

QLDC Council
29 April 2021**Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take : 7****Department: Corporate Services****Title | Taitara Submission on the Climate Change Commission's First Package of Advice****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO**

The purpose of this report is to present the submission to the Climate Change Commission, in respect of its first package of advice to government. This report seeks retrospective approval of the submission's content. The submission was made to the Climate Change Commission on 26 March 2021.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the QLDC's submission to the Climate Change Commission.

Prepared by:



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4/03/2021

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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16/04/2021

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 1 The Climate Change Commission, He Pou a Rangi (the Commission) is an independent body that provides impartial, evidence-based advice to the government, holding it to account on climate action. It provides advice on reducing emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change and the monitoring and review of progress towards the government's emissions reductions and adaptation goals.
- 2 The Commission was established through legislation, when the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 came into force on 14 November 2019. Whilst the government is not bound to follow the Commission's advice, it is bound to follow proper process in its consideration. The government must respond to the advice and explain the reason for any departures.
- 3 The Commission's first task has been to provide advice on:
 - The level of the first three five-yearly emissions budgets that will put Aotearoa on track to meeting its domestic 2030 and 2050 emissions targets
 - The direction of policy that should be included in the government's first emissions reduction plan.
- 4 This submission has been developed through a highly-collaborative process, working in partnership with the Climate Reference Group. The Climate Reference Group has provided extensive support throughout the process, providing expert advice across a broad range of topics.
- 5 The Commission's advice addresses the first three emissions budgets, provides policy direction for the government's first emissions reduction plan, offers a review of Aotearoa's first nationally determined contribution and advises on the eventual reductions needed in biogenic methane emissions.
- 6 Submissions on the Bill were due to the Commission by 26 March 2021.
- 7 Due to the timing of the submission response period there was insufficient time to seek Council approval prior to the submission due date, however Councillor feedback was sought through circulation of draft versions of the submission. This submission was temporarily approved and submitted by the Chief Executive and the Mayor.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

- 8 Broadly speaking, QLDC is highly supportive of the direction being taken by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and looks forward to an ongoing dialogue that will shape and define a just transition to a decarbonised economy.
- 9 QLDC strongly supports the advice to pursue the 1.5°C targets and to limit offshore mitigation. The recommended breakdown of the emissions budget is also considered appropriate.

- 10 QLDC supports the five emissions Budget Recommendations within the advice.
- 11 The need for an equitable, inclusive and well-planned climate transition is fully supported. This needs to be viewed with an holistic approach to wellbeing and a true focus on social equity.
- 12 QLDC fully supports the approach of ‘locking in net zero’ and the focus placed upon decarbonising sources of long-lived gas emissions.
- 13 The Commission requested local government bodies to specifically address potential barriers to change. As such, the submission provides a list of 20 barriers identified by QLDC. Additionally, QLDC has posed a set of 41 recommendations for the Commission’s consideration.
- 14 QLDC has identified three key challenges that will need to be addressed in the district in light of the advice provided by the CCC. These are addressed in detail in part B of the submission.
- Spatial Planning - effective spatial planning and improved urban form will be essential for emissions reduction in the district.
 - Electrification – significant energy network challenges will need to be overcome to decarbonise extensively.
 - Tourism - the role of the visitor economy and tourism policy in reducing emissions is absent from the advice.
- 15 QLDC further notes that some of the key policy areas are unevenly addressed, with some areas explored in significant detail, whilst others (notably agriculture, waste and urban form) appearing light in evidence and detail. These policy areas are explored in detail in Part C of the submission.
- 16 Option 1: to retrospectively agree the contents of the attached submission.
- Advantages:*
- 17 The submission will remain in the Commission’s process and QLDC will have partaken in the submissions process.
- Disadvantages:*
- 18 There are no clear disadvantages to this option.
- 19 Option 2: to request the withdrawal of the submission from the Commission’s process.
- Advantages:*
- 20 The submission will be withdrawn from the Commission’s process and any inaccurate representations of QLDC’s position will not be considered.

Disadvantages:

- 21 No aspect of QLDC's position will be represented in the process.
- 22 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because Councillors have had opportunity to view and comment on the attached submission prior to its inclusion in the process and therefore should be reflective of the Council's position.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 23 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the [Council's Significance and Engagement Policy](#). However, this advice deals with a matter of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community.
- 24 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are members of the Climate Reference Group and all residents and ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District communities.

> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

- 25 There are two iwi representatives on the Climate Reference Group who have provided input into the drafting of the attached submission.

26 RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 27 This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation. It is associated with RISK00038 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating.
- 28 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by monitoring future changes in legislation based on the advice to government, in particular addressing those issues that directly affect QLDC and the Queenstown Lakes District community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 29 There are no financial implications.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

- 30 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- The outcomes and principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, in particular - Thriving people and Deafening Dawn Chorus
 - Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Proposed District Plan
 - 2018-2028 Ten Year Plan

- 2019-2020 Annual Plan
- Master Plans
- Asset Management Plan
- 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.
- Climate Action Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

31 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by contributing to the development of a more effective and robust water services model.
- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly 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 | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	QLDC Submission on the Climate Change Commission's First Package of Advice
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