

Item 2: QLDC Tree Strategy

SESSION TYPE: Briefing

PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:

To brief the Community & Environment Committee on the first QLDC Tree Strategy, including why it's being developed, its goals, scope and process.

DATE/START TIME:

Tuesday, 8 September 2026 at 10:30AM

TIME BREAKDOWN:

Presentation: 15mins

Questions: 15mins

PRESENTERS:

Lee Rowley – Arborist, QLDC

Christine Skipworth – Team Leader – Parks Planning, QLDC

Prepared by:



Name: Christine Skipworth

Title: Team Leader - Parks Planner

28 August 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey

Title: GM – Community Services

31 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

A	QLDC Tree Strategy Presentation Slides
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Workshop

C&E Committee and WUCCB

Project: QLDC Urban Tree Strategy

Purpose: Inform Councillors and Board about approach

Date: 8 Sep 2026

Presented By: Lee Rowley, QLDC Arborist and Christine Skipworth QLDC Parks Planner

2. Policy vs Strategy

Policy

- > [QLDC Tree Policy 2024](#) (revised from 2022, revised from 2006)
- > How we manage **existing** trees
- > Operational
- > Plant, Maintain, Protect during Works, Remove, Replace

Strategy

- > No current QLDC Tree Strategy
- > Vision and goals for **future** trees
- > Strategic
- > What we plant and where and why

QLDC Tree Policy 2024



3. Leading Urban Forest / Tree Strategies

Auckland – Urban Ngahere Strategy

Christchurch – Urban Forest Plan

Melbourne – Urban Forest Strategy

How we all compare

- > All treat trees as **green infrastructure**, not just amenity
- > Same core approach: **Know, Grow, Protect, Connect**
- > All focus on the **full lifecycle**: Plant, Protect, Maintain, Succession
- > Set district wide **canopy targets** that include private land

What's different

- > Theirs are more mature than ours. Completed canopy cover assessments
- > Our Strategy is tailored to Queenstown Lakes unique landscape, growth, and Kāi Tahu values



