

**Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
15 October 2020**

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 5

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara: Climate Action Plan Update

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

- 1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee on Climate Action Plan (CAP) priorities and progress.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

- 2 That the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee:
 1. **Note** the contents of this report.

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CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 In November 2019, the Government passed the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act. The purpose of the Act is to provide a framework in which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to the international effort to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The proposed emissions reduction goals in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) are aligned to those in the Act.
- 4 On 27 June 2019, the same day as the draft version of the CAP was approved for public feedback, QLDC declared a climate and ecological emergency. Following public consultation and subsequent changes to the plan, the CAP was adopted by Council on 12 March 2020. It will help to guide local action as we rise to and meet the challenge of the climate change emergency. As a Council, we have embarked on a journey towards a major organisational systems and behaviour shift.
- 5 The overarching goals for the CAP are as follows:
 - To achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 across the whole district.
 - To be resilient to the local impact of climate change across the whole district.
- 6 The CAP is intended to provide an overview of QLDC’s actions over the next three years. It will be reviewed annually and will look forward across a three-year horizon. The CAP is structured according to five key outcomes, supported by a range of actions:
 - Outcome one - The community looks to QLDC for leadership and action.
 - Outcome two - Queenstown Lakes has a low-carbon transport system.
 - Outcome three - Built environment and infrastructure is climate responsive.
 - Outcome four - Communities are climate-conscious and resilient.
 - Outcome five - Our economy and natural environment thrive together.
- 7 There are 72 actions that sit under these five outcomes.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

PROGRESS TO DATE

- 8 Progress has already been made towards several CAP actions. Since mid-April, a resource has been dedicated to delivering the plan. The top three priorities of the CAP this financial year are:
 - Establish an independent, multidisciplinary Climate Reference Group (CRG) within three months of the plan being adopted. The CRG will identify key challenges, evaluate best practices, identify funding and agree priority action areas (annual review and revision of priority areas).

The CRG membership and its terms of reference were reviewed by Councillors in July. Bridget Legnavsky was appointed as the independent chair. The CRG held its first meeting on 17 August to facilitate introductions, review the 2019 draft District

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Audit and open the conversation about the development of the Emissions Reduction Masterplan. Following the meeting, the CRG provided detailed feedback in relation to the GHG Audit, which is currently being used to improve the draft report.

The second meeting of the CRG was held on 28 September, which was preceded several days earlier by an informal session focussed on the background and rationale behind the development of the CAP itself. The second meeting focussed on providing feedback on the district's draft Emissions Reduction Masterplan and Sequestration Plan. This feedback is also currently being used to improve the draft report.

The third meeting of the CRG will be held in late October, date to be confirmed. The focus of this session will be on the review and update of the CAP in advance of the Ten Year Plan.

Status: On track

- Establish system to monitor and evaluate QLDC's emissions using an established and reputable system. Scope opportunities to include contractors.

QLDC's emissions are now being measured using the Carbon EMS system. An informal quarterly review will be held to check on progress and opportunities for improvement and accreditation.

Status: On track

- Measure the district's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and develop an emissions reduction master-plan with science-based targets, and emissions reduction toolkit. Include sequestration plan and approach to offsetting.

The district's GHG Audit has been updated using 18/19 data and has been reviewed by both the Executive and the CRG. Detailed feedback has been provided and the next draft is in the process of being prepared.

The first drafts of the Emissions Reduction Masterplan and Sequestration Plan have been reviewed by officers and the CRG. Detailed feedback has been provided and the next draft is in the process of being prepared. Information and findings during the development of the plan have been utilised in the preparation of the Ten Year Plan.

Status: On track

- 9 Other actions in the plan are progressing. For example, the procurement policy and guidelines are under review, with climate action principles being considered. Emissions reduction behaviour of staff is also being supported through the STEP group and community initiatives are supported through various grants and funding mechanisms. A community food and garden challenge was issued via the Torokiki system and next steps for this are being defined.

10 Furthermore, QLDC is part of a new alliance for the delivery of public transport focussed projects on SH6 and SH6A. The implementation phases of stage one of the Wakatipu Active Travel Network are underway.

11 A CAP Tracker is used to co-ordinate delivery and document progress against actions.

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

12 The highest priority will be finalising the Emissions Reduction Masterplan and Sequestration Plan, and agreeing a target pathway to net zero emissions.

13 The CAP will be reviewed with the CRG and priorities recommended for the next three years. This interim review is to ensure that ongoing, the review will be aligned with budget and planning cycles. This proposal will be considered by the Executive and Councillors.

IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19

14 Climate action is being considered in all activities undertaken by the Covid-19 Recovery Team. This is important so that QLDC can flexibly react to opportunities for climate action and accelerate actions in the CAP.

ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DELAYED

15 Some actions have been delayed as follows:

- Carry out a full assessment of current and future climate hazards and vulnerabilities. Seek inclusion in the District Plan and the organisational risk management system.

ORC is delivering a report on hazards and vulnerabilities, which has been delayed. In 2018, climate change considerations were embedded in chapters 3 and 4 of the District Plan and the Hazards Chapter was updated include climate change impacts. There is ongoing investigation of climate change impacts on Gorge Road. The organisational risk register has been updated (reported in the Risk Update Report).

- ‘Ensure climate change considerations are integral to all Council Reports and decision making.’

This action is underway. The target date has been reviewed so this action can align with the Emissions Masterplan.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

16 This matter is of [low] significance, as determined by reference to the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy because it is consistent with existing strategy, and does not impact on the objectives set out in the Financial Strategy, Ten Year Plan or Annual Plan. Although the matter is of importance to the district and is of community interest, it is of low significance due to its alignment with the CAP.

17 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, particularly individuals who take an interest in climate change.

18 As the significance of this matter is low and only for noting, no consultation with the community or local iwi is required.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

19 This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK00019 Ineffective planning for climate change affects within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). This risk has been assessed as having a very high inherent risk rating.

20 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 continued governance of the CAP by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

21 There are no budget, cost or resource implications to consider at this time.

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

22 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The Climate Action Plan is aligned to the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, particular to Zero Carbon Communities and Disaster-Defying Resilience.
- Related policies, strategies and bylaws (including Management plans) are:
 - 2018-48 Infrastructure Strategy
 - 2018 Three Waters Asset Management Plan
 - 2018 Transportation Activity Management Plan
 - 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
- The QLDC Disability Policy was considered in the development of the CAP

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

24 This matter is included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan

- “QLDC is currently developing its first generation Climate Change Strategy – this strategy intends to broadly line up with the recent LGNZ Climate Change Programme – New Zealand’s commitment to the Paris Agreement. There are two streams to this strategy:
 - The first being emissions reduction. Identifying projects that reduce Councils [sic] and the Community’s emissions i.e. public transport, energy efficiency on large items such as swimming pools and pumping costs for three waters. Other initiatives currently underway include measuring the emissions base line for Council, i.e. what do we emit today, this will allow us to measure and report our future performance.

- The second stream is about resilience and climate change, i.e. exploration of vulnerabilities and mitigation of the effects. If the future will be characterised by stormy and warmer weather, what is our exposure to that as a district? It is about identifying what aspects of a changing climate will most need to be responded to and what are our responses i.e. the district’s natural hazards are flooding and storms, warming temperatures and wind erosion. Identifying and actively pursuing ways to improve the district’s resilience”. (6.1 Demanding Natural Environment, p. 32)

ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	Climate Action Plan 2019-22
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