

Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025 – 2028

Te Mahere Āhuarangi me te Rereka Rauropi tō Queenstown Lakes 2025 – 2028



This plan belongs to all who make this district home.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the Climate Reference Group¹, our partners², and other stakeholders who contributed to this plan. We acknowledge their amazing mahi across our district to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience to a changing climate, and protect and restore our indigenous ecosystems.



¹ Climate Reference Group 2024-2025 Members: Dr Leslie Van Gelder, Dr Lyn Carter, Dr Jim Salinger, Sydney Telfer, Alec Tang, Dr Chris Cameron, Eleanor Trueman, Victoria Crockford and Tony Pfeiffer

² For more information on our partners' work, refer to our website: <https://climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/our-partners>

Mayor's Foreword

Since Queenstown Lakes District Council first declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019, our diverse communities have demonstrated what's possible when we work together with a shared sense of purpose.

Over the past six years we've moved from words to action, reducing emissions, regenerating native ecosystems, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, supporting our tamariki to become environmental leaders, and embedding climate and biodiversity considerations into how we collectively plan for the future.

We've also achieved key milestones, such as:

- > establishing the independent Queenstown Lakes Climate Reference Group to provide insight and guidance into how we can shape our response to the challenges ahead;
- > achieving Toitū Carbon Reduce certification and committing to major clean-energy projects;
- > launching one of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest native reforestation efforts through the Council-led Project Tohu at Coronet Forest; and
- > supporting dozens of local groups to deliver real grass-roots change, from native planting and food resilience to community emergency preparedness.

That's genuine progress we can all be proud of, but there is more mahi to be done.

The release of the 2025–2028 Climate & Biodiversity Plan will allow us to build on this strong foundation with renewed ambition and a sharper focus on partnership. The plan is a call to accelerate our momentum, and to be bold, practical, and collaborative in tackling the defining issue of our time.

We've seen the power of this approach through our relationship with Kāi Tahu, and in the energy and innovation of our community organisations and local leaders in climate change and biodiversity. The strength of our response lies in this united commitment and our ability to work together.

This will be critical in addressing our major infrastructure challenges. Our district's energy system is under growing pressure and we have the opportunity, and responsibility, to help shape a future-ready power network that is resilient, renewable, and responsive to our communities' needs. Achieving this will require strong collaboration with local and national partners, a commitment to embrace and drive innovation, and a clear focus on accelerating the uptake of renewable energy technologies in homes and businesses across the district.

As Mayor, I want this plan to be both ambitious and grounded – a roadmap that inspires action while recognising the reality of what it takes to deliver. The choices we make over the next three years will set the tone for decades to come. Let's make sure that future is one where our communities thrive, our ecosystems are healthy, and our children look back knowing we stepped up when it mattered.

To everyone who's contributed to this work, thank you. Whether you're planting trees, using public transport, riding your bike, adapting your business, or making small changes at home, your efforts count.



He waka eke noa – we're all in this together.

Glyn Lewers

Mayor, Queenstown Lakes District Council

Climate Reference Group Chair statement

Not long before this plan was completed, New Zealand lost one of its most gifted tohanga raranga (master weavers), Roka Ngarimu-Cameron. She came to live in Queenstown later in life and brought her skills in weaving to her teaching, to her community work, and to the korowai she wove herself. Those korowai acknowledged the cultures and people she came from, and the whakapapa of the more than human world whose fibres and furs made up the physicality of her cloaks. She understood that it took many to create what appeared to be a single whole and that it was in the wearing of the cloak itself that it came to life.

You will see in the pages that follow, a weaving of thought and action that comes to life as we as a community, enact this plan together. The rapidly diminishing biodiversity and the impacts of climate change affect each of us. It is from this place of understanding that every one of us, by our choices and actions, is weaving a future and it is one in which we still have choice as to what shape that future will ultimately take.

The Climate Reference Group (CRG) was formed in 2019 to be an independent and multidisciplinary group to offer expert advice and support to the Queenstown Lakes District Council. The CRG played a significant role in the creation of this plan, and we wish to acknowledge our appreciation of the Resilience and Climate Action team's openness to work so collaboratively with us on the plan's development. We identified four key areas that we believed to be critical to the evolution of the Climate and Biodiversity focus of this district that helped to shape this plan.

1. A **Te Ao Māori approach** to biodiversity and our response to climate change is essential. We were supported in this work by our Kāi Tahu CRG member, Dr. Lyn Carter who provided significant support to the whole of the CRG in helping us to frame the plan.
2. The core of the plan, "**The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated**" speaks to a collective goal to care for all and is inherently **intergenerational**. It is both aspirational and immediately actionable and we are especially interested in seeing a greater focus on our district's **youth**.
3. As biodiversity and climate change are **inherently complex and relational** we encouraged the team to focus on expressing the complexity through far more relational approaches to help our community understand the interconnected and interwoven nature of all of the aspects of this plan. This also included a need for QLDC to understand and act with more **coherence** within their own plans.
4. We strongly encouraged the plan to be developed along lines of highlighting projects and relationships showing QLDC's commitments to support ongoing work, initiate new work, its levels and types of support, and clear alignment with Kāi Tahu values. The plan's stated theme of **accelerating transformation through partnership** evidences this commitment to a transparent approach to sharing with the community the role QLDC sets out to support through this plan.

