic Objectives and Policies addressing these issues. High level objectives are elaborated on by more detailed objectives. Where these more detailed objectives relate to more than one higher level objective, this is noted in brackets after the objective. Because many of the policies in Chapter 3 implement more than one objective, they are grouped, and the relationship between individual policies and the relevant strategic objective(s) identified in brackets following each policy. The objectives and policies in this chapter are further elaborated on in Chapters 4 – 6. The principal role of Chapters 3 - 6 collectively is to provide direction for the more detailed provisions related to zones and specific topics contained elsewhere in the District Plan. In addition, they also provide guidance on what those more detailed provisions are seeking to achieve and are accordingly relevant to decisions made in the implementation of the Plan.

3.2 Strategic Objectives

3.2.1 The development of a prosperous, resilient and equitable economy in the District (addresses Issue 1)

- 3.2.1.1 The significant socioeconomic benefits of well designed and appropriately located visitor industry facilities and services are realised across the District.

- 3.2.1.2 The Queenstown and Wanaka town centres¹ are the hubs of New Zealand’s premier alpine visitor resorts and the District’s economy.
- 3.2.1.3 The Frankton urban area functions as a commercial and industrial service centre, and provides community facilities, for the people of the Wakatipu Basin.
- 3.2.1.4 The key function of the commercial core of Three Parks is focused on large format retail development.
- 3.2.1.5 Local service and employment functions served by commercial centres and industrial areas outside of the Queenstown and Wanaka town centres², Frankton and Three Parks, are sustained.
- 3.2.1.6 Diversification of the District’s economic base and creation of employment opportunities through the development of innovative and sustainable enterprises.
- 3.2.1.7 Agricultural land uses consistent with the maintenance of the character of rural landscapes and significant nature conservation values are enabled. (also elaborates on SO 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 following)
- 3.2.1.8 Diversification of land use in rural areas beyond traditional activities, including farming, provided that the character of rural landscapes, significant nature conservation values and Ngāi Tahu values, interests and customary resources, are maintained. (also elaborates on S.O.3.2.5 following)
- 3.2.1.9 Infrastructure in the District that is operated, maintained, developed and upgraded efficiently and effectively to meet community needs and to maintain the quality of the environment. (also elaborates on S.O. 3.2.2 following)

3.2.2 Urban growth is managed in a strategic and integrated manner. (addresses Issue 2)

- 3.2.2.1 Urban development occurs in a logical manner so as to:
- a. promote a compact, well designed and integrated urban form;
 - b. build on historical urban settlement patterns;
 - c. achieve a built environment that provides desirable, healthy and safe places to live, work and play;
 - d. minimise the natural hazard risk, taking into account the predicted effects of climate change;
 - e. protect the District’s rural landscapes from sporadic and sprawling urban development;
 - f. ensure a mix of housing opportunities including access to housing that is more affordable for residents to live in;
 - g. contain a high quality network of open spaces and community facilities; and.

¹ Defined by the extent of the Town Centre Zone in each case

² Defined by the extent of the Town Centre Zone in each case

- h. be integrated with existing, and proposed infrastructure and appropriately manage effects on that infrastructure. (also elaborates on S.O. 3.2.3, 3.2.5 and 3.2.6 following)

3.2.3 A quality built environment taking into account the character of individual communities. (addresses Issues 3 and 5)

- 3.2.3.1 The District's important historic heritage values are protected by ensuring development is sympathetic to those values.
- 3.2.3.2 Built form integrates well with its surrounding urban environment.

3.2.4 The distinctive natural environments and ecosystems of the District are protected. (addresses Issue 4)

- 3.2.4.1 Development and land uses that sustain or enhance the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems, and maintain indigenous biodiversity.
- 3.2.4.2 The spread of wilding exotic vegetation is avoided.
- 3.2.4.3 The natural character of the beds and margins of the District's lakes, rivers and wetlands is preserved, or enhanced where possible, and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- 3.2.4.4 The water quality and functions of the District's lakes, rivers and wetlands are maintained or enhanced.
- 3.2.4.5 Public access to the natural environment is maintained or enhanced.
- 3.2.4.6 The values of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are protected.
- 3.2.4.7 The survival chances of rare, endangered, or vulnerable species of indigenous plant or animal communities are maintained or enhanced.

3.2.5 The retention of the District's distinctive landscapes. (addresses Issues 2 and 4)

- 3.2.5.1 The landscape and visual amenity values and the natural character of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features are protected from adverse effects of subdivision, use and development that are more than minor and/or not temporary in duration.
- 3.2.5.2 The rural character and visual amenity values in identified Rural Character Landscapes are maintained or enhanced by directing new subdivision, use or development to occur in those areas that have the potential to absorb change without materially detracting from those values.

3.2.6 The District's residents and communities are able to provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing and their health and safety. (addresses Issues 1 and 6)

3.2.7 The partnership between Council and Ngāi Tahu is nurtured. (addresses Issue 6).

- 3.2.7.1 Ngāi Tahu values, interests and customary resources, including taonga species and habitats, and wahi tupuna, are protected.
- 3.2.7.2 The expression of kaitiakitanga is enabled by providing for meaningful collaboration with Ngāi Tahu in resource management decision making and implementation.

3.3 Strategic Policies Visitor Industry

Visitor Industry

- 3.3.1** Make provision for the visitor industry to maintain and enhance attractions, facilities and services within the Queenstown and Wanaka town centre areas and elsewhere within the District's urban areas and settlements at locations where this is consistent with objectives and policies for the relevant zone. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.1.2)

Town Centres and other Commercial and Industrial Areas

- 3.3.2** Provide a planning framework for the Queenstown and Wanaka town centres that enables quality development and enhancement of the centres as the key commercial, civic and cultural hubs of the District, building on their existing functions and strengths. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.2)
- 3.3.3** Avoid commercial zoning that could undermine the role of the Queenstown and Wanaka town centres as the primary focus for the District's economic activity. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.2)
- 3.3.4** Provide a planning framework for the Frankton urban area that facilitates the integration of the various development nodes. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.3)
- 3.3.5** Recognise that Queenstown Airport makes an important contribution to the prosperity and resilience of the District. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.3)
- 3.3.6** Avoid additional commercial zoning that will undermine the function and viability of the Frankton commercial areas as the key service centre for the Wakatipu Basin, or which will undermine increasing integration between those areas and the industrial and residential areas of Frankton. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.3)
- 3.3.7** Provide a planning framework for the commercial core of Three Parks that enables large format retail development. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.4)
- 3.3.8** Avoid non-industrial activities not ancillary to industrial activities occurring within areas zoned for industrial activities. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.3 and 3.2.1.5)
- 3.3.9** Support the role township commercial precincts and local shopping centres fulfil in serving local needs by enabling commercial development that is appropriately sized for that purpose. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.5)

3.3.10 Avoid commercial rezoning that would undermine the key local service and employment function role that the centres outside of the Queenstown and Wanaka town centres, Frankton and Three Parks fulfil. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.5)

3.3.11 Provide for a wide variety of activities and sufficient capacity within commercially zoned land to accommodate business growth and diversification. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.5, 3.2.1.6 and 3.2.1.9)

Climate Change

3.3.12 Encourage economic activity to adapt to and recognise opportunities and risks associated with climate change.

Urban Development

3.3.13 Apply Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) around the urban areas in the Wakatipu Basin (including Queenstown, Frankton, Jack's Point and Arrowtown), Wanaka and where required around other townships. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.2.1)

3.3.14 Apply provisions that enable urban development within the UGBs and avoid urban development outside of the UGBs. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3.1, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)

3.3.15 Locate urban development of the settlements where no UGB is provided within the land zoned for that purpose. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3.1, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)

Heritage

3.3.16 Identify heritage items and ensure they are protected from inappropriate development. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.2.1, and 3.2.3.1)

Natural Environment

3.3.17 Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, referred to as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.7, 3.2.1.8, 3.2.4.1, 3.2.4.3 and 3.2.4.4)

3.3.18 Protect SNAs and encourage enhanced indigenous biodiversity outcomes. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.7, 3.2.1.8, 3.2.4.1, 3.2.1.2, 3.2.4.3 and 3.2.4.4)

3.3.19 Manage subdivision and / or development that may have adverse effects on the natural character and nature conservation values of the District's lakes, rivers, wetlands and their beds and margins so that their life-supporting capacity is safeguarded; and natural character is maintained or enhanced as far as practicable. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.4.1, 3.2.4.3, 3.2.4.4, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)

Rural Activities

- 3.3.20** Enable continuation of existing farming activities and evolving forms of agricultural land use in rural areas except where those activities conflict with significant nature conservation values or degrade the existing character of rural landscapes. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.7, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.21** Recognise that commercial recreation and tourism related activities seeking to locate within the Rural Zone may be appropriate where these activities enhance the appreciation of landscapes, and on the basis they would protect, maintain or enhance landscape quality, character and visual amenity values. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.8, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.22** Provide for rural living opportunities in areas identified on the District Plan web mapping application as appropriate for rural living developments. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.7, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.23** Identify areas on the District Plan web mapping application that are not within Outstanding Natural Landscapes or Outstanding Natural Features and that cannot absorb further change, and avoid residential development in those areas. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.24** Ensure that cumulative effects of new subdivision and development for the purposes of rural living does not result in the alteration of the character of the rural environment to the point where the area is no longer rural in character. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.25** Provide for non-residential development with a functional need to locate in the rural environment, including regionally significant infrastructure where applicable, through a planning framework that recognises its locational constraints, while ensuring maintenance and enhancement of the rural environment. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.1.9 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.26** That subdivision and / or development be designed in accordance with best practice land use management so as to avoid or minimise adverse effects on the water quality of lakes, rivers and wetlands in the District. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.1.8, 3.2.4.1 and 3.2.4.3)
- 3.3.27** Avoid the planting of identified exotic vegetation with the potential to spread and naturalise unless spread can be acceptably managed for the life of the planting. (relevant to S.O.3.2.4.2)
- 3.3.28** Seek opportunities to provide public access to the natural environment at the time of plan change, subdivision or development. (relevant to S.O.3.2.4.6)

Landscapes

- 3.3.29** Identify the District's Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features on the District Plan web mapping application. (relevant to S.O.3.2.5.1)

- 3.3.30** Avoid adverse effects on the landscape and visual amenity values and natural character of the District's Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features that are more than minor and or not temporary in duration. (relevant to S.O.3.2.5.1)
- 3.3.31** Identify the District's Rural Character Landscapes on the District Plan web mapping application. (relevant to S.O.3.2.5.2)
- 3.3.32** Only allow further land use change in areas of the Rural Character Landscapes able to absorb that change and limit the extent of any change so that landscape character and visual amenity values are not materially degraded. (relevant to S.O. 3.2.19 and 3.2.5.2)

Cultural Environment

- 3.3.33** Avoid significant adverse effects on wāhi tūpuna within the District. (relevant to S.O.3.2.7.1)
- 3.3.34** Avoid remedy or mitigate other adverse effects on wāhi tūpuna within the District. (relevant to S.O.3.2.7.1)
- 3.3.35** Manage wāhi tūpuna within the District, including taonga species and habitats, in a culturally appropriate manner through early consultation and involvement of relevant iwi or hapū. (relevant to S.O.3.2.7.1 and 3.2.7.2)