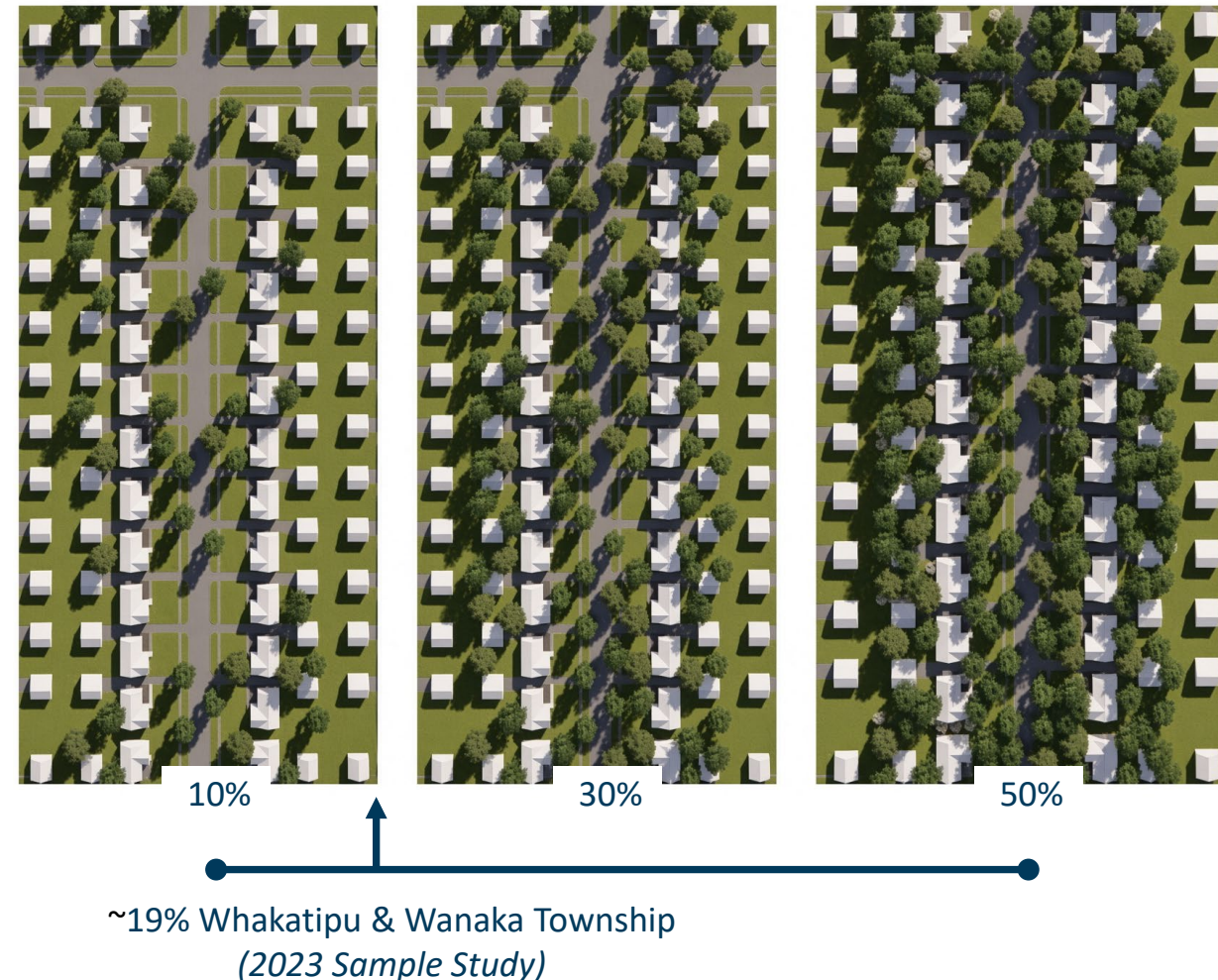
4. Data / Evidence

Other NZ cities – Canopy cover & Targets

- > ~31% **Wellington broadly stable.** No single target published
- > ~18% **Auckland broadly stable.** Target 30% by 2050
- > ~14% **Christchurch declining.** Target 20%+ by 2070
 - > *Aiming for 40% canopy cover across parks*

Our district – Canopy cover & Targets

- > **25%** by 2050 district-wide urban canopy cover target
- > **20%** increase in the qty of Council-managed trees over 25 years
- > **15%** minimum canopy cover across settlements and townships
- > *Targets indicative until baseline canopy survey completed*



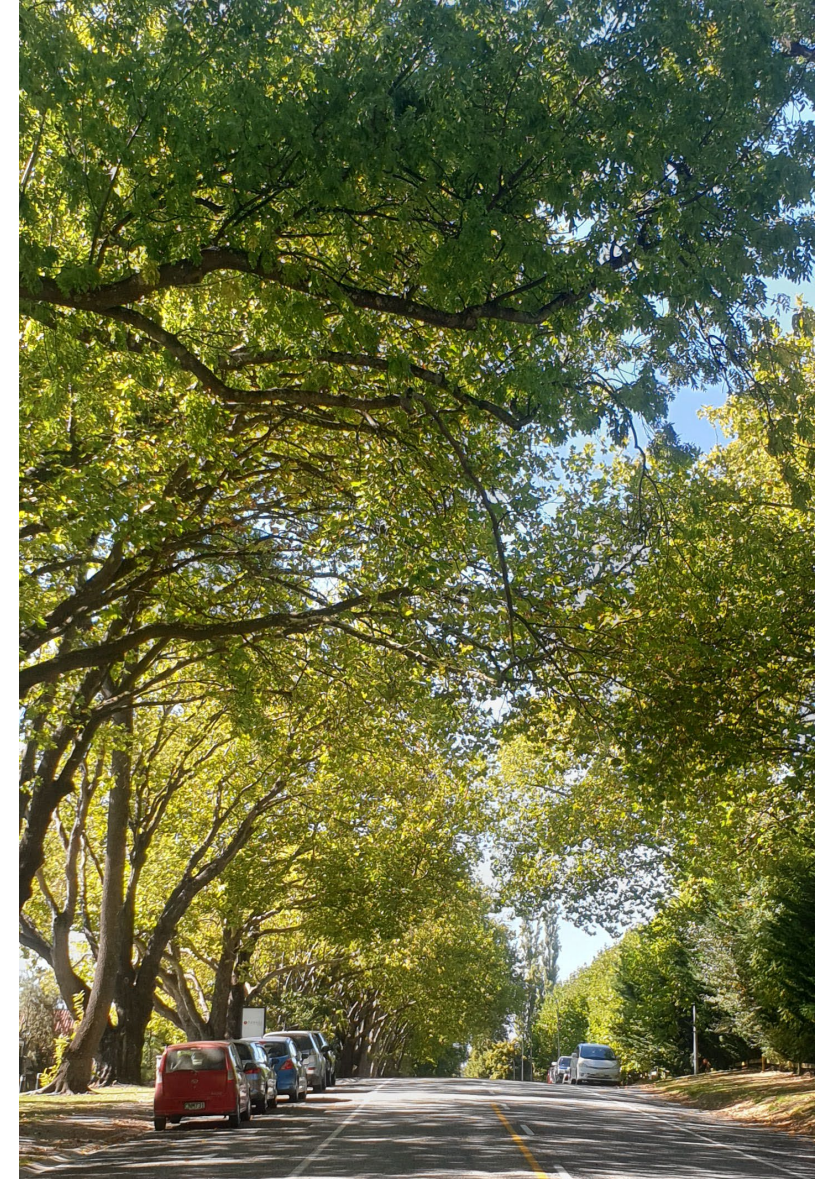
5. Goals & Opportunities

How are we going to:

- > Achieve our climate goals through trees?
- > Prioritise and distribute trees equitably?
- > Invest and resource trees?

