

Full Council

27 August 2026

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

Department: Strategy & Policy

Title | Taitara: Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 six monthly progress report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide Full Council with an overview of implementation progress for the Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 (CBP) for the six-month period from January to June 2026, in accordance with the Council resolution of 31 July 2025.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report and the attached progress report.

Prepared by:



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5 August 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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6 August 2026



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5 August 2026

Context | Horopaki

1. On 31 July 2025, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) adopted the Queenstown Lakes Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 and resolved to "direct staff to report to the Full Council with updates on the Climate and Biodiversity Plan every six months." This resolution was intended to strengthen governance oversight by ensuring regular progress reporting to Full Council while also allowing for more targeted, CBP project reporting to other Council committees.
2. This is the second six-monthly progress update since adoption of the CBP and provides governance oversight of delivery progress, emerging risks and key milestones across the seven outcome areas. The previous CBP progress report can be found [here](#).

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

CBP 2025-2028 PROGRAMME STATUS

3. The Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 includes 50 actions, all of which are currently in progress. Most actions are multi-year (refer to the Plan Summary on pages 86-87 of the plan), and while individual initiatives have been completed within some actions, no actions are yet considered fully complete. All actions remain within the overall 2025-2028 delivery timeframe, although some individual milestones have shifted from their original timing.

ACTION STATUS	Count	%
Complete	0	0
In progress	50	100
On hold	0	0
	50	100

4. To support effective governance oversight, a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status framework has been adopted which aligns with Council's Monthly Highlight Reports and Annual Report project criteria metrics and tolerances. Green indicates that delivery is on track. Amber indicates emerging risks, delays or dependencies that require increased management attention but remain actively manageable. Red indicates that an action is not currently expected to be delivered within its agreed scope, timeframe or CBP budget without intervention.
5. Of the 50 actions, 43 are assessed as Green and seven as Amber. No actions are currently assessed as Red. The Amber ratings primarily reflect delivery timing, organisational capacity constraints, or dependencies outside Council's direct control, rather than a fundamental failure of the actions themselves. The detailed progress report is provided as **Attachment A** and will also be published on the Resilience & Climate Action website.
6. The first six-monthly report committed to annual reporting against the CBP Indicators Framework. Development of the indicators update is underway and will be published separately on the Resilience & Climate Action website (<https://climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/our->

[plan/measuring-progress/](#)). This will complement action-level reporting by tracking longer-term changes across the seven CBP outcome areas

AMBER ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE ATTENTION

7. **Action 1.5: Agrichemical reduction programme.** Whilst progress has been made and a review is currently underway to improve data collection on agrichemical use, development of a cross-Council Agrichemical Reduction Strategy, focussed on best practice management, has been delayed due to staff-resourcing issues.
8. **Action 2.1: Emission reduction investments.** The project to convert heating for QLDC's swimming pools from LPG to cleaner energy sources has commenced with procurement of the Arrowtown Pool conversion underway in preparation for the summer opening season in November. Technical design and funding pathways continue to be refined for the Alpine Aqualand and Wānaka Recreation Centre pool conversions. Planned delivery was for FY2026-27 as outlined in the Toitū Envirocare Carbon Reduce emission reduction targets, however, delivery is now anticipated for 2027-28. Council staff are actively engaging with Toitū Envirocare to review and formally adjust the emissions reduction timeframe under the CarbonReduce certification requirements.
9. **Action 2.2: Embedding climate and biodiversity considerations into Council decision-making.** An internal change programme is being delivered to help embed climate and biodiversity considerations into Council decision-making. Recent progress includes meetings with Senior Leadership teams, staff engagement initiatives, and an internal communications campaign to raise awareness of how everyone's work contribute to the delivery of the CBP. However, progress on this action has been affected by current organisational capacity constraints and the challenge of embedding new tools, frameworks and behaviours during a period of high operational and project delivery pressure.
10. **Action 4.1: Supercharge the rollout of residential solar and batteries.** Council remains committed to supporting establishment of the national Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS), however the scheme depends on Central Government support and legislative change outside of Council's control. QLDC continues to work alongside Rewiring Aotearoa and the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator to advocate for financing approaches that can improve access to solar, batteries and household electrification, particularly for households that face upfront cost barriers.
11. **Action 5.1: Sustainable project management.** QLDC is updating its project management approach so climate, biodiversity and whole-of-life costs are considered when major projects are planned and delivered. The approach will initially be tested on a small number of capital projects. This action is amber due to organisational capacity constraints, which may slow implementation of sustainable project management practices across QLDC.
12. **Action 5.2: Best practice carbon management.** A draft options paper has been prepared that outlines a more consistent whole-of-life assessment approach for QLDC capital projects. The paper compares the costs, benefits, limitations, and implementation implications of different

assessment options. Recommendations from this options paper are being incorporated into the draft Infrastructure Strategy under the “Thriving Te Taiao” planning setting. However, this work is considered amber due to organisational capacity constraints, which may delay implementation of the whole-of-life assessment framework.

13. **Action 5.5 Sustainable Council Buildings.** Sustainability objectives are being brought forward earlier in the project lifecycle for major capital projects. This includes the Queenstown Events Centre upgrades, where energy efficiency improvements are being investigated alongside the planned LPG-to-electric pool heating conversion. The action is assessed as Amber because integrating sustainability improvements consistently across Council's property portfolio may create cost and programme pressures within approved budgets and delivery timeframes.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi i kā Whakaaro Hiraka

14. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. Whilst the programme of work is of significant interest and importance to the community, it is consistent with existing policy and strategy, has been undertaken within approved budgets, and will not adversely affect Council's ability to deliver core functions, or affect levels of service.
15. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are Elected Members and the wider Queenstown Lakes District community.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

16. The CBP was developed with guidance from the Climate Reference Group, which includes Kāi Tahu representation. Kāi Tahu mana whenua rūnaka state their support for the CBP on page 5 of the Plan.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

17. This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK10012 Ineffective mitigation response to the declared climate and ecological emergency within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.
18. Approval of the recommended option will allow Council to retain the risk at its current level. This will be achieved by delivery of the action programme within the adopted Climate and Biodiversity Plan.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

19. There are no operational or capital expenditure requirements in addition to approved budgets or Annual/Long Term Planning.

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

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

- Our Strategic Framework | Queenstown Lakes District Council specifically delivering on community outcomes ‘Deafening dawn chorus’, ‘Zero carbon communities’ and ‘Disaster defying resilience’ in Vision Beyond 2050;
- 2024-2034 Long Term Plan: climate and biodiversity action as a priority in the district;
- 2024-2054 30-year Infrastructure Strategy: infrastructure resilience;
- Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan;
- Queenstown Lakes District Plan;
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan;
- Regenerative Tourism Plan: Travel to a Thriving Future;
- Economic Diversification Plan: New Pathways to a Thriving Future;
- Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027; and
- QLDC Disability Policy.

21. This matter is included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan and in the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

22. The Council has statutory responsibilities under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 as a reporting organisation.

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

23. 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. The CBP 2025-28 plays a central role in delivering upon this purpose through its focus on environmental stewardship, community resilience, and intergenerational equity. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Queenstown Lakes Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 Progress Report (January – June 2026)
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