

Attachment B: Full submissions pack with officer comments

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025							
Survey Response					Officer comment	Proposed changes	
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.		
1	Leigh Mutton		Strongly support	I look forward to the changes outlined in the draft Forestry Plan. Wilding conifers have no place within the sensitive Queenstown Lakes district, and the wild goats need to be managed to support reforestation	I would like to see QLDC work with Otago Regional Council and Central Government, to develop 'good neighbour' laws/bylaws, to manage wilding conifers and pest wildlife including goats, to support the proposed Forestry Plan on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill	Support for wild goats management to enable revegetation	No changes proposed.
2	Jeremy Payze		Strongly support	The pines are a major fire risk and don't provide anything to support biodiversity of other bird, plant or insect life.	100% support natives	Noted conifer trees are a fire risk Support for planting natives Support improved biodiversity	No changes proposed.
3	Marie Ann Dennis		Strongly support	Wilding pines are invasive and the general public does not realise the damage they cause and the risk they pose. The threat of wildfire increases each year and if it was to happen would be devastating for the town. Returning the area to a biodiverse area would be the best option allowing increased use by the community and reducing the risk of wildfire and windfall.		Support removing wilding seed source Noted that wilding conifers are invasive. Noted that the threat of wildfire increases as the trees age. Support improved biodiversity in the area	No changes proposed.
4	Dave George		Support	Council could ascertain whether there is evidence of spread of conifers. If so make an assessment of the extent and nature of this spread. Based on this assessment- there could be incremental change, even over decades. The reason for this is that the conifers can provide shelter while new native species are established. This would reduce costs markedly.		Suggestion to assess the speed of spread of the conifers. Conifers can provide shelter while new natives establish.	No changes proposed.
5	Adam Carlson		Support	The removal of wilding species needs this area to be removed as a seed source.	Any development of recreational activities should consider the established rules for the area to remain a peaceful place. This doesn't necessarily mean no biking, but it should consider how biking and other activities can occur without sharing of trails.	Support removing wilding seed source Suggestion that new recreational activities should be well planned and considered	Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.
6	Justin Hamilton		Support	Sensible idea to deal with the wilding trees and we need to keep getting on top of it in the area.		Support removing wilding seed source	No changes proposed.
7	Cam Pyke		Strongly support	It's a great proposition to remove these trees.	It's not super clear if all the trees are to be removed (ie the area towards gorge road and private land). There should also be provision to reinstate formal bike tracks with qtrmb. Natives with irrigation (like jardine park) would be preferable to exotics	Support removing wilding seed source. Clarification about the area of trees to be removed. Provision to reinstate bike tracks Support planting natives	No changes proposed.
8	Simon Hall		Strongly support	I support the proposed change as it will Reduce fire risk, increase bio diversity and restore native habitats back to Queenstown though the removal of the exotic pines and reduce the risk and extent of further wilding pines.	-	Support removing wilding seed source to reduce the fire risk. Support improved biodiversity	No changes proposed.
9	Parid Basha		Strongly support	-To support local biodiversity -Remove the seed source for wilding species -Create a native forest -Forest Fire prevention due to the ever growing threat of climate change	also would love to have official mountain biking tracks to be developed	Support removing wilding seed source. fire from climate change Support improved biodiversity development of bike tracks.	Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.
10	miles holden		Strongly oppose	QLDC has been spending money it does not have, these trees provide an amenity, as a place to walk in any weather.... QLDC have proven they are not capable of looking after our assets and so this should be left alone	At the very most this should be selective cut to provide more view windows including on the walking track and at the basket of dreams	Noted current trees provide amenity and shelter Suggestion that selective trees should be felled to create view shafts	No changes proposed.
11	Rachel Senior		Strongly support	We live in Goldfields and wilding pines have taken over the whole hill		Noted wilding conifers are invasive	No changes proposed.
12	Kit Robbins		Strongly support	It will significantly enhance the Hill and contemporaneously remove an invasive tree species.	Very disappointed that the area proposed for removal and replanting does not come all the way down to Edinburgh Drive. Accordingly a large area of Wilding pine will remain.	Noted that wilding conifers are invasive. removal will significantly enhance the Reserve.	No changes proposed.
13	Liz	Queenstown Primary School	Strongly support	Eradication of wilding pines and a return to greater biodiversity.		Support removing wilding seed source improved biodiversity	No changes proposed.
14	Owen Hale		Strongly support	Rehabilitation towards a more natural environment will benefit all involved	Please do the same for Ben lomond and all local reserves	Support planting natives. improved biodiversity	No changes proposed.
15	Adam		Strongly oppose	It's beautiful as it is. The council has proven themselves unable to complete projects on time or to the standards we expect so why let them ruin this amazing place when it's fine as it is?		Noted current trees provide amenity	No changes proposed.

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16	Steven A Rowden		Strongly oppose	<p>Firstly as a Civil Engineer of 30 years, please realize that our forefathers, who were much more practical that what we seem to be now planted those trees for a reason. Hill Stability!</p> <p>The township wanted to grow, and people wanted to build to the foot of these mountains and up the mountains with housing.</p> <p>Removing these trees will make the hill unstable as we have seen with the hideous cut that Skyline was allowed to do at Bobs Peak.</p> <p>Your idea of planting new trees that you like and approve of, will not grow quick enough, it will take 20 years for Beech and exotics to stabilize that hill.</p> <p>And in the mean time all houses below those pine trees will become susceptible to mud, stone and debris slides, every time we receive a high intensity rain event.</p> <p>My house is directly below these trees, I will keep a copy of this message, that way when it comes to litigation, I can show that the QLDC were informed of these outcome, so that QLDC can be legally and financially held responsible for these decision when this enviable happens.</p> <p>This will open up litigation against the QLDC Council that will make the leaky building litigation look like a drop in the bucket.</p> <p>This also does not take into account the fact that everyone on the hill has the right under law to a peaceful existence, that will not be possible for years, when all those people, all have to put up with constant chainsawing noise, large trucks running up and down our local streets, revving engines up the hill and then engine braking down the hill, to remove the logs and slash for years, so as the council will be able to remove that bulk of those trees and slash (if they remove the slash at all).</p>	<p>Noted trees were planted for stability. removing the trees may cause instability . selected trees will not stabilise the hill . concern about the noise from harvesting operations. Noted concern for the cost of the project. Noted current trees provide amenity. Noted concern for the use of chemicals and their residuals .</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted that</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Proposed addition - Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised. Further detail on slash management was added under the new environmental management section, the plan explains how slash will be managed to reduce the risk of it being mobilised</p>
				<p>Peopel on the hill directly above town have already put up with chainsaws for 3 years cutting the trees down under Skyline.</p> <p>You also do not have funding for this, you are hoping the the Federal Government will fund this, which they most likely won't, and this will cost tens of millions of dollars, all of which you will want and need to charge the Rate payers, whilst you do not even have a correctly working Sewer plant, at present and grid locked roads that need attention.</p> <p>How about we concentrate on on what a council is suppose to provide, like clean water, maybe time for those filters?</p> <p>A pipes and a sewer plant that does not spew untreated or semi treated Sewerage into our lakes and rivers.</p> <p>Building new bridges and the flow on roads at Shootover River, Arthurs Point, and Kawarau River, so as the community that lives here, and people that will come that will be filling the 15,000 to 20,000 homes you are fast tracking at present around the area, can actually move around.</p> <p>The continuous 13-16% rate rises that have been happening for that last 3 years are unsustainable for the community, yet your council wants to waste money on vanity projects like this.</p> <p>You continue to want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg with Queenstown. No matter how or what you feel, people come to Queenstown for how it looks, the pines and walks under those pines are part of that.</p> <p>You will destroy the look of the town, in the same way Skyline has been allowed to destroy the look of Bobs peak with a huge un-forested, un-grassed scare on that hill that they have been allowed to create.</p>		
				<p>All for the hatred of certain types of trees by certain influential people.</p> <p>The worse part is the Tussock grassed lands are not even native to this area, between 600 and 800 years ago the Beech forest in this area were burnt out by the native population in the search for food, the tussocks are what grew back.</p> <p>I suggest you read this report if you would like to be more informed on the actual vegetational history of this area.</p> <p>https://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/12/14/3092679.htm?site=science/tricks&topic=human</p> <p>Also realize that the residues of all those deforestation chemicals you use to kill these trees, also wash into the lake and into our drinking water supplies.</p>		
17	David Davies		Oppose	<p>I don't understand QLDC's obsession with eradicating wilding pines, yes I agree with limiting the area of growth but they are part of the iconic Queenstown landscape. The debacle where the gondola hillside now resembles an ugly quarry as you drive into town gives me no confidence in QLDC's ability to replant and not have it looking similarly ugly for the next 10years plus. How about replanting the gondola hillside first so I have some confidence that you can finish a project even if that requires holding the Gondola operators responsible, especially after the prior debacle of forestry debris in town after a rain event.</p>	<p>Surely there are more important projects to spend your long suffering ratepayers money on than chopping down trees that convert CO2 into oxygen?</p>	<p>Question support for eradicating wildings. ability to replant the area.</p> <p>Question</p> <p>No changes proposed.</p>
18	Mel Bowles		Strongly support	<p>I have personally witnessed the spread of the wilding conifers over 20+ years which has interrupted the views along the hiking trail and from around the basket of dreams. I am concerned about the fire risk in its current state. I want to see improved hiking and biking trails in the area. Being so accessible to town it is a great recreation area that doesn't require driving a car to gain access.</p>	<p>Noted the spread of wilding conifers on the Reserve over the last 20 years. concern for fire risk. Support for improved hiking and biking trails close to town</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.</p>

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19	Rebecca Orpin		Oppose	I very much support the taking out of the wilding pine. But I oppose the use of exotic trees in the replanting plan. I think it unnecessary to include exotic trees in the replanting plan. The use of mountain red beech, Kōwhiri, tōhara, ribbonwood, pittosporum, cabbage tree, even flax will grow quickly enough. After 4-5 years you won't be able to see over them. It is an opportunity to regenerate the forest as it was and be part of an eco-sourced biodiversity forest belt that (could) extend from Bobs cove area to Arrowtown with all the other native plantings done by the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, Mana Tahuna, Tapu o Tane and Treescapes done at Slope hill, Lake Hayes, Whitechapel, Coronet Peak and Mount Dewar. I oppose the idea that including exotic trees will increase ecological diversity. Nothing more is required in a native forest.. native forest can better support native fauna. I would argue, the bigger exotic faster growing trees are being included more for aesthetic value and property values rather than anything else.		Support removing wilding seed source Noted oppose replanting with exotics. planting with natives. biodiversity in the area with natives only.	Support Support improved No changes proposed.
20	Kim	none	Strongly oppose	Just leave the trees be. It's just SO stupid to think that replanting the area is going to make it better. For a start, it destabilizes the land. Secondly, it will not look nicer, in fact it will ruin the look of the area. It makes me so angry that stupid people come up with stupid ideas which are a complete waste of time, energy and money. Sadly, I have little faith that anyone will listen to people like myself who disagree with the plan.	Just don't do it, for goodness sake. Leave the trees as they are.	Noted oppose tree removal. Noted current trees provide amenity.	No changes proposed.
21	ANGUS ROBERTSON	Aurora Energy Limited	Strongly support	The proposal will assist with minimising fire risk and vegetation management around Aurora's existing infrastructure within the reserve. This infrastructure is clearly acknowledged in the plan and includes provisions for consultation with Aurora as a potentially affected party prior to works being undertaken.	The removal of the forestry and wilding pines will likely lower Aurora's ongoing vegetation clearance costs in this area and result in a positive benefit for ratepayers.	Noted vegetation management is required around Auroras infrastructure to minimise fire risk.	Noted - Public Utility Infrastructure page 10
22	Peter Manthey	Ratepayer the most important entity	Strongly oppose	This is such a hypocritical action after QLDC has sold a huge parcel of public land to a private developer and given them approval to destroy the amenity of the area by developing housing in a clandestine way. I'm sure the developer will get whatever they want in the negotiation with the Council who control the approval on density and height. And would've rolled over to get the highest price they could for the land of the negative affect on the amenity and visual impact and creating even more congestion on the overly clogged roads that currently exist. This Council has no idea of how they're destroying this once beautiful city of Queenstown, or maybe we're being too kind and they do Their only answer to the problems that currently exist is to create more development. They don't care and have no answers they have created and destroying once unique lifestyle that can never recaptured.	Let's hope the federal government step in and throw them all on a heap where they should be and get someone who really knows how to run and perform on behalf of the ratepayers	Noted current trees provide amenity.	No changes proposed.
23	Chris Grose		Support	I fully support the removal of all wilding pine and other invasive/pest/problem plants. However I think that a fully native forest should be the goal. Only native plantings to regenerate to a native bush asset.	I think a long term plan to predator proof fence the entire QT hill, including the area around gorge road would be a massive project to boost native biodiversity in the area, but could be easily self-funded through tourist visits to the park.	Support removing wilding seed source. planting natives.	Support for No changes proposed.
24	Geoff Bell		Support	Queenstown is a long haul destination and people come here because they're under the impression that the environment is "100% Pure". We all know that it's not (especially the water Glyn), but I'm supportive of native planing all over Queenstown Hill. Some high performance manuka would also be a massive selling point. https://manukafarming.co.nz	Glyn needs to step down.	Support planting with natives.	No changes proposed.
25	Catkin Bartlett		Strongly support	It is heartbreaking to see the wilding conifers taking over QT Hill. This is a great piece of work which right by the town and accessible for everyone to understand and learn- walkers, school children, visitors. A great opportunity to showcase biodiversity regeneration.	Please conserve the tracks for walking. We mountain bikers have plenty of other tracks and the walkers need to feel safe and also prevent erosion of the tracks. Also the priority needs to be on biodiversity restoration.	Support improved biodiversity in the area. wilding conifers are taking over Queenstown Hill. Suggestion to prioritise the walking tracks.	Noted that Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.
26	Grant Hardy		Strongly support				No changes proposed.
27	darryn melrose		Strongly support	Wilding pines are a significant issue that we have to overcome	The main walking track to the basket of dreams is severely cut up and must be a hazard in wet or icy conditions - hoping that the Council takes steps to improve this track at it's upper level, especially for the high volume of tourists who access it.	Noted that wilding conifers are a significant issue. Support for track maintenance	Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.
28	Phil WILSON		Strongly support	The wilding pines are a pest that should be eradicated. They present a danger to homes in the St Lukes Lane and St Peters Place areas and continually spread seedlings on residential properties as well as the farmland behind.	wage war on wilding pines!!!	Support removing wilding seed source	No changes proposed.
29	Phil Jones		Strongly oppose	Whilst I agree with the control and removal of wilding pines I believe that the Bob's Peak / Gondola area is more deserving of attention as it is currently an eye sore as a result of partial felling for the new gondola. I also believe that QLDC need to control expenditure for the next while as ratepayers are facing significant infrastructure costs, and this plan is of lesser importance than other work.		Suggestion to prioritise Ben Lomond wilding removal. Concern about the cost of the project	Proposed addition page 33 - Funding constraints: There is no dedicated funding in the current LTP for the restoration plan, but some alignment with existing wildfire mitigation budgets is possible. Future funding may also come from government programmes, co-funding with other organisations, or limited timber offsets. Any tree removals must include clear plans and budgets for replanting and restoration.

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30	Daniel Sweeney		Support	<p>I mainly support this plan, which thoroughly addresses the main issue of the site, which is the wilding pine infestation. However some elements of the plan I would question. I'm outlining my comments here, as box 8 has limited characters...</p> <p>1. What is the reasoning behind planting non native species on this site? If its purely for a visual canopy, there are some relatively fast growing native species which can achieve this. Non-native species is what we have been battling on this site, so replanting with non natives just doesn't make sense to me. They provide no ecological benefit to our insect, lizard or bird populations, which many local groups are trying their best to support.</p> <p>2. The pest management plan could be expanded upon to include working with key partners such as the local Queenstown Hill trapping group, the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary, in order to develop a robust pest management plan for possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats. Cats would require their own strategy at this site, being sensitive to possible domestic cats or strays, however I believe there is a "release site" on Queenstown Hill where many stray cats are abandoned, despite this being an illegal activity. Proper cat management and enforcement should be implemented to stop this from continuing.</p> <p>3. Biodiversity - has a full ecological assessment been undertaken for Queenstown Hill? I know that a population of Cryptic Skink (At Risk) exist here, which would need to be protected during any works. Native planting near to their habitat would improve the chances for this population to expand and thrive. For more information you could contact Southern Lakes Sanctuary / Sam Purdie.</p>	<p>This box is limited so I have included comments in the previous box.</p> <p>Support for planting native species only. Suggest that pest management is expanded to include partners such as local Queenstown Hill trapping group, the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary. Suggest robust pest management plan for possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats. Suggest a full ecological assessment been undertaken for Queenstown Hill.</p>	<p>Proposed amendments - The plan now emphasises that native species will be preferred where appropriate, and more detail was added explaining why exotic trees are to be planted at the site. The local Queenstown Hill trapping group has been active within the Reserve since 2018. There will be future opportunities to collaborate with community groups and other organisations on pest management, including the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust, Southern Lakes Sanctuary, and the Otago Regional Council.</p>
31	Grant Hylton Hensman	individual	Strongly support	<p>The loss of recreational opportunities from this reserve is inevitable and almost total if nothing is done to remove the wilding species. Every year good money is spent on a hopeless battle to limit their spread, which left unchecked becomes the wider district . We cannot afford to do that in perpetuity which means ultimately the reserve is an exotic forest with all the losses that brings, along with consequential further spread. This is an opportunity to change that fate and restore a more useful asset for future generations that won't cost significantly to maintain.</p> <p>The back drop to Queenstown will be a improved multi variety, non invasive ,recreation area that can host many activities if this plan is approved. The alternative is an expanding exotic forest , that supports little biodiversity is a fire hazard with much reduced recreational opportunities. No sun and no views with out continuous costly maintenance.</p> <p>We have the privilege to do something bold that will be an asset, improvement to future generations, I urge you to leave that legacy and make that far sighted decision.</p>	<p>The wilding pine battle through WCG was instigated by previous QLDC councillors</p>	<p>Noted that recreational opportunity will be lost if wildings aren't removed. Noted that large amounts have been spent on removing wilding spread from the mature trees. Noted the backdrop to Queenstown and recreational activities will be improved if trees are removed. Noted conifer trees are a fire risk .</p> <p>No changes proposed.</p>
32	Annabelle O'Meara	Coordinator, Queenstown 2000 Time Walk Project.	Support	<p>The Statement of Proposal document acknowledges the Time Walk's value. This is significant and reassuring. This submission is to respectfully highlight for the panel the facts and intent around the Time Walk's creation 26 years ago, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•The desire to commemorate the turn of the millennium by establishing a free recreational amenity for Wakatipu locals and visitors that would be durable and multifaceted, i.e. imaginative, inspirational and informative.•To breathe new life into an underutilised walking trail that would reflect the philosophy and aspirations of the Queenstown 2000 committee and by extension, the people of Queenstown.•Around \$40,000 was raised through national funding organisations and local businesses. Over the next year, the skills, enthusiasm, creative thinking and generosity of artisans, specialist advisors, corporates and a small, dedicated team of self-styled labourers took the plans off the page and worked their magic on Queenstown Hill. A robust walking trail was created – but importantly, an interactive outdoor classroom and art gallery was also created. <p>In short, the Time Walk is a taonga, made up of many parts. It is those precious elements – many of them handmade - that prompt those of us involved with its creation from Day 1 and who still care deeply about it, to make this plea: Respect the Time Walk and preserve it for future generations.</p>	<p>While it is encouraging to read there is a proposal to "work around" the Time Walk, the purpose this submission is to respectfully highlight for the panel the facts and intent around the Time Walk's creation 26 years ago, namely:</p>	<p>Noted the importance of the time walk. The time walk was created 26 years ago to commemorate the millennium. Noted the Time Walk is a taonga, made up of many parts imaginative, inspirational and informative.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Proposed amendment - detailed information was added about Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk. Noting that during the harvest period, there may be temporary changes or closures to the Time Walk. Where possible, alternative routes to the Basket of Dreams will be provided and QLDC will make every effort to protect the trail and maintain public access. The Basket of Dreams sculpture, artwork gate and interpretive panels are QLDC assets and are included in a regular maintenance schedule. After the trees surrounding the trail are felled, these assets will have greater exposure to the elements, increased maintenance may be required until the new forest is fully established to protect these assets.</p>
33	Ed Astin		Oppose	<p>I whole heartedly support the removal of the invasive exotic species from Queenstown Hill, not just the conifer species but also the deciduous pest species and gorse and Broom. I also support the planting and restoration of native species which will be critical to restore the native biodiversity of the reserve. However I question the use of supposed non invasive exotic species as part of the restoration. Given adequate conditions, native vegetation will establish just as quickly as many exotics and possibly quicker in the case of Manuka and kanuka. I would also argue that trees such as eucalyptus, poplar and ash are not non invasive. There is plenty of evidence around central otago that this is not in fact the case and the specific choice of these species would be a mistake. I feel that if you are calling this a restoration, exotic species have no place as part of that, it should be purely native species. It feels like the purpose of the exotic species is not to establish a faster canopy, but to create autumn colour when it should be to create a reserve that reestablishes the indigenous vegetation of the Queenstown area that has been compromised by the spread of exotic species and overenthusiastic burning.</p>		<p>Support removing wilding seed source. removing broom and gorse. planting of native species. not support the planting of exotic species.</p> <p>Support the Do</p> <p>No changes proposed.</p>

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34	Richard Bowman		Strongly support	Wilding conifers pose one of the most serious environmental and economic problems in the Whakatipu Basin and surrounding lands. This arises from the spread of unwanted exotic weed trees from areas where they have been planted or allowed to invade. Queenstown Hill is one such high risk seed source which if removed will contribute toward reducing the continuing spread across vast areas of the highly vulnerable subalpine grassland high country. This provides the iconic backdrop to Queenstown's tourism industry as well as a major indigenous biodiversity resource. The draft Forestry Plan provides an effective, long term, best practice approach to removing the high-risk seed sources from Queenstown Hill. Failure to implement a plan of this sort now will result in continued spread of wilding conifers both on Queenstown Hill and on the surrounding lands exponentially increasing the long term environmental and economic costs to the District and New Zealand.	While the proposed Forestry Plan for Queenstown Hill will face many challenges both in its introduction it will also provide a critically important model for addressing similar wilding conifer issues elsewhere in New Zealand.	Support removing wilding seed source. Noted that Queenstown Hill is a take off site for wilding seed. Noted important model for addressing similar wilding conifer issues elsewhere in New Zealand.	No changes proposed.
35	Eddie Gapper		Strongly support	The current treescape is visually unappealing and creates a dead zone at ground level, with little other vegetation and biodiversity.		Support removing wilding seed source.	No changes proposed.
36	Chris Radford		Strongly support	I support the removal of invasive pines and replanting with indigenous species to increase biodiversity, and especially indigenous bird life; all of which will provide a far more interesting time trail (and other trail) walks. A well developed planting plan will also allow for more views out from recreational areas on the Hill		Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity	No changes proposed.
37	Phil & Nina Jones	n/a	Strongly support	we have no winter sun due to the trees being so tall we have no winter sun at all due to the height of the pines so having winter sun would be fantastic. Also if some of the timber could be sold it would be a great source of revenue for the council and it would be great to see the pines replaced by our own natives	sooner the bettering would volunteer to help with the replanting	Support removal of trees to increase winter sun. Suggest that timber is sold for revenue. native planting.	Support No changes proposed.
38	Stephen McDonough	Self	Strongly support	Fully support the understanding Wilding pines are a problem and this plan will restore the hill back to a natural landscape in keeping with the surrounding Vista.		Support to restore to a natural landscape	No changes proposed.
39	Anna Harding-Shaw	Whakatipu Wildlife Trust	Support	Whakatipu Wildlife Trust supports the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025 as it relates to the removal of invasive wilding pines and the reforestation of the Queenstown Hill Reserve with native species. Improved ecological values will provide better native wildlife habitat and benefit the overall biodiversity of the Reserve and the Queenstown region. We understand the desire to rapidly create canopy cover and reduce visual disturbance by using non-invasive exotics, however we encourage the use of native plants as first preference. Where exotics must be used, preference should be given to exotic species that are beneficial to native wildlife as habitat or food sources. The value of exotic plant species to native wildlife should be prioritised over aesthetics. Native replanting plans should also utilise plant species that provide food and habitat to our local native wildlife. We recommend that appropriate experts are consulted as to what replanting species are suitable for the native birds, invertebrates and lizards present on site and in the Whakatipu Basin. Community predator trapping occurs in the Reserve along the walking trails, particularly targeting possums. We respectfully request that we are notified regarding any logging activities that may affect the traps present on site, so they can be moved to avoid damage. We also request that access for trapping be maintained where possible, taking into consideration site health and safety requirements. Forewarning will allow us to adjust our trapping operations around forestry activities. We recommend consulting with local conservation groups such as Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary around an ongoing possum control plan for the site to protect new plantings	Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this plan.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity Support the planting of native species. Support exotics which are beneficial to native wildlife. Noted that trapping occurs within the reserve, need to be notified in advance of operations. Suggest consulting with local conservation groups.	Proposed amendments - The plan now emphasises that native species will be preferred where appropriate, and more detail was added explaining why exotic trees are to be planted at the site. The local Queenstown Hill trapping group has been active within the Reserve since 2018. There will be future opportunities to collaborate with community groups and other organisations on pest management, including the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust, Southern Lakes Sanctuary, and the Otago Regional Council.
40	Erich Stadler		Strongly support	I'd like to see native forest restoration.		Support the planting of native species.	No changes proposed.