Why we need a strategy:

- > Benefits
- > Risks
- > Examples
- > Delivery, Cost, Review



6. Benefits



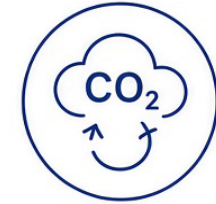
Clean Air



Shade & Cooling



Wildlife Habitat

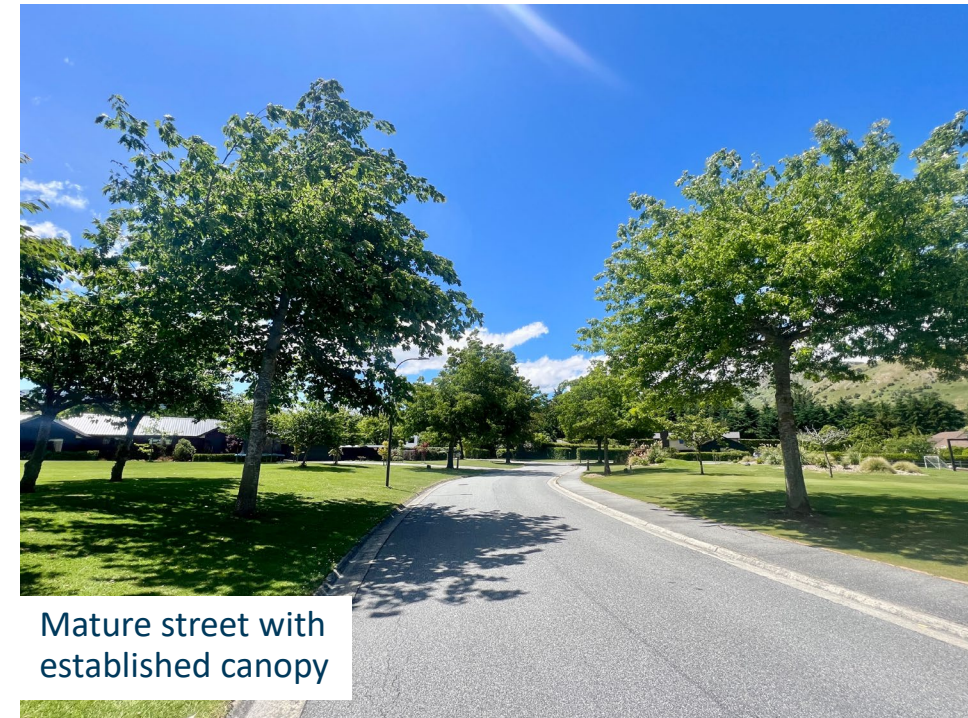
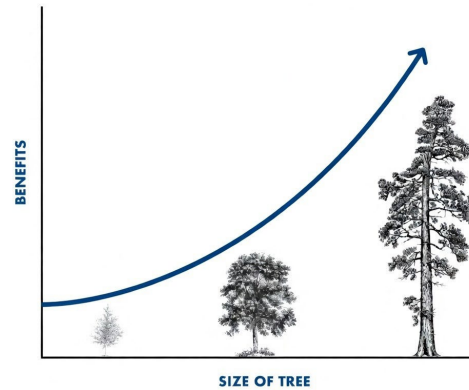


Carbon Capture



Mental Wellbeing

THE EXPONENTIAL BENEFITS OF TREES



Stormwater Management



Biodiversity



Soil Health



Cultural Values



Amenity & Livability

7. Scope

What trees and where?

- > Urban trees – Parks and roads
- > Forestry/large scale revegetation, alpine and wetlands have their own specific plans
- > Canopy cover includes private land

Who is it for?

- > Council, developers, private landowners, Kāi Tahu and the community

How does it align?

- > Climate and Biodiversity Plan, Tree Policy, Parks Strategy



8. Process

Steps & Timeline

Feb – June 2026

- > Review data, evidence/studies, other council's tree strategies, our current practices
- > Draft

October 2026

- > Public engagement

November 2026

- > Revise draft

December 2026 / Feb 2027

- > C&E Committee report to recommend to Full Council to adopt





Questions?



QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL