

**Full Council**

**7 May 2026**

**Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [3]**

**Department: Community Services**

**Title | Taitara: Approval of the Blue Green Network Plan 2026**

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

---

The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider adopting the Blue Green Network Plan 2026.

**Recommendation | Kā Tūtohu**

---

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Adopt** the Blue Green Network Plan 2026.

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Jeannie Galavazi  
**Title:** Principal Parks and  
Reserves Planner  
9 April 2026

**Reviewed and endorsed  
by:**



**Name:** Dave Winterburn  
**Title:** Parks Manager  
13 April 2026

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Kenneth Bailey  
**Title:** General Manager  
Community Services  
16 April 2026

## Context | Horopaki

---

1. The Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan (QLSP) was adopted by Full Council on 29 July 2021. The QLSP is a vision framework for the next 30+ years for how and where the communities of the wider Whakatipu and the Upper Clutha areas can grow and develop.
2. The QLSP was developed through the Grow Well Whaiora Partnership that includes Kāi Tahu and Otago Regional Council, and the Crown.
3. To deliver the QLSP, a series of 'Priority Initiatives' were identified. The QLSP 'Priority Initiative 15' requires the development of Open Space Network Plans to deliver the Blue Green Network, which is of particular importance to Kāi Tahu. Other Priority Initiatives already delivered by the Grow Well Whaiora Partnership are the Destination Management Plan (Priority Initiative 11) and the Economic Diversification Plan (Priority Initiative 18).
4. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) commenced work on the Draft Blue Green Network Plan (BGN Plan) in 2023.
5. The Blue Green Network (BGN) is the grouping of all the Queenstown Lakes District's parks, open spaces, connections, and accessible waterways that deliver a variety of educational, recreational, ecological, cultural, landscape and health benefits. The Blue Network encompasses the water catchments from the mountains to the lakes and beyond, and all the waterways in between. The Green Network is the open space land and vegetation patterns across the landscape. The Green Network also encompasses the community network which includes the parks and open spaces, tracks and trails and civic spaces.
6. The BGN Plan defines the Queenstown Lakes District's Blue Green Network which provides a strategic, long-term framework. It sets out principles that are aligned with Kāi Tahu values and identifies opportunities for protecting and integrating the BGN into the planning and development of the district's urban areas and settlements. It emphasises the importance of preserving vital water systems (i.e. 'blue' elements) alongside land-based ecosystems and open spaces (i.e. 'green' elements), particularly as the district faces development intensification and climate change.
7. The BGN Plan is designed to be overlain with other QLDC plans and strategies such as Active Travel Plans, the Climate and Biodiversity Plan and Stormwater Catchment Management Plans as well as Otago Regional Council Strategies such as the Pest Plan and Biodiversity Strategy. The BGN Geographic Information System (GIS) layer is designed to be used in conjunction with other GIS layers.
8. The QLSP identifies several priority development areas and settlements across the Whakatipu and Upper Clutha Basins, where future urban change and growth is more expected. These areas are the primary focus of the BGN Plan to integrate the Blue Green Network within urban development.

9. The BGN Plan is a more proactive approach to enhancing the BGN. As land and/or development opportunities arise, it allows communities and developers to see how an area or particular landholding could positively contribute to the Blue Green Network. It will help minimise fragmentation of ecosystems, proactively identify space for water/stormwater systems, improve community well-being, enhance biodiversity, strengthen cultural connections to place, increase community resilience and provide for recreation, sport and social opportunities.
10. The BGN Plan was prepared in partnership with Kāi Tahu. A Kāi Tahu report (A Kāi Tahu Blue Green Network Ki Uta Ki Tai, August 2024) was commissioned by QLDC to provide recommendations with associated guidance and interim methods to support continued collaboration between QLDC and Kāi Tahu beyond the life of this project. The report also identified a series of Kāi Tahu outcomes and expectations to assist with the delivery of a Kāi Tahu BGN.
11. The BGN Plan is an important mechanism to inform future generations of the QLDC Spatial Plan and associated strategies and structure plans. It aims to respond to the anticipated growth, ensuring the community has access to a range of recreational, social, economic, cultural and environmental experiences. It will also be an important tool to determine and prioritise spending on parks, biodiversity, open space and social infrastructure. Establishing a connected open space network needs to be planned for in the initial stages of new developments, as well as taking opportunities to add, retrofit and improve links with the existing network wherever possible.
12. The BGN does not require a formal Special Consultative Procedure under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, but as a key strategic document for QLDC a public engagement and feedback process was undertaken.
13. Development of the BGN Plan has been done in consultation with partners, key stakeholders and has been presented to the Upper Clutha Community Board, Community and Services Committee and Full Council at workshops. It has also been presented to the Grow Well Whaiora Steering Group.
14. On 22 September 2025, the Draft BGN Plan was released for public feedback. The public feedback period closed on 12 December 2025.