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41	Ben Slicock		Support	<p>Submission: Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025</p> <p>Kia ora,</p> <p>Love the plan. Wildings gotta go. Native bush coming back? Yes please. Fire risk down? Sign me up.</p> <p>But before we all pat ourselves on the back, a few things from someone who actually lives on the hill, rides it, and walks dogs there on the daily:</p> <p>The MTB Trails Are Old Enough to Vote</p> <p>Yes, some of them cross private land. No, that hasn't been a problem. These trails have been here longer than most of the homeowners. They're well-ridden, well-loved, and well-behaved. Let's not pretend we can fence off a culture with a few signs. Recognise them, work with the community, and don't bulldoze a good thing.</p> <p>Don't Touch the Highview Terrace Exit (You Know the One). That exit by the big tree onto Highview Terrace? It's sacred. It flows. It works. Riders use it every day. Losing it would be a mess—literally, because people will just cut new lines. Keep it, name it, love it.</p> <p>Dogs Need Freedom Too</p> <p>There's nowhere decent on Queenstown Hill to let your dog run off-leash without breaking the rules. That's nuts. Give us a proper off-leash bush area. Somewhere dogs and walkers can explore without feeling like fugitives. It's a hill. There's space. Don't Skyline Us with the Tree Mess</p> <p>When you take down the trees, please actually take them down. Don't leave a post-apocalyptic wasteland of logs and slash. Mulch it. Remove it. Do whatever it takes to avoid another Skyline situation.</p> <p>What About All That Water?</p> <p>Big hill. Lots of rain. No trees = more runoff. What's the plan to stop the place turning into a muddy slip 'n slide? Genuinely curious. Detail would be appreciated.</p> <p>This plan could be awesome. Just don't forget the people who've been using and looking after Queenstown Hill long before the management plan showed up.</p> <p>Rider. doo walker. local</p>	<p>Suggest protecting the mountain bike trails if felling trees.</p> <p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p> <p>Dog comments out of scope.</p> <p>Support for removing slash.</p> <p>Noted the increased runoff after tree have been removed.</p> <p>Suggest more detail on the water management.</p>	<p>Proposed addition - Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.</p> <p>Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised. Further detail on slash management was added under the new environmental management section, the plan explains how slash will be managed to reduce the risk of it being mobilised</p>	
42	Will Taylor		Support	<p>The trees put shade on our property.</p>	<p>Noted that current trees shade urban areas</p>	<p>No changes proposed.</p>	
43	Steve Carry		Neutral	<p>I wish to provide feedback on the draft management plan for the Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve. While I understand, respect and support the intention behind proposed ecological restoration and long-term management of the reserve, I would like to raise concerns about the implications for existing recreational mountain biking (MTB) use. My position is neutral/support overall, but I believe further consideration is required regarding how the plan accounts for current MTB activity and the legal obligations under the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>Recreational Use of the Reserve – MTB Context</p> <p>Currently, Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve is a popular area for informal mountain biking, with significant levels of usage clearly visible on publicly available mapping data such as the Trailforks Global Heatmap. While these MTB trails are not formally sanctioned, they represent consistent and meaningful recreational use by the public — aligning with the reserve's legal purpose.</p> <p>Under Section 17(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977, the reserve is held: "for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities of the public, and for the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public..."</p> <p>This existing MTB use therefore aligns with the intent and purpose of a Recreation Reserve, regardless of its informal status and "unsanctioned trails".</p> <p>Impact of Proposed Tree Removal on MTB use</p> <p>The draft plan proposes the removal of all invasive trees on the reserve, which will, by design or by consequence, eliminate all existing MTB trail access. As there are no proposals for formalised replacement trails or mitigation measures, this effectively terminates a well-used recreational activity, which may conflict with the reserve's purpose under Section 17.</p> <p>Moreover, such a significant change in reserve use and accessibility triggers obligations under Section 41(3) of the Act, which requires the administering body to: "have regard to the use of the reserve and the interests of the persons using the reserve."</p>	<p>Neutral Position – With a Call for Balanced Outcomes</p> <p>While I support efforts to manage the reserve sustainably and acknowledge the importance of native regeneration and pest plant species seed source eradication, I respectfully urge the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Formally recognise the extent of recreational MTB use, and include it in assessments of current use patterns;Assess whether the draft plan aligns with Section 17 of the Reserves Act in maintaining the recreational character of the reserve;Consider alternative options, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Retention of some most used and established MTB trails/corridors to support continued MTB access,Acknowledgment and development of sanctioned MTB routes through the area post-harvest,Engagement with local MTB groups to formalise trail networks and manage impacts on a select few of the current trails. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This submission is made in good faith to help ensure the Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve continues to meet its statutory purpose as a public recreation space. The Qt Hill MTB network, although not on the official trail map, is known and recognised worldwide by tourists, locals and professional athletes as some of the best MTB riding in the district and the country. I believe that with balanced consideration and community input, it is possible to achieve both ecological restoration goals and continued recreational MTB use, in a sustainable and inclusive way, implemented in the management plan.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit. Feel free to get in contact regarding this submission.</p>	<p>Noted the plan has implications for the existing bike trails</p> <p>Noted position neutral but support overall.</p> <p>Suggest further information is required on how the plan considers the mountain bike trails</p> <p>Suggest further details for replacement mountain bike trails within the reserve</p> <p>Suggest formally recognising the extent of recreational MTB use, and include it in assessments of current use patterns;</p> <p>Assess whether the draft plan aligns with Section 17 of the Reserves Act in maintaining the recreational character of the reserve;</p> <p>Consider alternative options, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Retention of some most used and established MTB trails/corridors to support continued MTB access,Acknowledgment and development of sanctioned MTB routes through the area post-harvest,Engagement with local MTB groups to formalise trail networks and manage impacts on a select few of the current trails.	<p>Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.</p> <p>Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.</p>
44	Raymond Keys		Strongly support	<p>I live on Queenstown Hill, and in mid winter the sun pops over the trees at 12:15pm, before disappearing behind Bowen Peak three short hours later.</p>	<p>Natives and exotics would vastly improve the appearance of the hill</p>	<p>Noted that current trees shade urban areas. Support for native and exotics</p>	<p>No changes proposed.</p>
45	Benjamin Teele		Strongly support	<p>Wilding conifers have been well documented to have the range of negative impacts outlined in the draft management plan. Queenstown Hill is no different and provides a massive source of seed rain that will continue to affect surrounding areas and degradation of the landscape. Their removal should be a top priority to ensure biodiversity values are not further impacted. The proposal to replace these trees with a range of species is to be commended. While there will be some short-term visual impacts, medium to long term outcomes will be significantly better for Queenstown and the surrounding hinterland. This is a chance for the community to establish a future forest that enriches the lives of those who live and work in the area.</p> <p>In terms of the proposed replacement species list, there needs to be several amendments. For exotic species, the potential of creating a future weed problem needs to be considered. During the removal of wilding conifers in Arrowtown a list of suitable exotic colour was drawn up in the strategy based on industry best practice. Reference should be made to the report "A global compendium of weeds – Third Edition 2017, R.P.Randall", which outlines potential invasiveness of a range of woody species. Species of note that should be removed from the list includes all Acer. For example the weediness potential of Acer platanoides has been rated as extreme. Acer has been documented to be heavily invasive in Otago and is on a number of 'weed' lists around the country. All species of Acer have wind dispersed samara seed that will be carried on wind currents into surrounding back country and offers no biodiversity benefits. Species within Pinaceae have also been documented to become highly invasive. Liriodendron tulipifera has a moderate rating for invasiveness. Picea risk varies depending on species. Both species of Populus have high risk ratings and can produce abundant pollen which can be allergenic.</p>	<p>Noted short term visual impacts but medium long term outcomes will be significantly better.</p> <p>Suggestions to be made to the proposed species list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Removed all Acer from the listFor example the weediness potential of Acer platanoides has been rated as extreme. Acer has been documented to be heavily invasive in Otago and is on a number of 'weed' lists around the country. All species of Acer have wind dispersed samara seed that will be carried on wind currents into surrounding back country and offers no biodiversity benefits.Species within Pinaceae have also been documented to become highly invasive. Liriodendron tulipifera has a moderate rating for invasiveness. Picea risk varies depending on species.Both species of Populus have high risk ratings and can produce abundant pollen which can be allergenic. <p>Noted that modern fruit trees are predominately grafted and require extended care with short lifespans.</p> <p>Noted if fruit trees are desired, consider older cultivars that have been grown from scion wood sourced from around the basin.</p>	<p>Proposed amendment – the plan has been updated to incorporate the recommended species changes</p>	




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				<p>Even if only one sex of each species is planted, trees will persist through extensive root coppicing, and poplars planted in the late 1800s are now becoming significant hazards due to hollowing of stems. Modern fruit trees are predominately grafted and hybridised varieties which require extended care with short lifespans. If fruit trees are desired, consider older cultivars that have been grown from scion wood sourced from around the basin. If autumnal colour is a consideration, replace invasive species on list with predominately Quercus species. This genus has a wide ecological range and are easily grown from seed in a commercial nursery. They also produce abundant autumnal colour, and different species lose their leaves at different periods during the autumn. They produce acorns, which typically require mammal dispersal agents which are lacking in New Zealand. Therefore potential invasiveness risk is considerably lower. Eucalyptus species are both potentially invasive where rabbit browse is suppressed and have a high fire risk. They also significantly affect the surrounding root zone through moisture extraction, leading to less competition by other species. For the native species list, Podocarpus totara (not found in region) should be removed and amended with Podocarpus laetus which is local to the area. This is more drought and freezing tolerant. Additional species should include red beech (Fuscopora fusca), which favours lower more fertile slopes and is found at Bob's Cove.</p>	<p>Noted If autumnal colour is a consideration, replace invasive species on list with predominately Quercus species.</p> <p>Noted Eucalyptus species are both potentially invasive where rabbit browse is suppressed and have a high fire risk. They also significantly affect the surrounding root zone through moisture extraction, leading to less competition by other species.</p> <p>Noted native species list, Podocarpus totara (not found in region) removed and amended with Podocarpus laetus which is local to the area.</p> <p>Noted include red beech (Fuscopora fusca), which favours lower more fertile slopes and is found at Bob's Cove.</p>	
				<p>Silver beech (Lophozonia menziesii) can also be considered in the coldest wetter areas. Any beech planting should be dominated by the two NZ genera. Beech through mycorrhizal associations will limit competition from most other NZ species, so keep other species in discrete separate areas. Hoheria species should be confined to the local endemic – Hoheria glabrata. This favours damp gully edges and will be outcompeted in other areas. Pseudopanax ferox could be included in colder/exposed areas. Shrubland species should predominately be small-leaved Coprosma and Olearia. Matagouri favours disturbance and will be rapidly outcompeted by both native and exotic unless areas are continually cleared by fire or heavy grazing. Ozothamnus, Eptecophylla, Melicope, and Melicytus are all niche or slow growing species that can be difficult to propagate and survive post-planting. Tussock planting should only be considered where soils are shallow enough or exposed enough that woody species will fail to colonise. Prehuman Queenstown Hill would have been forest dominated except on rocky exposed terrain. Any in-situ tussock populations have the ability to naturally recolonise these areas if seed source is close enough and pressure is removed.</p>	<p>Noted Silver beech (Lophozonia menziesii) can also be considered in the coldest wetter areas. Any beech planting should be dominated by the two NZ genera. Beech through mycorrhizal associations will limit competition from most other NZ species, so keep other species in discrete separate areas.</p> <p>Noted Hoheria species should be confined to the local endemic – Hoheria glabrata. This favours damp gully edges and will be outcompeted in other areas.</p> <p>Noted Pseudopanax ferox could be included in colder/exposed areas.</p> <p>Noted Shrubland species should predominately be small-leaved Coprosma and Olearia.</p> <p>Noted Matagouri favours disturbance and will be rapidly outcompeted by both native and exotic unless areas are continually cleared by fire or heavy grazing.</p> <p>Noted Ozothamnus, Eptecophylla, Melicope, and Melicytus are all niche or slow growing species that can be difficult to propagate and survive post-planting.</p> <p>Noted Tussock planting should only be considered where soils are shallow enough or exposed enough that woody species will fail to colonise.</p>	
46	Callum wood		Neutral	<p>I support the overall direction of the draft management plan for Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve, particularly its emphasis on long-term ecological restoration and sustainable land management. However, I am concerned that the plan does not adequately acknowledge or plan for the existing and highly valued mountain biking (MTB) use of the reserve. Queenstown Hill has been used for many years by locals, visitors, and athletes for recreational mountain biking. While these trails may not be formally sanctioned, data from platforms such as Trailforks' Global Heatmap clearly show high levels of MTB activity. This use aligns with the reserve's purpose under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977, which supports public recreation and enjoyment. The proposed removal of exotic forestry will eliminate all current MTB trail access, yet the draft plan makes no provision for either retaining or reinstating MTB opportunities. This risks ending a long-standing and popular recreational use, which seems inconsistent with both the intent of the Reserves Act and the requirement under Section 41(3) to consider current patterns of public use. I respectfully encourage QLDC to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recognise the existing role of mountain biking as a key component of the reserve's recreational character; •Identify and retain access to critical MTB corridors or routes where feasible within the plan; •Partner with local MTB organisations to develop a formal, sustainable trail network following tree removal; •Ensure the final management plan achieves a balanced outcome that protects ecological values while maintaining diverse recreational access — including for mountain biking. 	<p>Concern that the plan does not adequately acknowledge the existing mountain biking.</p> <p>Noted that the proposed removal of exotic forestry will eliminate all current MTB trail access.</p> <p>Noted the plan makes no provision for either retaining or reinstating MTB opportunities.</p> <p>Suggest QLDC Recognise the existing role of mountain biking as a key component of the reserve's recreational character;</p> <p>Suggest QLDC Identify and retain access to critical MTB corridors or routes where feasible within the plan;</p> <p>Suggest QLDC Partner with local MTB organisations to develop a formal, sustainable trail network following tree removal;</p> <p>Suggest that QLDC ensure the final management plan achieves a balanced outcome that protects ecological values while maintaining diverse recreational access — including for mountain biking.</p>	<p>Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network. Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.</p>
				<p>Queenstown Hill is a rare and valued recreation area in close proximity to the town centre. The MTB network, though informal, is well-regarded for its quality, technical challenge, and accessibility. With thoughtful planning and community collaboration, I believe QLDC has an opportunity to create a management framework that protects both the natural environment and the social and recreational value of this special place. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>		
47	K Netzer		Strongly support	<p>Its working very well on other areas in the basin and will support the biodiversity of this site too. Our natural environment will be lost if we don't act on this soon.</p>	<p>Support improved biodiversity</p>	<p>No changes proposed.</p>


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48	Rebekah Hensman	xtravel	Strongly support	I fully support the proposed Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan, particularly its focus on the urgent removal of wilding conifers to protect the integrity of this iconic landscape. Queenstown Hill is more than a popular walking track—it's a cherished vantage point, a cultural landmark, and a natural taonga that deserves thoughtful stewardship. The unchecked spread of wilding pines threatens not only the ecological balance of the hill itself but also the surrounding Wakatipu Basin, where these invasive trees can quickly overrun native vegetation and alter the landscape for generations. This plan represents a critical step in halting that spread, and I commend QLDC for prioritising the long-term health of the area over short-term convenience. Restoring the area with a diverse mix of native and carefully selected non-invasive exotics will help rebuild resilience in the ecosystem while maintaining the visual beauty and accessibility of the area for locals and visitors alike. I urge QLDC to commit to rigorous monitoring of replanting success and to communicate progress transparently with the community. By investing in this transformation now, we not only protect Queenstown Hill but also take meaningful action to prevent further encroachment of wildings across our wider region.	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest rigorous monitoring of replanting success and to communicate progress transparently with the community.	Proposed amendment - page 33 Next Steps Monitoring will be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration plan, with reviews enabling adjustments based on the monitoring outcomes.
49	Malcolm l'Anson		Strongly support	The plan is comprehensive and convincing. It will end a foreign blight on Queenstown and promote native species.	Don't give high priority to biking trails; they are a costly menace both to the environment and the people using them.	No changes proposed.
50	Nico Negri		Strongly support	Wilding pines are an invasive tree species that are rapidly spreading and should be replaced with native NZ trees.		No changes proposed.
51	Tony Adamson		Support		I think it is important that a belt of trees is maintained above the housing line The trees are an essential part of the look of Queenstown. The planting of Tōtara , Beach trees , and other tall growing trees should be restricted to behind the housing line . We are very keen to NOT have the tall trees planted in that reserve as it will have significant impact on the beautiful vista that we enjoy. The taller trees	Proposed amendment - page 16 - The urban boundary of the reserve will be planted with hardy fast-growing low flammable native trees and shrubs that can establish quickly (such as pittosporum, broadleaf, coprosma, camichaelia, wineberry, five finger and, tutu).
52	Tom McPhail		Strongly support	Wilding conifers have a well documented range off negative effects as outlined in the Draft Plan. This Queenstown Hill project would remove a large wilding seed source in the area, and the replanting of other suitable species would be beneficial for biodiversity values.	Because of the lack of native plants left in the lower parts of the Whakatipu basin, my preference is for native plants. However if some exotic species are to be used great care must be taken so as not to cause a future weed problem.	Support improved biodiversity No changes proposed.
53	Barb Simpson and Neill Simpson		Strongly support	SUBMISSION ON DRAFT TE TAPANUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN Neill and Barb Simpson resident and trustees of Whakatipu Reforestation Trust - private individuals We understand that all feedback will be treated as public information We are pleased that Council are addressing the issue of wilding tree spread in the District and are now looking at Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond. Because until these significant areas of Douglas fir are removed there will be the continuing problem of spread to adjoining areas including the Remarkables and across the lake as well as the continuing cost of removal of spread before they seed. It is heartening to see what is happening on the Coronet forest site, on Mt Dewar at Arrowtown and on a number of private properties in the basin with the replanting with native trees and shrubs. This will all add to the Biodiversity Plan and a "Deafening Dawn Chorus". We agree with the Key objective – to eradicate and replant however we cannot see how it can be replanted as a production forest and also be a permanent mixed species forest.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity. Question page 4 - key objective - how the Reserve can be replanted as a production forest and also a permanent mixed species forest. Suggest trialling an adopt a plot program allowing locals to plant an area and look after areas. Noted natives will come back if there is a seed source near by Suggested groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn	Proposed amendment - Key objective updated to reflect the change. Page 14 - Existing Vegetation - noxious weed species names incorporated in the plan
				In some areas of replanting (particularly the lower areas) it may be worth trialling something similar to the WCG Adopt a Plot allowing locals to plant an area and look after it. These could be native or exotic. Clearing the pines above Sunshine Bay demonstrates that natives will come back quite quickly with the help of birds, if there is a seed source nearby. This is more likely to happen on Ben Lomond that Queenstown Hill. Groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn that would considerably enhance to visual aspect of these lower slopes. There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir and although the probable original cover on these south facing slopes was probably mountain beech with totara and other species mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats, could be trialled. Personally we consider the cleared slopes below Skyline with their rocky bluffs and gullies are far more interesting than the monotonous dark green of the existing Douglas fir forest. Add silver birch and buddleja to the weed free species. Overall we agree with the Draft Plan and look forward to seeing it implemented (or at least started). In the long term we can imagine many lovely walks through native forest and more open glades, perhaps grassy, under the deciduous trees, so perhaps more park-like. When we first walked up Queenstown Hill (1981), it was possible to see down into town most of the way up except for a large patch of Douglas fir below the Basket-of-dreams. Douglas fir was just starting to spread up in to the grassland and native shrubland.		

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54	Neill Simpson		Strongly support	<p>SUBMISSION ON DRAFT TE TAPANUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Neill and Barb Simpson</p> <p>resident and trustees of Whakatipu Reforestation Trust - private individuals</p> <p>We understand that all feedback will be treated as public information</p> <p>We are pleased that Council are addressing the issue of wilding tree spread in the District and are now looking at Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond. Because until these significant areas of Douglas fir are removed there will be the continuing problem of spread to adjoining areas including the Remarkables and across the lake as well as the continuing cost of removal of spread before they seed.</p> <p>It is heartening to see what is happening on the Coronet forest site, on Mt Dewar at Arrowtown and on a number of private properties in the basin with the replanting with native trees and shrubs. This will all add to the Biodiversity Plan and a "Deafening Dawn Chorus".</p> <p>We agree with the Key objective – to eradicate and replant however we cannot see how it can be replanted as a production forest and also be a permanent mixed species forest.</p>	<p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p> <p>Support improved biodiversity.</p> <p>Question how the Reserve can be replanted as a production forest and also a permanent mixed species forest.</p> <p>Suggest trialling an adopt a plot program allowing locals to plant an area and look after areas.</p> <p>Noted natives will come back if there is a seed source near by</p> <p>Suggested groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn</p>	<p>Proposed amendment - Key objective updated to reflect the change.</p> <p>Page 14 - Existing Vegetation - noxious weed species names incorporated in the plan</p>
				<p>In some areas of replanting (particularly the lower areas) it may be worth trialling something similar to the WCG Adopt a Plot allowing locals to plant an area and look after it. These could be native or exotic. Clearing the pines above Sunshine Bay demonstrates that natives will come back quite quickly with the help of birds, if there is a seed source nearby. This is more likely to happen on Ben Lomond than Queenstown Hill. Groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn that would considerably enhance to visual aspect of these lower slopes. There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir and although the probable original cover on these south facing slopes was probably mountain beech with totara and other species mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats, could be trialled. Personally we consider the cleared slopes below Skyline with their rocky bluffs and gullies are far more interesting than the monotonous dark green of the existing Douglas fir forest.</p> <p>Add silver birch and buddleja to the weed free species.</p> <p>Overall we agree with the Draft Plan and look forward to seeing it implemented (or at least started). In the long term we can imagine many lovely walks through native forest and more open glades, perhaps grassy, under the deciduous trees, so perhaps more park-like.</p> <p>When we first walked up Queenstown Hill (1981), it was possible to see down into town most of the way up except for a large patch of Douglas fir below the Basket-of-dreams. Douglas fir was just starting to spread up in to the grassland and native shrubland.</p>		
55	Weiwel Miao	Goldenlake Shore Limited	Strongly oppose	<p>I strongly oppose the proposal to remove these trees. Many of them have been growing on Queenstown Hill for decades, if not over a hundred years. Their roots are deeply integrated into the local ecosystem, and large-scale deforestation of such mature forests could lead to severe and unpredictable consequences, including soil erosion, landslides, and potentially serious impacts on the residential areas below. A similar incident already occurred at Skyline a couple of years ago, and such disasters could happen again—possibly with even greater severity.</p> <p>I propose that anyone who supports this decision must be required to sign a liability agreement, stating that they are personally willing to bear the responsibility for any environmental or economic consequences that may result from the tree removal. Only by doing so can we ensure that this decision is made with full accountability. I oppose any actions taken without responsibility for potential outcomes.</p>	<p>I strongly oppose the proposal to remove these trees. Many of them have been growing on Queenstown Hill for decades, if not over a hundred years. Their roots are deeply integrated into the local ecosystem, and large-scale deforestation of such mature fore</p>	<p>Proposed addition - Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised. Further detail on slash management was added under the new environmental management section, the plan explains how slash will be managed to reduce the risk of it being mobilised</p>
56	James Knapp	Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Strongly support	<p>We strongly support the proposed plan for it's reductive effect on wildfire risk. In particular, we support the managed removal of conifers, provisions for firebreaks and revegetation with lower-flammability indigenous species.</p>	<p>We are happy to continue to work with QLDC on the implementation of the plan, if it is adopted.</p>	<p>Noted support for the removal of conifers to reduce wildfire risk.</p> <p>Noted support provisions for firebreaks and low flammability vegetation</p>
57	Graeme Watson		Strongly support	<p>I fully support the removal of Wilding pines on Queenstown Hill because of spread of Wilding in the Whakatipu basin and the fire risk to Queenstown residents.</p>	<p>The biodiversity threat from Wilding pines in the Whakatipu basin is huge so the need to get rid of big seed sources is urgent.</p>	<p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p>
58	Taryn McDonald		Strongly support	<p>It will be great to see the wilding pines go for the reasons described in the plan - biodiversity, soil quality, seed spread, landscape, and wildfire hazard. I like the staged approach and that thought is going into assessing tree cover and site conditions, stages of harvesting and replacement with new trees.</p>	<p>Would be great if only natives were planted. But fully trust QLDC will make great effort to work with consultants to make informed decisions about planting emphasising a mix of quick growth for erosion protection and then infill. Good luck! Rooting for</p>	<p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p> <p>Support improved biodiversity.</p> <p>Support the staged approach to removal.</p> <p>Support planting natives only</p>
59	Diane Hart		Strongly oppose	<p>Queenstown Hill is one of the few remaining parts of Queenstown that enhances our fast disappearing appearance of an alpine environment. Queenstown Hill as it is now is an important contribution to a greenbelt that is fast being eroded by constant developments and construction.</p> <p>Please do not destroy our once charming little village.</p>	<p>There are far more vitally important issues particularly regarding infrastructure that need to be addressed rather than using our ratepayers money for that which is not necessary</p>	<p>Noted that Queenstown Hill has an alpine appearance and is an important contribution to a greenbelt that is fast being eroded by constant developments and construction.</p>
60	Athol Dixon		Strongly oppose	<p>We wish to maintain the green belt and retain an alpine village environment.</p>		<p>Proposed amendment - page 16 - The urban boundary of the reserve will be planted with hardy fast-growing low flammable native trees and shrubs that can establish quickly (such as pittosporum, broadleaf, coprosma, camichaelia, wineberry, five finger and, tutu).</p>
61	Paula Watson		Strongly support	<p>Fully support the removal of Wilding Trees on Queenstown Hill. They are a fire hazard and a seed source for wilding pines.</p> <p>I live on Queenstown Hill and use the Track most days.</p>	<p>The loss of biodiversity on the Hill over the years is terrible.</p>	<p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p> <p>Support for reducing the fire hazard</p>
62	William Taylor		Strongly support			<p>No changes proposed.</p>

Survey Response					Officer comment	Proposed changes	
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63	Roderick Allan	FPH	Strongly support	Support the intent of the plan with regard to improved vegetation management.	Will there be a confirm access walking path from zone mz6 at Silver Creek connecting with the existing path up to the Basket of Dreams. This will improve access and reduce vehicle use to access the current entrance points for many residents or users.	Suggestion to access walking path from zone mz6 at Silver Creek connecting with the existing path up to the Basket of Dreams	Proposed amendment - Additional policies from the RMP concerning the trail network have been included to provide context on the future direction.
64	TIM PEARE		Neutral	don't remove the mountain bike trails enhance them just remove Douglas fur not clear fell everything similar to skyline		Suggest protecting the mountain bike trails. removing the Douglas fir species	Suggest only Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network. Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.
65	Andrew James Blackford		Neutral	<p>The forestry plan sets the right vision for the future of Queenstown Hill. However it lacks specific controls to ensure perverse and unintended outcomes don't eventuate. It also doesn't go far enough to protect recreational use of the reserve.</p> <p>Removal of wildings must be coupled/shackled to approved funding for native/exotic restoration, rock fall mitigation etc. Typically wilding removal has been undertaken in the district without any plan in place for remediation. The worst result, is the tree's are cut down and then a period of time elapses before planting occurs (due to budget restraints). Morningstar Reserve in Arthurs Point and the Shotover River margins in Arthurs Point are example of this, while successful in terms of wilding removal - there has been no revegetation some 3 years after the trees were removed. This has resulted in an unsightly mess of slash, a reserve no longer that useable for recreation as it was previously and unfortunately, reinfestation by a different species of wilding.</p> <p>The draft plan also doesn't align with community feedback and the subsequent summary released on the Ben Lomond & Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plans - that acknowledge MtB use of the reserve and a community desire to formalise the tracks that exist. Therefore greater protection in the forestry plan should be provided to maintaining these trails and protecting them from damage during harvesting.</p>		<p>Suggested that the plan lacks specific controls to ensure perverse and unintended outcomes don't eventuate.</p> <p>Noted It also doesn't go far enough to protect recreational use of the reserve.</p> <p>Suggested that the removal of wildings should proceed in conjunction with approved funding for native/exotic vegetation restoration and rockfall mitigation measure.</p> <p>Suggested that the plan acknowledge Mountain bike use in the reserve. Suggest plan should maintain and protecting trails from damage during harvesting.</p>	<p>Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network. Detail was added acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised, and therefore will not be protected during harvesting operations. Access to these trails will be restricted during harvesting operations and as a result of the forestry activities the trail network will effectively be removed from the Reserve.</p> <p>Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised. Further detail on slash management was added under the new environmental management section, the plan explains how slash will be managed to reduce the risk of it being mobilised</p> <p>Page 33 under next steps Any tree removals in management zones must be accompanied by a budget that includes provisions for replanting and ongoing maintenance. A detailed plan for regeneration is required for all trees</p>
66	Will Grant		Oppose	<p>The reasons for my opposition to the OT hill deforestation plan is that this small isolated forest is an integral part of Queenstown beauty and appeal as an alpine town. This small forest is a tiny dot of trees now surrounded by the town. I supports a large amount of native birds from the NZ falcon to the Tu's and Bellbirds that we see flock to their homes at night. These trees also do a great job of holding the hills together, this small area of tree actually adds to the areas biodiversity. I think everyone in Queenstown saw the results of the clear felling of our trees on the Skyline hill and subsequent landslides into the town caused by the erosion and slash.</p> <p>We would all love to see some quality native trees planted here, trees like the pinus radiata could be culled out but the conifers do well here and look great. Shown on the Skyline (and lower Coronet Peak areas), there as no been no effort to replant in natives, and the mess of slash left behind makes it impossible to walk through and looks terrible. This has just made room for more invasive species like Broom.</p>	Keep Queenstown beautiful and unique.	<p>Noted the Reserve provides beauty and appeal as an alpine town.</p> <p>Noted that the Reserve supports native birds</p> <p>Noted trees provide stability to the Reserve</p> <p>Support for native planting</p>	Proposed addition -Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised.
67	Kristin Tisdall		Strongly support	I believe that windings pine are a threat to biodiversity in nz and would like to see them removed from queenstown Hill.	It would be great if there were options for recreational improvements in the plan as well, including walking and mountain biking tracks.	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggested options for recreational improvements	Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.
68	H Sedgwick		Strongly oppose				No changes proposed.
69	Jack Cocks	Mt Nicholas Station	Strongly support	<p>I've read the Queenstown Hill draft forestry management plan. I fully support the plan and believe it will be very beneficial to the region.</p> <p>I am a local high-country farmer, farming merino sheep and beef cattle. With my wife we farm Mt Nicholas station on the western shores of Lake Wakatipu and are significant QLDC ratepayers. I am a member of the Wakatipu Wilding Control Group executive committee. I have a B.Com.Ag from Lincoln University and a MS.Ag.Econ. from the University of Illinois. Prior to farming I was a partner in a Dunedin based international agribusiness and science consultancy.</p> <p>Wilding conifers are an incredibly damaging and invasive weed found throughout New Zealand, with a particular presence in the Wakatipu. They have the potential to quickly invade large areas of our region, damaging biodiversity, productive farmland, landscapes, and cultural values. The calculated benefits to costs ratio nationally from controlling wilding conifers is 34:1 (Sapere, 2022). For Otago the benefits to costs have been calculated at 96:1. Where could the country and the region obtain a better return?</p> <p>The argument for controlling wildings is significant and pressing. As mentioned, there is a significant financial return available from controlling wilding conifers. Due to the extensive control work that has been done in New Zealand there are established and successful control methods available and the wilding seed (or cone) has a known spread distance and survival duration. As a farmer who deals with weed control on a regular basis this knowledge is incredibly powerful – it feels like we have a headstart on the weed – we know exactly how to kill it, how it spreads, and how long the seed lasts. There are very few weeds we have this knowledge of.</p>	<p>In summary, congratulations for putting forward this plan. It may appear bold and will involve some short-term negative effects on the landscape. However, long-term it will be hugely beneficial to the cultural, economic, and environmental future of the</p>	<p>Support removing wilding seed source.</p> <p>Noted short term negative effects on Landscape.</p>	No changes proposed.
				There has been significant effort and money invested into controlling wildings since the establishment of the WCG in 2016. I've been told that every year of delayed control adds 30 percent to the future cost of control. There is no time to waste.			

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70	Greg Thompson		Strongly support	Due to the elevated heights of Queenstown Hill and the extensively grazed high country pastures downwind of the prevailing wind it poses a major risk to further spread.	Would hope the Queenstown Station are also invited to be part of this work to remove wildings from their section of the hill that fronts Queenstown Bay	Support removing wilding seed source. Support Queenstown Hill Station removing their trees	
71	Deb Vaughan		Support	There is a vital need for establishment of native plants once the wilding conifers have been removed from Queenstown Hill as outlined extensively in the Queenstown Hill draft plan. This is excellent and I fully support this.	Further down QT hill when walking through the shortcut walkways in the built up housing areas walking down to CBD areas, I have thought how great it would be to have fruit trees apricots, apples to eat on way & ONLY natives as currently many non natives.	Support planting natives	
72	Carolyn Hill		Strongly oppose	<p>I am opposed to the proposed removal of pine trees on Queenstown Hill for several key environmental and practical reasons:</p> <p>1. Carbon Sequestration Pine trees are among the most efficient species for capturing and storing carbon. Removing them would significantly reduce the hill's current capacity to offset emissions, and it will take decades—likely 20 years or more—for native plantings to provide a similar level of carbon capture.</p> <p>2. Maintenance and Cost of Native Regeneration Establishing a native forest is not a passive process. It requires long-term commitment, funding, and intensive maintenance. Seedlings will need regular care and protection from pests and weather. Who will be responsible for this work, and how will it be funded? Given other environmental priorities, this may not be the best use of limited resources.</p> <p>3. Replacement Species and Usability The proposed replanting with native species like Matagouri, tussock, and other scrub may create a landscape that is less accessible and less appealing for recreational users. Historically, much of this region was covered in dense, thorny scrub, which early settlers actively cleared. Returning to that landscape may not align with how the hill is used and enjoyed today.</p> <p>4. Landscape Impact and Erosion Risk Clear-felling the existing trees will leave a highly visible scar on the landscape, particularly on such a prominent slope. The bare ground left behind will be prone to erosion—especially on Queenstown Hill's exposed and weather-affected faces—potentially leading to sediment runoff and degradation of surrounding ecosystems. (Think Skyline fiasco).</p>	<p>All the social media comments on the QLDC posts seems to be overwhelming opposed. Please listen to the feedback you have got and don't just do it anyway - having ticked a box called 'public consultation' which you then ignore.</p>	<p>Noted pine trees are among the most efficient species for capturing and storing carbon.</p> <p>Noted removing the trees will reduce the current capacity to offset emissions.</p> <p>Noted maintaining a native forest requires long-term commitment, funding, and intensive maintenance.</p> <p>Noted concern for how the project will be funded.</p> <p>Noted proposed native planting list may create a landscape that is less accessible and appealing for recreational users.</p> <p>Noted clear-felling the existing trees will leave a highly visible scar on the landscape.</p> <p>Noted after the harvest the land may prone to erosion—leading to sediment runoff and degradation of surrounding ecosystems.</p>	<p>Proposed addition page 33 - Funding constraints: There is no dedicated funding in the current LTP for the restoration plan, but some alignment with existing wildfire mitigation budgets is possible. Future funding may also come from government programmes, co-funding with other organisations, or limited timber offsets. Any tree removals must include clear plans and budgets for replanting and restoration.</p> <p>Environmental Management Plan - A section detailing the environmental planning for the site was added to mitigate operational concerns raised. page 33 Next Steps Monitoring will be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration plan, with reviews enabling adjustments based on the monitoring outcomes.</p> <p>Page 33 under next steps Any tree removals in management zones must be accompanied by a budget that includes provisions for replanting and ongoing maintenance. A detailed plan for regeneration is required for all trees</p>
73	Phillip Newsome		Strongly oppose	<p>5. Wildlife Disruption The current pine forest supports birdlife, providing shelter, sap, and seed sources. Removal would displace these species and reduce habitat diversity unless significant planning and mitigation are undertaken. (Do we plan to blame the cats when we take away bird habitat).</p> <p>6. Pest Control Requirements Successful native regeneration will almost certainly require a full eradication of goats and other browsing pests. This is a large undertaking with high costs and uncertain results.</p> <p>In summary, the removal of pines may create more problems than it solves. If the goal is to improve the environment, we need to ensure any changes truly reduce emissions, enhance biodiversity, and serve the community in the long term. Replacing mature carbon sinks with slow-growing natives, at significant cost and risk, deserves more scrutiny—not just aesthetic preferences or ideology.</p>		Noted current planting enhances the area.	No changes proposed.
74	Simon Williams		Neutral	<p>I am in support of increasing bio diversity especially through native reforestation. There are however a fair few alarm bells ringing for me on this. Knowing our council and the way it works, the timing of this stinks, and it feels so obvious about what the actual reason for this is.</p> <p>My understanding is that the proposed gondola over Queenstown Hill is a fully privately funded affair. Yet here we are, now saying ratepayers are going to clear the land to make way for that Gondola.</p> <p>Right now, we have much bigger issues to solve than clearing trees for a private enterprise, have we learnt nothing from Lakeview?</p> <p>We need to fix the sewage and roading infrastructure. This needs to be priority.</p> <p>In short, I don't believe this is being done for the good of biodiversity, it's yet another rates funded private enterprise which we as ratepayers will see no tangible benefits to our community.</p> <p>You have a lot of trust to build back, and this from my perspective just erodes the trust even further.</p>		<p>Support increasing biodiversity through native reforestation.</p> <p>Concern that the tree clearance is for the proposed gondola over Queenstown Hill.</p>	No changes proposed.
75	Jake John Allen		Strongly oppose	Something that doesn't need to be completed given QLDC current finance position		Noted concern for how the project will be funded.	<p>Proposed addition page 33 - Funding constraints: There is no dedicated funding in the current LTP for the restoration plan, but some alignment with existing wildfire mitigation budgets is possible. Future funding may also come from government programmes, co-funding with other organisations, or limited timber offsets. Any tree removals must include clear plans and budgets for replanting and restoration.</p> <p>Page 33 under next steps Any tree removals in management zones must be accompanied by a budget that includes provisions for replanting and ongoing maintenance. A detailed plan for regeneration is required for all trees.</p>

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76	Dennis Behan		Strongly support	These trees are not native and are adversely affecting our native environment. The only way we are ever going to get on top of the issue is to remove the seed source and Queenstown Hill is a large contributor to the wildings around the basin and need to be removed.	I am hugely supportive of removing invasive pine trees, keep up the great work!	Support removing wilding seed source.
77	Zoe Gapper		Strongly support	It's better to have visible tree stumps than for wilding pines to be able to spread their seed everywhere and make it more difficult to get rid of them.	Being explained well to the public will help gain more support. We could use chatGPT to make a quick animation to explain that if we are patient with the process that ultimately the area will look better with regenerated fauna. This is the long game.	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggestion use GPT chat to create an animation to explain that if we are patient the area will eventually look better with regenerated fauna. Noted this is a long term project.
78	Ella Wilson		Strongly support	I strongly support the draft forestry plan for the following reasons: Get rid of wilding pines which are spreading at an alarming rate. Let sunlight get through to areas currently shaded by the wilding pines. Restore the original aesthetic quality of views using native trees.		Support removing wilding seed source.
79	Peter De La Mare		Strongly support	I like the fact that removing wilding pines is the main priority, and replacing them with native species as much as possible.	The balance between replanting with native species, and replanting exotics for forestry seems OK. Would macrocarpa be suitable as forest tree - or are they spreaders? I thought the existing sycamore and rowan trees look OK to keep?	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest replanting with macrocarpa.
80	Suzanne Rose on behalf of Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG)	Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG)	Strongly support	Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc (WCG) Submission to QLDC Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Management Plan 2025 - 4 July 2025 1Background 1.1WCG was formed by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) in 2009 as a community-led group. 1.2WCG has 469,512 hectares under surveillance in six management units, of which 241,699 hectares of wilding infestations require persistent management in the form of either initial control to remove seed sources or maintenance to contain and reduce the spread. 1.3Queenstown Hill Reserve falls under the WCG Whakatipu Management Unit (MU). 1.4To date, over \$27 million has been invested in Whakatipu Wilding Control 1.5Queenstown is surrounded by Otago's most severe Wilding Conifer infestation, stretching from Wilson Bay to Queenstown Hill and Arthurs Point. This widespread infestation poses a significant threat to the Whakatipu environment, with particularly harmful effects on its immediate fringes of Queenstown Hill and the Ben Lomond 2The negative impacts of wilding conifer species include: 2.1degradation of high value Outstanding Natural Landscapes 2.2the damaging effects of a fast-spreading monoculture on conservation and biodiversity values - (loss of native flora & fauna in ecosystems including species extinction - some unique to Central Otago) 2.3the smothering of historic, cultural, and recreational sites and trails which includes effects on access, views and sunlight. 2.4the effect on tourism values ie. the loss of vast natural vistas, the contrasts between natural light, blue lake and golden tussockland, topographic variation and the detail of rugged gullies – all of which make Queenstown awe-inspiring and unique. 2.5the significant reduction of water yields affecting creeks, wetlands and rivers and in turn outdoor recreation, biodiversity, irrigation and hydro- electric generation. 2.6limiting economic land uses (while increasing the cost and complexity of pasture development as a result of wilding spread) 2.7 an ever-increasing wild-fire hazard in urban and mountainous terrain	 <i>Aerial View of track leading up to the Basket of Dreams, Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill</i>	Noted the wildings on Queenstown Hill effect the surrounding environment. Noted the WCG's substantial effort to establishing containment lines around the wilding trees on Queenstown Hill. Support permanent mixed species forest Noted continue wilding clearance work on Queenstown Hill is not sustainable, solution is to remove the seed source. Noted the wildfire risk on the Reserve. Page 4 Key Objective – question the use of the term 'production forest' – suggest amendment
					 <i>Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill, closed canopy with little light & no diversity, the reserve today and the rest of the hill tomorrow without action.</i>	
				3The damage from wilding conifer spread is now well-documented 3.1The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Report "Space Invaders" "Farmers are losing grazing land to wilding conifers, homeowners are losing houses (following conifer-fuelled wildfires), conservators are losing habitat, and water yield in some catchments is being reduced" 3.2Cost Benefit Analysis Reports: The National benefit-to-cost ratio is 34-1 (prepared in 2022 for MPI on behalf of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme). The Otago benefit-to-cost ratio shows a massive 96-1, leaving no room for doubt about the seriousness of the wilding issue. (Prepared in 2023 for the Otago Regional Council). 3.3QLDC was the leader of and continues to be ahead of the rest of the country in recognising the threat that wilding pines pose, it is also unique in that it has had rules in place since 2006, prohibiting the planting of wilding species, (unless the NES-CF prevails), due to the negative effects on the environment.	 <i>Sign at entrance to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk</i>	

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				<p>4.Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Management Plan 2025 feedback:</p> <p>4.1WCG support the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Plan 2025 and the transition into a permanent mixed species forest along the edge of Queenstown. This major wilding conifer infestation currently acts as a wind-blown seed source where seed continually rains onto neighbouring areas which have been cleared multiple times on adjacent land and throughout the wider landscape. This level of repeat work is not sustainable.</p> <p>4.2Landowners who have and continue to invest heavily in wilding control are becoming less tolerant with neighbouring landowners who are exacerbators of the problem.</p> <p>4.3Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill is identified as a high priority site for wilding control in the WCG Strategy as it is a high elevation, windy take off point.</p> <p>4.4The adjoining landowner, Queenstown Hill Station, have expressed their support for removal. They have been consistently dealing with the spread from this wilding forest over many years and have expressed they do not wish to continue investing in maintenance when there is a better solution, which is to remove the seed source. Even after removal, there will be residual seed in the ground for a number of years</p> <p>In summary, WCG support Option 1- Proposal to Adopt the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025.</p> <p>If this option is adopted by this Council, it will create a lasting legacy that future generations benefit from. As they look back, they won't be asking, as we do now – "Why didn't they do something when it was achievable and cost effective". If this project is left to future generations, then it very well may be unachievable and too cost prohibitive. This is an opportunity to embrace an achievable vision and help create a lasting legacy that our present and future community can all be proud of.</p>	 <p>Plaque on the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Timewalk</p>		
				<p>https://pcc.parliament.nz/publications/letter-to-minister-oconnor-about-the-future-of-the-national-wilding-conifer-control-programme/</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r_6G37ZAdJ2a2c_d7TCpugo5J7PCV0X1Rb/view</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uZFYeF_hlMG0lm756GWLd4dBFZRRUDaQ/view</p>			
81	Rob Hopkins		Strongly support	I strongly oppose retaining the existing pines in Queenstown hill.		Support removing wilding seed source.	No changes proposed.
82	Scott Bartley		Strongly support	The restoration of original forestation and vegetation should be a priority around the basin. Biodiversity should be encouraged. As it stands, walking through the pine forest is a dark, dead, uninviting environment. Restoring the land to it's original state can only benefit all activities in the area, including improving the views and overall experience while walking the trail that runs through it.	I fully support the wilding pine control programme, in fact, I would like to see it expanded and expedited.	Support removing wilding seed source. Improved biodiversity in the area	No changes proposed.
83	Alice Behan		Strongly support	<p>I strongly support felling the wilding conifer forest on Queenstown Hill. This plan represents a bold and forward thinking move for QLDC, proving their commitment to protecting and enhancing Queenstown's biodiversity assets and tourism appeal. I work for DOC as a project administrator for the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, but this is a personal submission.</p> <p>Removing this seed source will have a significant impact on wilding spread around the district. Seeds can travel many kilometres in the wind, so there will be long term, positive impacts from this removal including the eventual reduction of ongoing wilding control costs.</p> <p>I regularly walk and run the Time Walk Trail. I am very excited about the prospect of walking this trail in the future when I will be surrounded by native and/or non-spreading exotics rather than wilding conifers. The existing vegetation gives a "dead" feel to the trail - it is dark, everything feels grey and silent under the canopy. Restoring biodiversity to the area will bring back birdlife and give colour and vibrancy to the trail. I also support any efforts to reduce wildfire risk to the community. As the Council will be well aware, a wildfire in a conifer forest could have devastating consequences for the surrounding neighbourhoods and communities. Any steps taken to reduce this risk is positive.</p> <p>The removal of the Coronet Forest and the start of the associated replanting programme has been very successful and shows these projects can be well run by QLDC and supported by the community. The removal of the Queenstown Hill forest is an exciting next step and I look forward to one day in the future where there are no wilding forests above Queenstown.</p>		Support removing wilding seed source. Noted a positive impact of tree removal is the reduction of future wilding control costs. Support reducing wildfire risk	No changes proposed.
84	kelvin middleton	Queenstown Hill Farm	Strongly support	<p>I agree that the invasive trees that are destroying the natural biodiversity with in the reserve need to be removed. There is no time like the present.</p> <p>The wilding trees are a constant seed source that is affecting private land so consideration needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>The government have recently passed a new legislation requiring all trees to be removed from a larger distance to power lines.</p> <p>To aide transport removal of the logs so that least effect occurs to house owners in the 'commange' areas, let alone the already restricted roading network, then the QLDC should investigate other avenues ie Queenstown Hill as an exit option.</p> <p>Possibly the best option is a new track line that follows the powerlines towards the Silver Creek development.</p> <p>If the QLDC were future proofing then they would also investigate this option for roading in the future for the town.</p> <p>I also believe a clear definition of boundaries needs to occur so that the private land isn't incorporated into the reserve that has now happened. Currently there is excessive use of private land for walkways and bike trails. a fence would reduce the confusion. Major concern is the replanting as I also believe that if not fenced of the reserve will be infested with goats as that is already the case. Therefore large amount of money spent on planting natives etc will be wasted.</p>	The removal of trees would allow the landscape to return to what it originally was. It has been negatively impacted by the spread of Wilding Trees. Its the time to show what a natural landscape can be rather than the alpine outlook people think is normal	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity in the area. Noted that the alpine look is not the natural landscape Suggested consider investigating harvesting access options on neighbouring properties. Consider future roading to town within the reserve Suggestion a clear definition of boundaries so the public understand where private land parcels. Fencing may be required. Concern about pests such as goats damaging new native vegetation	Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.

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85	Sarah Broad		Strongly support	Wilding tree species must be removed from Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill. They are invasive introduced species which inhibit / prevent our indigenous biodiversity. I urge the Council to focus on the elimination of existing wilding conifers. 'Control' becomes a mission in perpetuity, whereas elimination and eradication are more effective in the medium to long term. Seed source trees should be a particular priority, to ensure gains can be secured. I also encourage the Council to work with the owners of private land with wilding tree species, to encourage them to agree to the removal of wilding trees, again prioritising seed source trees.	Any short-term inconvenience to recreational access should not impede the removal of wilding trees and pest animals, nor the restoration of the reserve. The longer term benefits of an ecologically sustainable approach will be inter-generational..	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest working with neighbouring landowners to remove seed sources on their properties No changes proposed.
86	Alison Broad		Strongly support	Wilding plant species are an increasing threat to the biodiversity and landscape values of New Zealand in general, and the southern half of the South Island in particular. I strongly support the proposed approach by QLDC, to remove wilding conifers from Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve. It will enable ecological restoration of the reserve. It will prevent the spread of invasive wilding trees across the iconic landscapes of the Whakatipu and beyond. It is a very welcome, if overdue, initiative to address a significant environmental and landscape issues. I believe, however, that the focus should be on eradication and elimination, rather than 'control'. Our family has been long-time advocates and supporters of wilding conifer removal, especially Douglas fir, from the Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond reserves. We have been hand-pulling Douglas fir seedlings for decades, but sadly have watched these trees take over more and more of our landscapes and trails. Without a significant workplan the problem becomes larger-scale with every passing year. I strongly urge the QLDC to take this opportunity to undertake this forestry plan as a significant and effective response to address this problem.	The many benefits of eradication of wilding conifers from the reserve are compelling, especially biodiversity, landscape, ecological, and water values. I urge the adoption of this plan.	Support removing wilding seed source. No changes proposed.
87	Will McBeth		Strongly support	I strongly support the clearance of Wilding conifers from Queenstown hill and see it as a critical step that the Queenstown lakes need to take in order to make actual effective changes to the pressures from Wilding conifer spread. The costs of Wilding conifer control are large but are tiny in comparison to the cost of what would be lost if we cannot keep up the fight. Removal of this significant Wilding conifer seed source will go a long way toward protection of the district and help give relief to affected neighbors		Support removing wilding seed source. No changes proposed.
88	Marian Krogh	Protect Our Winters NZ	Support	It's a well thought out plan, using expert advice to help. It's great that there are plans to incorporate more recreational trails in the future for walking, running, or biking. POW's members are outdoor enthusiasts. Accessible trails, close to where people live are really important to our members. There needs to be planning included so that residents and visitors will be easily able to take the bus, walk or bike to the reserve also, not just within it. It shouldn't be planned so that the only access is by private car. We support the use of the area for climbing, and recommend the Queenstown climbing club be consulted, and likewise the mountain bike club for their thoughts on the best way to develop mountain bike trails in the future.	It's not clear why there has been some exotic species chosen. It's been 'carefully selected' but why? Why is it not possible for there to be 100% native plants? From POW's point of view it is essential that all re-planting be done within 4 years.	Support the inclusion of future recreational trails for walking, running, or biking. Support climbing as a recreational activity in the Reserve Recommended consulting with Climbing club and Mountain Bike club on future trail and access development. Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.
89	Sue Rose		Strongly support	For nearly 30 years, I've been alarmed to watch the growing infestations of wilding pines around Queenstown, displacing native species and advancing further and further into our unique environment. The restoration of this reserve is a fantastic, realistic vision to build on other wilding pine council initiatives over the years. It will be a nationally significant project for our community to take pride in.		Support removing wilding seed source. No changes proposed.
90	Peter Willisman		Strongly support	1.Restoration of Queenstown Hill. Amid the discussions and plans for Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan the main focus should be on the recognition and promotion of a restored "Hill". To remove the untidy wildings has all the potential to highlight Queenstown Hill as an iconic geological feature. Housing will inevitably creep up to the Hill's boundaries. A definitive sharp relief of native trees and shrubs topped out by restored tussock land will be unique to Queenstown and stand out as uniquely different to the Remarkables. 2. Council and Community positively affirm the Hill Plan Council and staff are often seen as negative enforcers of rules and permissions. Removing Wildings and replacing with native trees is a positive decision carefully thought through and undoubtedly debated. Council is vested with the potential to make a daring decision to mark out a significant Hill. This project is a significant example for Council, through the staff, to open the Hill to more than the present "a walk up through the trees". The Hill, as a Queenstown feature with offering multiple recreational opportunities gifts future residents and visitors with significant choices. 3.Fire danger. The inevitable result of leaving the wildings will be safety fire breaks through the present forest. Control tracks will leave an ugly forest. 4.Wilding spread from the S.W. winds scatter seed over the basin. Climate change is accelerating seed germination and rapid growth to wildings. 5.Widening the recreational use of the Hill. The present use is basically limited to walkers and the keener bikies, rock climbers. Restored natives offer a unique appreciation of diversity.		Suggest that the main focus should be the recognition and promotion of a restored Reserve with the potential to highlight Queenstown Hill as an iconic geological feature. Support removing wilding seed source. Support reducing wildfire risk Support for widening the recreational use of the Reserve (new recreational opportunities). Suggest working with neighbouring landowners to remove seed sources on their properties Suggest remove the trees in one operation rather than staging the removal Proposed addition - Proposed addition page 12 - Policies in the RMP support working with the key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan that formalises the trail network.

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				<p>6.Wildings and the Panarama of Queenstown Hill Station.</p> <p>While ownership of the station is in private hands the removal and future control of wildings has important ramifications both to the present and future visual iconic view of the Hill. The present increasing spread of wildings on the Hill pours a heavy flow of seed over the Station. Cash in now on the goodwill and cooperation of the Middleton's and clear the wildings asap.</p> <p>7.Staged Development.</p> <p>WCG along with the present Station owners fight, along with WCG, a non winnable battle attempting, and presently going backwards by pouring finance into a poor strategy. Remove the forest in one rather than in bigger blocks and the battle can be quickly won.</p>			
91	Helen McPhail		Strongly support	<p>Key Objective. (Page 4) - The wilding tree species need to be removed from Queenstown Hill. The reasons are clearly given in the Key Objective of the plan. I would prefer first bullet point to read "Eliminate existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation." The Key Objective currently uses the words "Control existing wilding..."</p> <p>Existing Vegetation. (Page 12) - The existing wilding vegetation does not support our indigenous flora or fauna. It out competes our native species. Merely controlling existing wilding conifers means there could still be seed source trees.</p> <p>The invading sycamore, rowan, hawthorn, broom and other weed trees (barberry, holly, buddleia etc) will hinder the establishment of new plantings</p> <p>The existing trees undermines the millions of dollars already spent in controlling wilding trees.</p> <p>Landscape. (Page 15) - "Leaving the existing lower risk wilding species in place..." runs a high risk of them becoming rampant once the larger conifers have been removed and thus will out- compete any new planted species when it happens. Ideally planting would be at the time, but in reality this might not occur for 12 months. It would be more economic and certain to clear all vegetation while staff and machinery are on site.</p> <p>I strongly support re-grassing of the slopes as soon as possible after felling of the wildings and weeds.</p> <p>MZ1 (Page 17) -0 Leave other (non-wilding) vegetation stanching until resource is available to clear it. Restoration to achieve a native species-dominated canopy can be undertaken at a later date. Presumably "non wilding" includes sycamore, hawthorne et al. See my comment above under landscape.</p>	<p>∴ Patch planting across the site or planUng in clusters with other non-invasive exotic tree species such as elm, oak and as! may also be desirable to provide a more diverse aesthetic for MZ4 than the monoculture appearance provided by the current conifer- dominated forest. I support the last bullet point that community groups may assist with maintaining sites. It is a nice idea but volunteers are already spread thin with so many other worthy projects such as trapping, planting, wildings in other areas that it may not be able to be relied on.</p> <p>MZ5 – Agree</p> <p>MZ6 – Support most of this, especially the restoration of "the upper half above the power line corridor to create a subalpine grassland ..."</p> <p>But disagree with the sequoia dominated exotic forest. See my comments in MZ4 above.</p> <p>Pest Animal Management – Agree</p> <p>Fire Hazard Mitigation. Agree – Grassland is a lower intensity and heat fire Recreational Experience – It will alter the experience of the trail which is now walking up through a dark, silent, almost spooky forest with few vistas. After a few years of eyecore from the results of harvest/ tree removal, the trail will once again be the jewel in the Queenstown walking trails crown. Views all around will be immediate, and eventually birds and native plants will dominate. We only need to look at the grassy slope under the Skyline gondola to realize how quickly nature will cover a vegetation void. Please don't let the new Recreation reserve be dominated by Mountain bike tracks.</p> <p>They dominate many other areas in the Queenstown Basin.</p> <p>Impact on neighbouring properties</p> <p>The shading from the current D Fir trees is real, and to replant with sequoia would be repeating a problem.</p>	<p>Page 5 – suggest - replace first bullet point with</p> <p>Eliminate existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation</p> <p>Page 12 – Noted that the existing vegetation does not support indigenous flora and fauna.</p> <p>Page 15 – Support removing all wilding species at the same time.</p> <p>Strongly support regressing the reserve as soon as possible after the felling of trees.</p> <p>Page 17 – Support removing all wilding species at the same time.</p> <p>Concerned that clearance and follow up maintenance or work will be constrained by future budgets.</p> <p>Suggest add timeframe for the Maintenance period (3 to 5 years) as stated in other management zones.</p> <p>Support MZ2 & MZ3</p> <p>Page 21 – MZ4 – noted that some native species grow just as fast as exotic species. Suggested amendment Examples are beech, ribbonwood, & manuka.</p> <p>Disagree with the planting of Sequoia as in 80 years time the Sequoia will tower over the forest.</p>	<p>Proposed amendment – the plan has been updated to incorporate the recommended species changes.</p> <p>Page 25, 29, 39 - planting of sequoia has been removed from the plan.</p> <p>The plan now emphasises that native species will be preferred where appropriate, and more detail was added explaining why exotic trees are to be planted at the site. Exotic species will be selected only when there is a clear benefit to the Reserve, such as helping natives establish by reducing wind and sun exposure, and suppressing competition from other invasive species.</p> <p>Key objective updated to reflect the change.</p>
				<p>I also note with some concern the second last bullet point in MZ1 that the weed clearance and follow up work will be influenced by the annual budget. Another reason to remove all weed species at the same time.</p> <p>►Ongoing maintenance after the initial clearance, which would comprise regular monitoring and follow-up treatments (e.g., spot spyming or manual removal) will help prevent regrowth. There is no time frame given for this. Follow up will need to be undertaken for 3 to 5 years as noted in other parts of this document.</p> <p>I strongly agree with the hardy fast growing species listed bullet point 7</p> <p>MZ2 - Agree</p> <p>MZ3 - Agree</p> <p>MZ4</p> <p>Agree to first 8 bullet points</p> <p>Bullet Point 9 J. - "A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be undertaken (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list). Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in turn will minimise the "window of vulnerability" for erosion and land instability.</p> <p>I understand the rational for this paragraph, but some native species grow much more quickly than often acknowledged. Examples are beech, ribbonwood, & manuka. 5-> Restoring this zone with, a sequoia-dominated exotic forest will ensure that much of this aesthetic is retained.</p> <p>A sequoia dominated exotic forest would seem to be a strange thing to add to the plantings. I disagree with this specie planted here. It will be an anomaly amongst the shapes of the native beech, ribbonwoods and other exotics listed in the next bullet point. In 80 years time there will be the spires of sequoia towering over the other forest. This will cast a very long shade zone over plantings beside and below and hinder other plants with their acidic litter on the ground. They are not a natural home for our insects, reptiles and birds.</p>	<p>Concerns about privacy may also be real, but a 30 metre tree is not about privacy. Privacy can be addressed by fencing, or a tall hedge which will not affect other neighbours.</p> <p>Appendix 3 1. Native trees species. -Suggest change Podocarpus totara to Podocarpus laetus. Leptospermum Mscoparium to L. scoparium</p> <p>Leptospermum (manuka) is highly flammable and is not recommended near dwellings or services. Hoheria glabrata is the local one, not H lyallii. Add Fuscospora fusca to the list. It will grow well in the places where sycamore and similar trees are currently growing- good soil pockets.</p> <p>2. Grey shrublands. - Hoheria and Melicope simplex are listed here. They are more of the tree species above. 3. Non invasive species -Please remove Eucalyptus. They can spread readily (see in the Kaurau bridge revegetation area, and Bob's Cove) but worst of all they are very flammable trees. They do not provide autumn colour.</p> <p>Abies species listed are evergreen so they will add nothing to the colour mix and have the potential to spread. Acer (maples) including Sycamore give lovely autumn colours but do spread. Populus species should not be planted there even if they are sterile. The "cotton" affects people with allergies; the trees grow very large and tend to have large branches suddenly breaking off. They multiply readily through suckering/ root runners.</p> <p>Sequoia do not belong there among native pockets, and other exotics planted for amenity reasons. Their height alone means they will not look part of the landscape. They are a beautiful specimen tree, not part of a mixed forest.</p> <p>Fraxinus species (ash) are not listed but mentioned in the text. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this plan and I am looking forward to the day the last weed tree has been removed, and Queenstown Hill is once again a haven for all</p>	<p>Noted that volunteers are already thinly spread with so many project in the district.</p> <p>Support - MZ5</p> <p>Page 24 - MZ6 disagree with Sequoia</p> <p>Support Pest management and fire mitigation</p> <p>Concern about the Reserve being dominated by Bike tracks in the future.</p> <p>Noted that current trees shade urban areas, Noted sequoia would add to this issue</p> <p>Suggest privacy could be addressed by fencing or planting a tall hedge.</p> <p>Suggested Native tree changes – Podocarpus totara to Podocarpus laetus. Leptospermum Mscoparium to L. scoparium</p> <p>Leptospermum (manuka) is highly flammable and is not recommended near dwellings or services.</p> <p>Hoheria glabrata is the local one, not H lyallii.</p> <p>Add Fuscospora fusca to the list.</p> <p>Suggested add grey shrubland species Hoheria and Melicope simplex to tree species list</p> <p>Suggested changes to non invasive species –</p> <p>Suggest remove eucalyptus due to its invasive potential</p> <p>Noted Abies are evergreen will not add colour, have potential to spread.</p> <p>Acer (maples) including Sycamore give lovely autumn colours but spread.</p> <p>void planting popular species that produce cotton, as it can trigger allergies</p> <p>Suggest remove sequoia due to height</p> <p>Noted Fraxinus species (ash) are not listed but mentioned in the text.</p>	
92	Sararose Brown	Whakatapu Reforestation Trust	Strongly support	<p>We agree with the key objective as seen in the Statement of Proposal (Page 7)</p> <p>► QLDC will fell and eradicate all wilding tree species on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. The Reserve will not be replanted as a production forest, with the new cover forming a permanent mixed species forest.</p> <p>(We note a difference in the wording in the key objective as seen in the Draft Management Plan - Page 4 'will be replanted as a production forest').</p> <p>8. We are pleased that QLDC are now looking to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill as a further step to eradicate wilding conifers in the district. Given the location, we see this as a strategic area for native regeneration and an opportunity to increase the biodiversity of native flora and fauna in this area. At 109 hectares the reserve is of a size to sustain native birds, especially larger species such as kereru, if the food and nesting opportunities are provided.</p> <p>We see this as a tremendous opportunity to provide a significant island of habitat as a stepping stone for birds to return in higher numbers to the basin as a whole. As a large wilderness area on the boundary of town, this would be a positive step towards achieving a "dawning dawn chorus" for residents as outlined in the new Climate and Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>The inclusion of exotic trees in this plan does not limit this opportunity as long as the species and mix strikes the right balance.</p> <p>Specific comments on Management Zones MZ1 21.7 Ha, MZ2 7 Ha, MZ3 7.6 Ha, MZ5 2.2 Ha. Predominantly native, Total = 38.5 Ha</p>		<p>Page 4 - Suggest updating key objective to reflect the statement of proposal – "will not be replanted as a production forest".</p> <p>Noted opportunity to provide significant island habitat to native birds.</p> <p>Noted that the inclusion of exotic trees does not limit biodiversity as long as the species and mix strike the right balance.</p> <p>Noted support for zones that include natives species (MZ1, MZ2, MZ3, MZ5), WRT could contribute toward appropriate native plant lists</p> <p>Suggest change MZ4 and MZ6 – many natives achieve canopy cover quicker than acknowledged.</p>	<p>Proposed amendment – the plan has been updated to incorporate the recommended species changes.</p> <p>The plan now emphasises that native species will be preferred where appropriate, and more detail was added explaining why exotic trees are to be planted at the site. Exotic species will be selected only when there is a clear benefit to the Reserve, such as helping natives establish by reducing wind and sun exposure, and suppressing competition from other invasive species.</p>

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			<p>> This zone will be planted with hardy fast-growing low flammable native trees and shrubs that can establish quickly (such as pittosporum, broadleaf, coprosma, carrichaella, wineberry, five finger, tutu). An intensive programme of planting over many years will eventually convert the dominant canopy cover in these areas to native species, and the result will provide a fringe along the lower slopes of the site that is contiguous with the dominant vegetation type in the gullies</p> <p>WRT are happy to contribute toward appropriate native plant lists for management zones if desired at a later date when more specific planning is underway.</p> <p>MZ4: 47.1 Ha and MZ 6 19.7Ha: Exotic/Native Mix = 66.8 Hectares</p> <p>> Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in turn will minimise the "window of vulnerability" for erosion and land instability.</p> <p>In terms of land instability, we would make the comment that many natives achieve canopy cover quicker than acknowledged and planting of a fast growing native under story amongst taller growing natives can achieve land stability quickly while allowing for taller canopy to be established in time.</p> <p>> Restoring this zone with a sequoia-dominated exotic forest will ensure that much of this aesthetic is retained.</p> <p>We would query the value in retaining the existing conifer dominant aesthetic at all.</p> <p>When looking ahead 100 years, sequoia will tower over all other species and reduce the survival of native understorey plantings.</p> <p>We feel other non-invasive exotics would be a better mix. E.g Quercus and Fraxinus species planted in swathes to provide autumn colour and a park-like setting surrounded by the green of native regeneration.</p> <p>Page 28 Other Considerations:</p> <p>Pest Management (Pg 27)</p> <p>> There is a significant feral goat population at the site and these goats have adapted to human presence. It would only take a small number of goats to decimate an area of planted seedlings and so the importance of goat control cannot be understated.</p>		<p>Query the value of retaining the existing conifer aesthetic by planting Sequoia. Suggest Quercus and Fraxinus species planted in swathes to provide autumn colour</p> <p>Page 28 – Strongly support a pest program.</p> <p>Support improved biodiversity</p> <p>Noted original cover on these south facing slopes was probably predominantly mountain beech, with totara, kowhai and possibly even southern rata (which would provide patches of colour and nectar).</p> <p>Suggest that planting patches of manuka is trialled in the Reserve.</p> <p>Suggest planting natives only.</p> <p>•Consider suggested changes: Suggest removal of eucalyptus due to flammability, tendency to spread.</p> <p>•Sequoia - as stated above, we would suggest removing this species.</p> <p>•Suggest removal/limitation on Acer/Abies/Poplar</p> <p>•Suggest the non-invasive deciduous exotics on the list are preferable.</p> <p>•Species which have been proven to be successful in Arrowtown Wilding Strategy(2018) would be most beneficial. Suggest Weed Species List includes silver birch, buddleia, hawthorn, rowan, cotoneaster, sycamore</p>	
			<p>We strongly agree with this point and have observed decimation of native plantings by goats adjacent to housing as well as deer venturing surprisingly close.</p> <p>Biodiversity (Pg 28):</p> <p>> The plan will enhance biodiversity within the Reserve. By replacing wilding conifers with native and carefully selected non-invasive species, the Reserve will see improved flora and fauna diversity, contributing to the overall ecological health of the area.</p> <p>We strongly agree with this point as being the key opportunity of this plan.</p> <p>Appendix 3: Restoration Species List and Exotic Species List:</p> <p>Due to this being a high level plan, we acknowledge there is likely much more detail to come on plant species and the % of exotics to natives as more specific management planning ensues.</p> <p>The original cover on these south facing slopes was probably predominantly mountain beech, with totara, kowhai and possibly even southern rata (which would provide patches of colour and nectar). Other species as stated in the plan are mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites.</p> <p>There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir. Patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats), could be trialled on Queenstown Hill.</p>			
			<p>From the detail provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MZs 1,2,3,5 comprises around 38 Ha of areas to be planted in native • MZs 4 and 6 comprise 66.8 Ha of exotic/native mixed forest with 'sequoia dominated exotic forest' stated as a possibility. <p>> WRT can appreciate the desired benefit of groups of exotic, deciduous trees that would add swathes of colour during autumn to enhance the visual aspect of the lower slopes.</p> <p>However it is suggested that 'on the whole' planting on Te Tapunui Queenstown hill is indigenous native revegetation with appropriate species to provide habitat for native flora and fauna. The replanting of Te Tapunui gives a singular opportunity to create an island of biodiversity close to town and in a location, which will add to the other significant islands of native vegetation currently being created at the likes of Mt Dewar, Coronet Forest, Arrowtown hills/Arrow River and across the WRT Keystone sites.</p> <p>Exotic Species List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Suggest removal of eucalyptus due to flammability, tendency to spread. •Sequoia - as stated above, we would suggest removing this species. •Suggest removal/limitation on Acer/Abies/Poplar •Suggest the non-invasive deciduous exotics on the list are preferable. •Species which have been proven to be successful in Arrowtown Wilding Strategy(2018) would be most beneficial. <p>Weed Species List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Suggest this includes silver birch, buddleia, hawthorn, rowan, cotoneaster, sycamore <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this draft plan, which we agree with overall. The implementation of this plan could be another significant step to show the "ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership" that has clearly been demonstrated by QLDC at Coronet Forest. We look forward to seeing the wonderful results for both the community and the local environment.</p>			