As a community we all have an individual part to play but also one where it is through our connections, our actions, our relationships, and our capacity to dialogue and understand each other we can create the kinds of cloaks that will help shelter us in the times to come. Their strength and colourfulness will come from the important fact that we have woven them **together**. If we have done our job well, they will also serve as a shelter and then a foundation for the generations to come.

We fully endorse the 2025-2028 Climate and Biodiversity Plan and look forward to continuing to support QLDC and our whole community in its capacity to deliver on the promise of this plan.

Dr Leslie Van Gelder,
Chair of the Queenstown Lakes District Council Climate Reference Group



Kāi Tahu statement

Tēnā koutou kātoa,

kā mihi mahana atu mātou ki a koutou,

E tautoko ana a mātou ki tēnei kaupapa nui e pā ana ki te ora o te taiao, ki te ora o te wai me te ora o te whenua hoki. Ko te ora o ēnei mea kātoa, ka whakanui te ora ā te tākata.

Nō reira,

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā rā tātou kātoa.



Kāi Tahu recognises that climate change and biodiversity loss are key challenges for the future of our relationships with our lands, waters, biodiversity, and environment. Therefore, Kāi Tahu mana whenua Rūnaka support this third edition of the Queenstown Lakes, Climate and Biodiversity Plan.

We view the Climate and Biodiversity Plan as a critical step forward in the future health and wellbeing of our takiwā (our place), and an opportunity for sharing our knowledge, values, and practices to achieve this purpose. This is reflected through the structure of the plan where the importance of a wide number of relationships is recognised. The strength of such relationships emphasises community empowerment and the holistic outcomes that prioritise people and place.

The Climate and Biodiversity Plan reflects a deepening commitment from Queenstown Lakes District Council to climate action and ecological restoration through its relationships with the Taiao, Kāi Tahu, key community groups and national organisations that all share one common goal: to equip us with the tools needed to minimise the impact from climate change and protect and grow the biodiversity within this takiwā.

The plan is informed through the blending of scientific, local knowledge, and Kāi Tahu mātauraka that captures wide experience and knowledge. A number of sources that provided direction towards effective decision making and leadership were utilised and included two Kāi Tahu documents: the Kāi Tahu Climate Action Plan (Te Kounga Paparangi), and the Kāi Tahu Climate Strategy (Te Tāhū o te Whāriki). These two documents emphasise values-based actions and decision making with an intergenerational focus. The inclusion of Kāi Tahu values and knowledge in a braided knowledge framework helps to further inform, educate, and initiate values-based actions towards a collaborative and collective way forward.

Kāi Tahu welcomed the invitation to be included in the development of the third Climate and Biodiversity Plan. We look forward to our future working partnerships with the Council and with the wider communities and organisations towards achieving this shared vision; one that collectively protects and grows the biodiversity of our takiwā, and finds ways to navigate through the impacts from climate change.

Ngā tomairangi o ngā tūpuna, hei whangaiā ngā kākano nō apopo.

The legacy of our actions today, will influence and give life to the seeds of tomorrow.

Nā, Dr Lyn Carter,
*Kāi Tahu Representative,
Queenstown Lakes District Council, Climate Reference Group*

Queenstown Lakes Tamariki Art Competition

We asked the tamariki of Queenstown Lakes what their future world looks like – check out some of the amazing and inspiring entries below.

Clean and green best backyard for everyone to enjoy



Special, creative, amazing, beautiful



A world with no people and it's beautiful

I want to study humpback whales



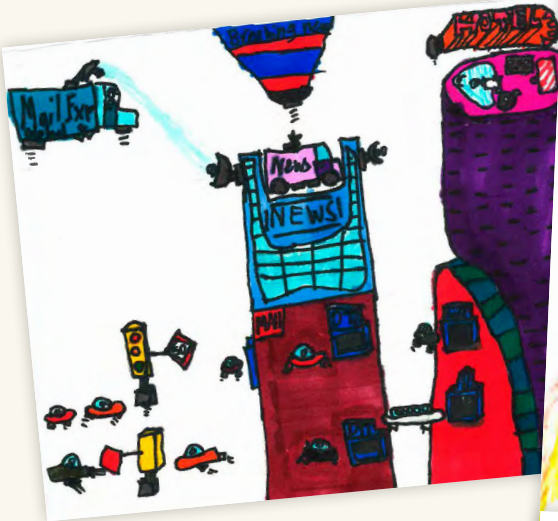
Living on a star

Right now in 2025 there are already 10,000 satellites and over the years most of them will breakdown so we will have rubbish in space and more satellites will be sent up.

I want to swim with whales



Native birds and a rainbow



Kind, loving and respectful



I like butterflies



I want to work in the mountains

I want to see lions in Africa



Me in the garden with lots of butterflies



Mountains, trees, rivers, birds (takahē)

Contents

1	Introduction	09
2	Our Strategic Action Plan	19
	The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated	24
	QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership	36
	Our communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate	46
	Our energy system is resilient, renewable and responsive	56
	Our built environment is resilient with low environmental impact	62
	Our transport system is low-emission and better integrated	72
	Our economy leads the transition to a low emission future	80
3	Measuring Success	88

1

Introduction



Our journey so far



On 27 June 2019, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) declared a climate and ecological emergency and developed its first Climate Action Plan 2019-2022. This plan set the foundation for Council's response and focused on an ambitious range of actions across five outcome areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

Establishing the Climate Reference Group.