#### **Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu**

---

#### **FEEDBACK RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT BGN PLAN**

15. There were 52 submissions in total. 44 survey responses were received through QLDC's Let's Talk Website. Eight written submissions were received.
16. Attachment A is a table comprising all survey responses and Attachment B contains the full written submissions.

17. An engagement summary of all feedback has been uploaded onto QLDC's Let's Talk Page here: [Blue Green Network Plan | Let's Talk Queenstown Lakes District Council](#).
18. Feedback on the overall structure and content of the BGN Plan was overwhelmingly positive from submitters, with many submitters expressing a desire for more elements of the plan to be protected or enhanced and the scope to be widened.
19. Key themes that were identified in survey responses and submissions were:

#### IN SUPPORT

- The plan is important for residents' and communities' well-being and the environment.
- The principles of the plan are appropriate.
- The Blue Green Network is important for community well-being and residents' health.
- Protection of the Blue Green Network is important for waterways, biodiversity, and climate change resilience.
- The plan will be a useful tool for communities to plan for projects.
- Connectivity is important for communities and needs to be enhanced.

#### GAPS

- Further protection for waterways is required.
- Better mapping of waterways and stormwater pathways is required.
- More parks and connections especially in new residential areas.
- The Blue Green Network should address food resilience.
- Food production areas should be identified and protected.
- The BGN Plan shouldn't increase regulation on freshwater or private land.
- Provision needs to be made for horses.

#### CHANGES SOUGHT

- The BGN Plan should include the Lake Hāwea foreshore (LINZ land).

- Completion of active travel networks especially in the Southern Corridor.
- Provision of a safe signalised crossing over SH6 at Ladies Mile.
- Plan should include monitoring and prioritisation.
- Expand BGN mapping into rural areas to respond to Fast Track Act applications.

#### **CHANGES MADE TO THE DRAFT BGN PLAN 2026**

20. The changes listed below were made in response to submissions.

21. Local Blue Green Plan maps have been updated to include additional trails and features in Frankton, Lake Hayes, Shotover Country, Cardrona, Glenorchy and Albert Town, as identified by respondents.

22. Corrections were made to various Local Blue Green Plan maps including:

- Correction to ecological enhancement along braided river systems to acknowledge removal of exotic vegetation and not riparian planting as braided rivers are naturally void of vegetation.
- Correction to the alignment of the Shotover River at the confluence with the Kawarau confluence and other minor corrections to the maps in this location.

23. New opportunities have been included in the local Blue Green Plans including:

- The removal of willows near Sugar Lane to better provide for the swim lane.
- Upgrades to the play area in Luggate.
- Additional ecological enhancement or weed removal opportunities in Luggate.
- Improvements to existing reserve areas in Cardrona and the south of Wānaka.
- Increasing the area in Three Parks for new reserves and connections.
- Identification of the opportunity for a safe pedestrian crossing over SH6 at Ladies Mile.

24. Wording has been strengthened in the text in Chapter 3 to include specific reference to 'making space for water', to allow for better future integration with stormwater functions.

25. Changes were not made where feedback related to matters outside of Council's control or influence, recommendations were inconsistent with QLDC's Strategic Framework and where matters were addressed under a separate Council plan (e.g. Spatial Plan, Transport, Future Parks Provision Plan, Climate and Biodiversity Plan, District Plan). Comments on themes that are outside of the scope of the BGN Plan are as follows:

- Stormwater mapping

Several submissions from the Upper Clutha, including from Wāi Wānaka, sought that the BGN Plan should include stormwater mapping, monitoring and solutions. Planning for stormwater infrastructure is not within scope of the BGN Plan, however the BGN Plan if adopted will inform council work programmes such as the Stormwater Catchment Management Plans.

- Active Travel

Many submissions both in the Whakatipu and Upper Clutha requested that gaps in the Active Travel Network were completed and/or prioritised. The BGN Plan is not a Transport Plan, but it does identify gaps and opportunities for connectivity between open spaces, recreation opportunities and ecological corridors.

- Food resilience

Several submissions, including from WāO Wanaka, sought that the BGN identify food production areas and opportunities. Opportunities for community food resilience such as community gardens and orchards as supported on existing and future council administered reserve land where appropriate, and the BGN seeks to support future Mahinga Kai. However food production in the rural area is out of scope.

26. Where feedback and submissions relate to other council plans and projects, this has been provided to the relevant council departments.

## **NEXT STEPS**

27. The BGN Plan is designed to be a guiding document that evolves as development occurs in Priority Development Areas and settlement areas, providing an up-to-date overview of what needs to be protected, maintained, or provided for in these areas.

28. The document will inform Council planning for future spatial planning and structure plans and will enable Council to communicate to developers and landowners.

29. If adopted, officers will continue to engage with internal Council departments, communities, and landowners to realise opportunities identified in the plan. The GIS Maps and the Local Blue Green Plans are intended to be regularly updated so they remain relevant and progress can be monitored.

30. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.

31. Option 1 Council adopts the Blue Green Network Plan 2026

*Advantages:*

- Council will be delivering Priority Initiative 15 of the QLDC Spatial Plan and QLDC's partnership obligations with Kāi Tahu.
- It is aligned with Kāi Tahu's expectations and priorities for the Kāi Tahu Blue Green Network Ki uta ki tai.
- It is aligned with the significant public support received during the public feedback period.
- Council will have a plan that will enable support or progressing of actions to protect and enhance the Blue Green Network already underway by community groups, developers or council work programmes.
- Communities, council and developers will have a plan that will inform future plans that will deliver opportunities to enhance or protect the Blue Green Network.
- It will help Council plan for growth while protecting and enhancing the Blue Green Network.

*Disadvantages:*

- Staff time and additional funding will be utilised to implement the plan over and above other work priorities.

32. Option 2 Council does not adopt the Blue Green Network Plan 2026

*Advantages:*

- Staff time and available resources that would have been used to implement the BGN Plan will be used to serve other activities.

*Disadvantages:*

- Priority Initiative 15 of the QLDC Spatial Plan will not be implemented.
- QLDC will not be delivering the Blue Green Network which its partner, Kai Tahu, has identified as a key priority, meaning that the partnership with Kāi Tahu will not be delivered upon.
- It does not align with the significant support given during the public feedback process.

- Future generations of the Spatial Plan, Structure Plans and future developments will not benefit from the comprehensive strategic plan.

33. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it delivers the best Blue Green Network outcomes for the district when responding to growth. It upholds Kāi Tahu values, Council will be meeting its commitments to delivering priority Spatial Plan projects, it will inform future strategic growth plans and provides a robust and strategic plan for Council, its partners, and the community to work towards.

### Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

---

#### Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

34. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. It delivers a commitment to Kāi Tahu and the Crown, is consistent with existing policy and strategy including the current Spatial Plan, QLDC's strategic framework, and Vision Beyond 2050. It does not impact on objectives in the Financial Strategy, Long Term Plan or Annual Plan. While the BGN 2026 is of importance to the district and there is community interest due to the impact on current and future wellbeing, it does not meet the criteria for having a significant impact on decisions in these areas.
35. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, Council staff, community partners and stakeholders.
36. The Council has engaged with internal directorates within QLDC and individual teams (strategic growth, planning policy, transport, parks, community partnerships, property, economic futures, infrastructure, sport and venues, libraries, governance, finance and policy), Elected Members, and other external partners and stakeholders in preparing the draft BGN Plan.
37. The Council has concluded its public engagement process, with the feedback period closing on the 12 December 2025. Where appropriate, feedback received has been considered and incorporated into the final version of the BGN Plan 2026.

#### Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

38. The Council has partnered with rūnaka representatives during development of the BGN Plan and has regular engagement with representatives from Aukaha and Te Ao Marama.

### Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

---

39. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing and the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk categories. It is associated with RISK10005 Ineffective planning for community services or facilities, RISK10056 Ineffective provision for the future planning and RISK 10044 Failure to work

effectively with Mana Whenua within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating (RISK10005) and a moderate risk rating (RISKS 10044 and 10056).

40. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to avoid the risks. This will be achieved by creating a clear plan for how Council intends to plan for growth and protect and enhance the Blue Green Network, planning for well-functioning urban environments and delivering on Council's commitment to Kāi Tahu, for whom the Kāi Tahu Blue Green Network is a priority.

#### Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

---

41. Development of the plan was externally funded by the Central Government 'Better Off Fund'. Opportunities identified within the plan may be funded in future via developers, community groups or through future QLDC Annual and Long Term Plans. There are no variances to operational budgets or resource implications to consider at this time.

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

---

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

- Vision Beyond 2050: Our Vision and Mission - QLDC
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021
- Future Parks Provision Plan 2021
- Significance and Engagement Policy 2024
- Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025 – 2028
- Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan 2021

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

44. Development of the Spatial Plan Generation 2.0 is included in the Long Term Plan and the BGN Plan will inform this.

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

---

45. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. Approval of the report's recommendation will support these outcomes by having an approved plan that identifies opportunities to protect and enhance the

district's Blue Green Network. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

46. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

#### Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

---

A	Survey Responses Table
B	Full written submissions
C	Final Blue Green Network Plan (circulated separately)