The first district greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions report.

Queenstown Lakes Emissions Reduction Roadmap.

Starting Council's transition to an electric vehicle fleet.

Inclusion of climate change risks into our risk management framework.

Launch of Community Resilience Groups across the district.



In July 2022 Council adopted the second Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025. This plan acknowledged that climate action needs to be fully integrated with biodiversity protection and ecosystem regeneration to address the dual climate and ecological emergencies. The plan focused on "getting our own house in order" and developing relationships with local partners to deliver climate and biodiversity action.

ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

Completing organisational GHG emissions inventories and becoming Toitū Carbon Reduce certified.

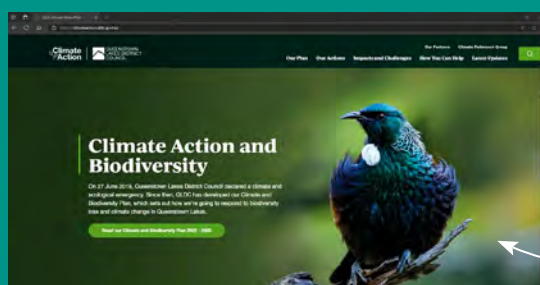
Developing an Organisational Emissions Reduction Plan.

Opening Luggate Memorial Hall | Whare Mahana, the first community facility built to passive-house standards.

Harvest of wilding pines and awarding the native revegetation contract for Coronet Forest.

Conducting a carbon baseline assessment for the Long Term Plan 2021 -2031.

Prioritisation of climate and biodiversity action in the Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034 and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.



The second plan also included the launch of a new website, to provide updates and communicate stories from across the district.

climateaction.qldc.govt.nz

Next steps

2024 was the first year with an average global temperature exceeding 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels³

As we hit the mid-point of this decade, our focus shifts to the next three-year plan.

This plan sets out our latest priorities for responding to the climate and ecological emergencies and an action plan for how the vision, outcomes and objectives will be achieved. It builds on past progress and outlines the actions needed to create a more resilient, low carbon, and thriving future for all who call Queenstown Lakes District home.

Six years after declaring a climate and ecological emergency progress has been achieved, but more needs to be done. The scientific evidence is clear: we must act decisively to reduce emissions, restore biodiversity, and strengthen our resilience to the changes ahead.

WHAT'S NEW?

At the heart of this plan is the theme: **Accelerating Transformation through Partnerships**. Tackling these complex challenges requires collaboration across our community, including with mana whenua, local businesses, conservation groups, climate experts, residents and visitors. Our response to a changing climate requires a collective effort. We need to go beyond the efforts of individual organisations to leverage the diverse skills, resources, and expertise across our district.

This plan recognises that local organisations possess invaluable knowledge and experience allowing them to effectively implement initiatives and drive change at the community level. Lasting transformation happens when communities are resourced and empowered to lead. Council plays an important role within this community-led approach by acting as an advocate, enabler, facilitator, and funder.

We have placed Te Taiao (the natural environment) at the core of our action planning. The mauri (life force or essence) of the natural environment affects our district's cultural, economic, and social health and wellbeing.

This plan also includes a new outcome area: the local energy system. This reflects the scale of the challenges and opportunities in transforming the district's power supply to be more resilient, renewable, and responsive to the shifting needs of our community.

Together, through strong partnerships and meaningful action, we can accelerate the transformation needed for a more sustainable future, one where both people and nature thrive. Climate change and the degradation of our natural environment affects us all, and we all have a role to play in building a resilient, thriving district for current and future generations.

This plan belongs to all who make this district home.

³ Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) (2025). 2024 is the first year to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels: Press release 10 January 2025 <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2024-first-year-exceed-15degc-above-pre-industrial-level>

Accelerating transformation through partnerships

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen relationships with our local partners to help accelerate the progress of climate and biodiversity action in the district.

Work with the Climate Reference Group to explore innovative partnership models and the use of deliberative democracy⁴ practices to make it easier for communities to participate in climate and biodiversity action planning.



KĀI TAHU PARTNERSHIP

Partner with Kāi Tahu opportunities to integrate the priorities of the Ngāi Tahu Climate Change Action Plan Te Kounga Paparangi.

Ensure Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview) and Mātauraka Kāi Tahu (Kāi Tahu knowledge systems) are central to Council climate and biodiversity action planning.

Provide resources, support and staff training to deepen understanding of Mātauraka Kāi Tahu.



RAKATAHI PARTNERSHIP

Strengthen relationships with our high school rakatahi (young people) to better integrate young people's voices into climate and biodiversity policy.

Build pathways to ensure that the perspectives of children and youth are central to future decision-making on climate initiatives.

Work with schools and organisations like Enviroschools to deliver programmes that support climate and biodiversity education.



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Engage in local government networks to share knowledge, build support, and advocate for stronger climate and ecological action.

Collaborate with Department of Conservation⁵ and Otago Regional Council⁶ and other local authorities to drive climate and biodiversity action across the region.

Partner with the Climate Reference Group to amplify our district's voice in shaping national and local policy discussions.

Partner with tertiary institutions driving research in biodiversity and ecosystem regeneration.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with global climate networks to share knowledge, promote best practice, and support global advocacy.

Collaborate with sister cities and other international districts to share knowledge and explore innovative solutions.



⁴ Deliberative democracy practices refers to processes which enable a group of community representatives to come together to fully understand and debate a subject, or issue, before making an informed decision.

⁵ Department of Conservation's Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy 2020 sets the national strategic direction for protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity (<https://dxcprod.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity/>)

⁶ Otago Regional Council's Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy outlines the regional objectives, policies and methods for maintaining biological diversity (<https://www.orc.govt.nz/your-council/plans-and-strategies/biodiversity-strategy-and-plans/>). ORC's Biosecurity Strategy and the Regional Pest Management Plan also provide guidance for pest animal and plant management across the region (<https://www.orc.govt.nz/your-council/plans-and-strategies/biosecurity-strategy-and-plans/>)

Weaving our knowledge together

Addressing the climate and ecological crises requires us to draw upon the full spectrum of knowledge - scientific, Mātauraka Kāi Tahu, and local - to form a deeper, more holistic understanding of the challenges we face and the solutions we can create together. Each of these knowledge systems carries unique strengths, and we create a stronger, more resilient foundation for action by braiding them together.

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Scientific knowledge provides data-driven insights, predictive modelling, and technical solutions based on rigorous research.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Indigenous knowledge offers deep, place-based wisdom, emphasising reciprocal relationships with the environment and intergenerational stewardship.

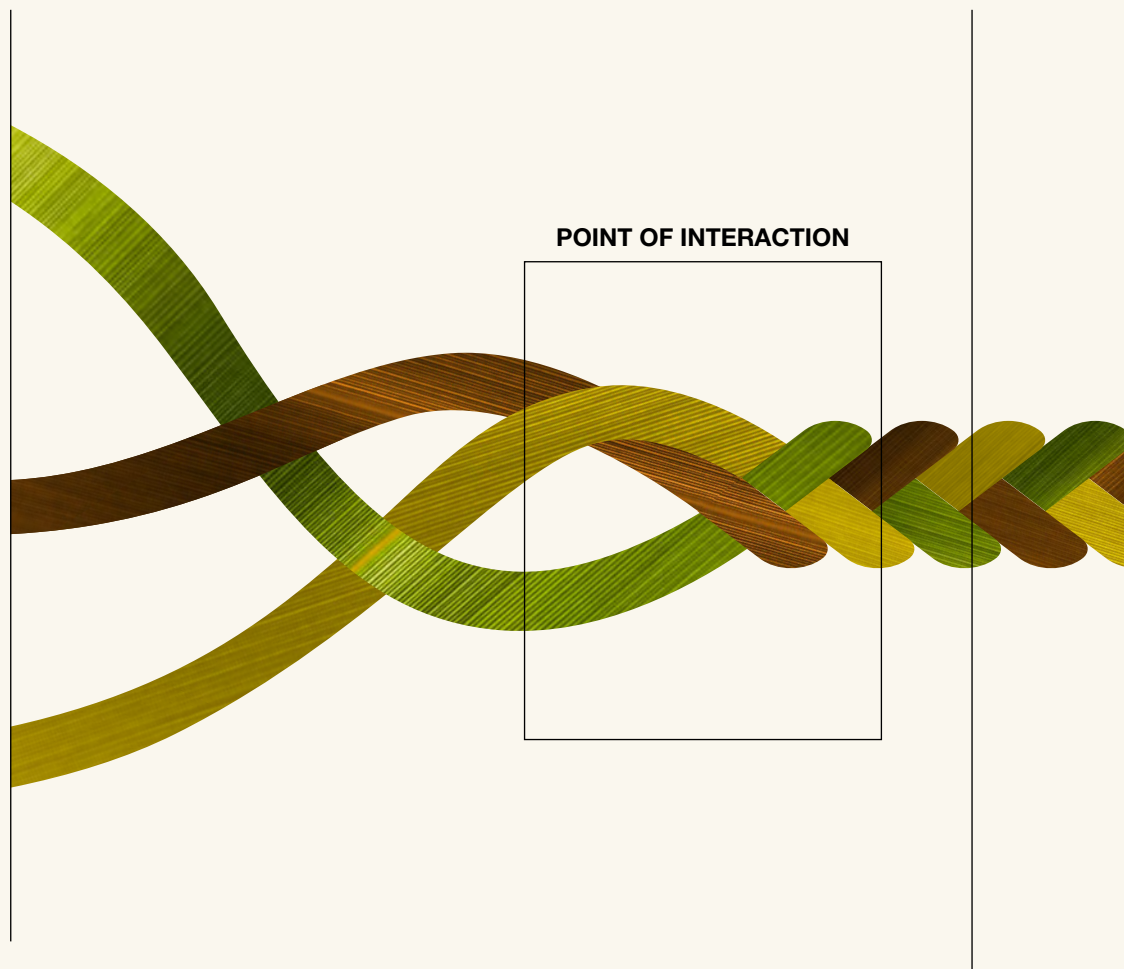
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Local knowledge brings firsthand experience of how climate and ecological impacts and solutions play out in specific communities, contributing practical insights and lived realities.

INPUT

POINT OF INTERACTION

OUTPUT



The concept of braided knowledge is commonly used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It recognises that each knowledge system remains distinct, yet is interwoven with the others to form a stronger, more adaptable whole. The figure above adapted from Morel et al. (2022)⁷ illustrates how each strand is essential. No single perspective alone can provide the depth of understanding needed to tackle the complexities of ecological breakdown and climate change.

By embracing braided knowledge across our partner network, we move beyond siloed approaches to a more inclusive, collaborative, and effective response, one that respects diverse ways of knowing and strengthens our collective capacity to navigate an uncertain future.

⁷ Morel H., Megarry W., Potts A., Hosagrahar J., Roberts D.C., Arian Y., Brondizio E., Cassar M., Flato G., Forgesson S., Jigyasu R., Masson-Delmotte V., Oumarou Ibrahim H., Pörtner H. O., Sengupta S., Sherpa P.-D., Veillon R. (2022) *Global research and action agenda on culture, heritage and climate change: scientific outcome of the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*. Project Report. ICOMOS & ISCM CHC, Charenton-le-Pont, France & Paris, France, 69p.

Our partnership with Kāi Tahu is our foundation

The partnership between Council and Kāi Tahu has helped shape this plan.

The Ngāi Tahu climate change strategy, He Rautaki mō te Huringa o te Āhuarangi⁸, speaks to creating a legacy for whānau to come. We share this aspiration to secure the best possible future for us and our children after us.

Council stands beside Kāi Tahu in the belief that amid change and loss there is also hope, and opportunities to thrive. This plan reflects these ideals by identifying ways to support resilience, sustainability, and intergenerational wellbeing.

The Kāi Tahu values framework, as outlined in the Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan, has guided our decision-making and prioritisation. The principle of whakapapa underpins all of these values. Recognising whakapapa grounds our connection to place, people and the natural world. It reinforces the intergenerational responsibility we all carry and importance of enduring partnerships with both people and nature.

We aim to align our actions with those in the Ngāi Tahu Climate Action Plan, Te Kounga Paparangi⁹. This strengthens our collective ability to respond effectively to climate and biodiversity challenges while honouring our shared responsibility to protect Te Taiao (the natural environment).

References to the Kāi Tahu values framework are incorporated throughout our action plan. While many Kāi Tahu values can often be referenced, we have sought to identify the value(s) that most strongly aligns with the action.

VALUE	DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION
<i>Whanaukataka</i>	Family and community focused	Ensuring consideration of the social implications of decisions to enable community and whānau connections and growth.
<i>Manaakitaka</i>	Hospitality	Demonstrating behaviour that acknowledges others, through the expression of aroha, hospitality, generosity and mutual respect.
<i>Rakatirataka</i>	Leadership	Ensuring the treaty partnership is recognised to enable mana whenua leadership in decision making processes.
<i>Haere whakamua</i>	Future focused	Adopting a forward looking orientation with future generations in mind.
<i>Tikaka</i>	Appropriate action	Ensuring consideration of the appropriateness of decisions that will have a bearing on social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes.
<i>Kaitiakitaka</i>	Stewardship	Enabling the inherited responsibility of mana whenua to support and protect people, the environment, knowledge, culture, language and resources on behalf of future generations.
<i>Mauri</i>	Life force	Recognising the life force in all lands, waters and the natural environment that stems from time immemorial, requiring a high duty of care for kaitiaki (and others) to maintain an intact and healthy mauri, ensuring that what is gifted from the Atua is not neglected.

⁸ Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu (2018). Te Tāhū o te Whāriki: Anchoring the Foundation. He Rautaki mō te Huringa o te Āhuarangi: Climate Change Strategy <https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Ngai-Tahu-Climate-Change-Strategy.pdf>

⁹ Ngāi Tahu, Te Kounga Paparangi: Climate Action Plan <https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/te-runanga-o-ngai-tahu/our-work-pou/strategy-and-environment/climate-change/>

Aligning with Council's strategic framework

The Climate and Biodiversity Plan plays a pivotal role in advancing our progress towards the Vision Beyond 2050 outcomes that have been committed to for the district. The plan is structured around the strategic priorities of **Emissions Mitigation**, **Climate Adaptation** and **Biodiversity Regeneration**, which connect directly to the below Vision 2050 outcomes.

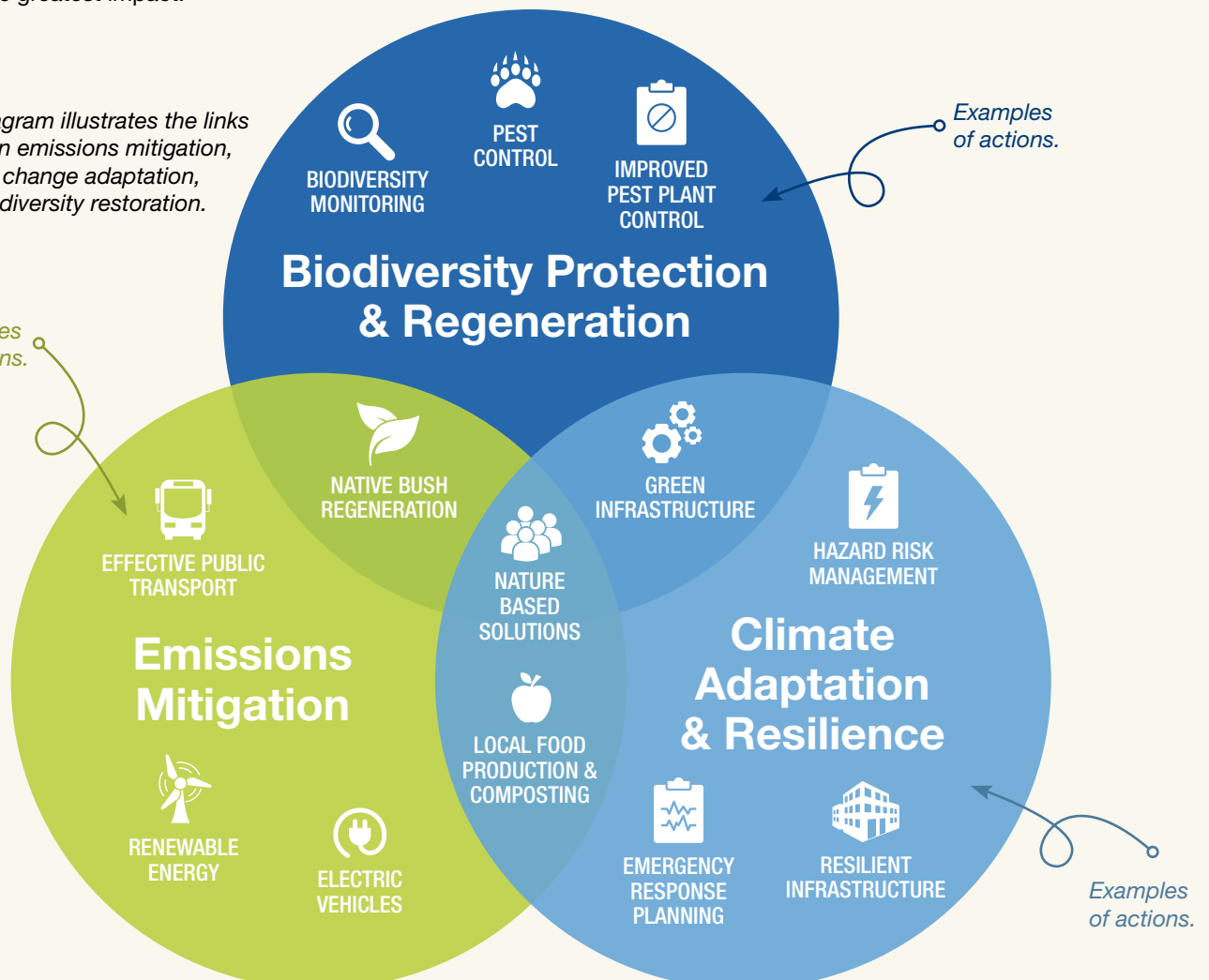
THE PLAN CONTRIBUTES TO OUR COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS:



The plan recognises that reducing carbon emissions, adapting to a changing climate and restoring indigenous biodiversity need to be tackled in an integrated and holistic way. These priorities are all interconnected and we need to work with a broad range of partners with an integrated approach to identify and implement the projects that will have the greatest impact.

This diagram illustrates the links between emissions mitigation, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity restoration.

Examples of actions.



Where does this plan fit in?

This plan aligns with all aspects of the wellbeing outcomes framework and guides all of the work that Council does.



OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES...



Thriving people
| Whakapuāwai Hapori



Living
Te Ao Māori
| Whakatinana i te ao Māori



Opportunities
for all
| He ōhaka taurikura



Breathtaking
creativity
| Whakaohoooho Auahataka



Deafening
dawn chorus
| Waraki



Zero carbon
communities
| Parakore hapori



Disaster-defying
resilience
| He Hapori Aumangea



Pride in sharing
our places
| Kia noho tahi tātou katoa

...ARE SUPPORTED BY OUR WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK...

CROSS CUTTING

Equity
Mātauraka Kāi Tahu
Resilience
Sustainability

PEOPLE

Healthy and fulfilled people
A good standard of living

PLACE

A healthy natural environment
An enabling built environment

COMMUNITY

Connected communities
Belonging and identity
Participation and governance

...AND DELIVERED EVERYDAY THROUGH OUR CORE ACTIVITIES...

Community partnerships

Libraries

Sport & recreation

Community facilities and venues

Parks and reserves

Property

District Plan

Planning policy

Resource consents

Water supply

Wastewater

Stormwater

Transport

Waste minimisation and management

Strategic growth - Spatial Plan

Economy

Climate action and resilience

Regulatory functions and services

Local democracy

Emergency management

Finance and support services

...AND THROUGH ADDITIONAL FOCUS ON OUR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

GET THE BASICS RIGHT FIRST

Protect human and environmental health
Maintain levels of service
Undertake essential renewals
Ensuring we're ready for the future

DIRECTLY INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Create well designed communities
Provide for growth
Build resilience and ability to adapt to the future
Enhance performance of the transport network
Create thriving town centres
Reduce carbon emissions

INVEST THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Diversify the economy
Build a sustainable tourism system
Improve housing affordability

Integrating with other strategies and plans

This plan fits within a broad system of plans and strategies that guide Council planning for the future. The CBP sets the overarching priorities for addressing the climate and ecological crises and thereby gives direction to other strategies and plans that deliver core functions of Council.



QUEENSTOWN LAKES SPATIAL PLAN

This plan sets out a long term vision for how the district can “Grow Well / Whaiora”, with a focus on sustainability, climate resilience, and biodiversity protection. It aims to reduce carbon emissions through improved urban planning, enhancing public and active transport, and encouraging renewable energy and low-emission buildings. The plan prioritises the protection and regeneration of natural ecosystems by integrating green spaces into urban areas, safeguarding indigenous flora and fauna, and ensuring responsible land use to minimise environmental degradation. Additionally, it emphasises climate adaptation by guiding development to areas with low natural hazard risk, ensuring resilience to extreme weather events and other climate-related challenges.



QUEENSTOWN LAKES 30 YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

This strategy outlines a long term approach to managing the district's essential infrastructure, ensuring it is resilient, efficient, and sustainable. This strategy is crucial for climate and biodiversity action as it integrates future-focused planning to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, enhance resilience, and support sustainable growth.



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT PLAN

This document directs land use and development within the district, balancing growth with environmental protection. It plays a critical role by setting policies that promote sustainable development, protect natural ecosystems, and reduce carbon emissions. Significant indigenous vegetation and faunal habitats are protected and enhanced within scheduled Significant Natural Areas and other areas that meet biodiversity criteria in the District Plan. As a legal instrument under the Resource Management Act 1991 it sets enforceable rules on what activities can occur in specific areas.



REGENERATIVE TOURISM PLAN: TRAVEL TO A THRIVING FUTURE

This destination management plan focuses on transforming tourism into a force for regeneration by ensuring visitors contribute positively to the local environment, culture, and community. It aligns with the climate and biodiversity actions by promoting the rapid acceleration of decarbonisation within the district's visitor economy, responsible visitor behaviour, and conservation-focused tourism initiatives.



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN (WMMP)

This plan presents a vision for a circular economy, where waste is significantly reduced through reuse, repurposing, and more responsible resource use. It aligns closely by encouraging responsible consumption, cutting landfill waste, and supporting community-led waste minimisation efforts. Both plans share a commitment to moving beyond the traditional "take-make-dispose" model, recognising that a circular approach is key to a more sustainable future. By focusing on waste reduction, material recovery, and smarter resource management, the WMMP supports reducing GHG emissions and easing pressure on natural ecosystems. Refer to actions 3.6 and 5.4 for more information on reduction and diversion of organic waste and construction waste from landfill.



ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PLAN: NEW PATHWAYS TO A THRIVING FUTURE

This plan aims to reduce the district's reliance on tourism by building a more resilient, sustainable, and low-emission economy. The plan includes supporting local experts within the conservation, biodiversity, carbon reduction, and renewable energy sectors to grow sustainable income streams and export opportunities. A diversified economy has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the local economy and lead the transition to a low emission green future.



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT WELCOMING PLAN 2024-2027

This plan identifies actions to provide a welcoming and inclusive district for newcomers. This helps ensure equity and enable greater resilience through improved support for the community. It includes an action to inform, educate and support newcomers to understand the district's values and goals to become a climate conscious and sustainable community.

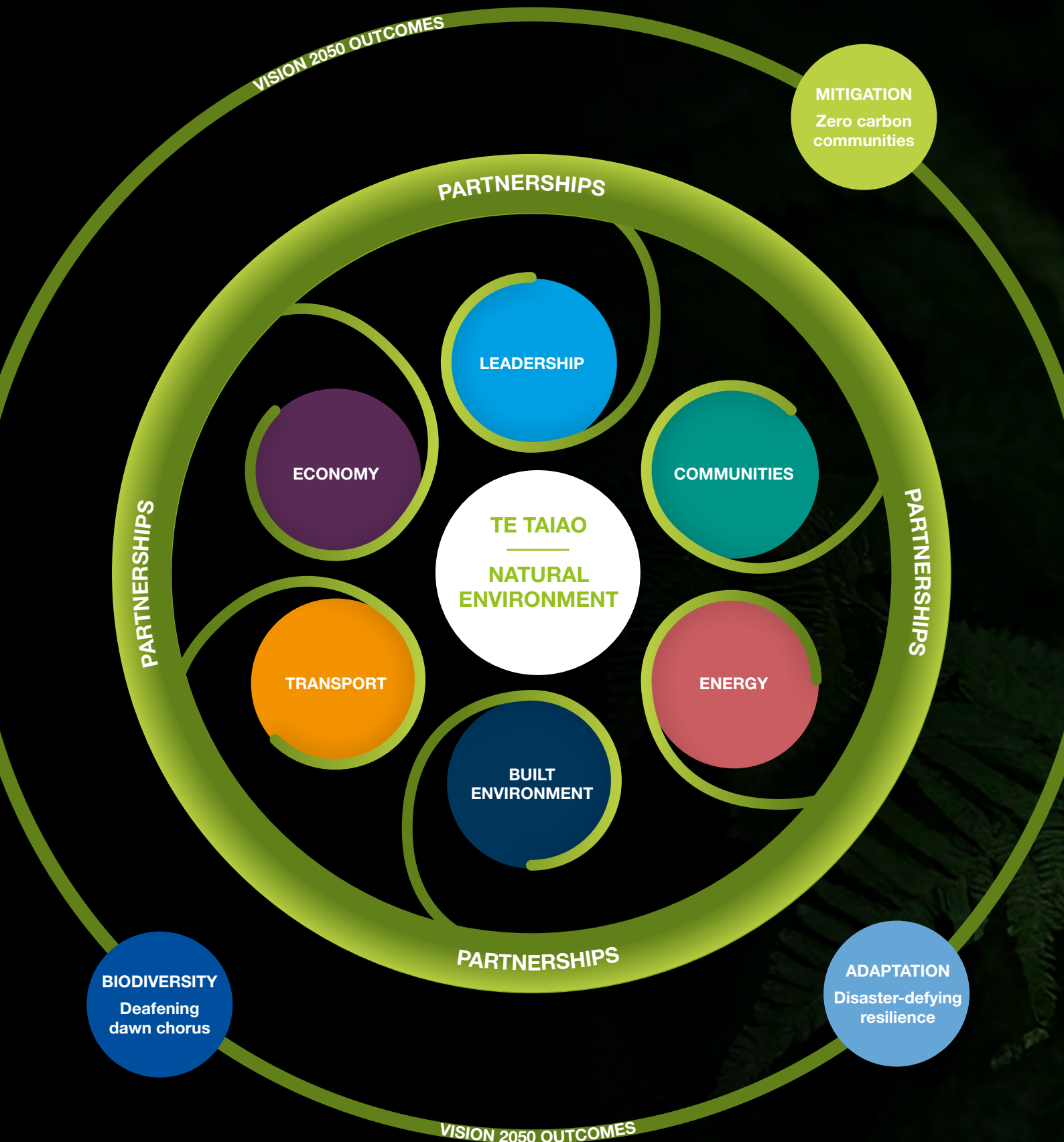
By integrating and aligning across Council strategies, plans and partnerships, we can ensure a coordinated and effective response to the challenges ahead.



2

Our strategic action plan

Our strategic framework





We have adopted a new strategic framework based on a circular, interconnected approach that places Te Taiao (the natural environment) at the centre of our planning and decision-making. This reflects our commitment to protecting and restoring the mauri (life force) of the environment, recognising that a thriving natural world is the foundation of community wellbeing and long-term resilience.

The framework introduces seven outcome areas that, together, will enable us to respond to the climate and ecological crises. Tackling these challenges requires united, long-term action by everyone - council, our partners and the wider community.

At the core of this approach is partnership - serving as the unifying thread that weaves together each outcome area. Through collaboration with mana whenua, local communities, businesses, and institutions, we aim to drive cohesive, collective impact.

The framework builds on our existing priorities while introducing a new focus on transforming our energy systems to support a low-emissions future.

THE PLAN CONTRIBUTES TO OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES:

BIODIVERSITY



Deafening dawn chorus
| Waraki

EMISSIONS MITIGATION



Zero carbon communities
| Parakore hapori

CLIMATE ADAPTATION



Disaster-defying resilience
| He Hapori Aumangea

TE TAIAO NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated



We will deliver major environmental projects



We will enable improved predator and pest plant control



We will increase the impact of our local conservation organisations

**11
PROJECTS**

LEADERSHIP

QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership



Climate and biodiversity action is in our organisational DNA



We commit to proactive climate governance

**9
PROJECTS**

COMMUNITIES

Our communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate



We will prepare for the long-term impacts of climate change



We will strengthen our community resilience



We will help grow a resilient, low-carbon local food system

**7
PROJECTS**

ENERGY

Our energy system is resilient, renewable, and responsive



We will accelerate the transformation of our local energy system



We will help create a more enabling regulatory environment

**4
PROJECTS**

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our built environment is resilient with low environmental impact



We adopt best practice environmental standards



We will accelerate the green build transition



We will work together to protect and manage our water

**8
PROJECTS**

TRANSPORT

Our transport system is low- emission and better connected



We work together to change the way we travel



We will help accelerate transport decarbonisation

**6
PROJECTS**

ECONOMY

Our economy leads the transition to a low emission future



We support the transition to regenerative tourism



We enable a more sustainable local economy

**5
PROJECTS**

Our action plan

The following pages outline proposed actions that will be delivered from 2025 to 2028. Actions have been identified through collaboration with our partners and reflect priorities for responding to the climate and ecological crises.

Each outcome area begins with a summary statement of intent, followed by a detailed set of actions. Actions are presented using a standard format that includes:

ACTION NAME AND DESCRIPTION – outlining the objective and rationale.

PROGRESS TO DATE – summarising foundational work or initiatives already underway.

KEY INITIATIVES – detailing the steps and interventions that will be delivered.

INVESTMENT LEVEL – indication of the funding estimate for delivering the action.

KEY PARTNERS – identification of partners and stakeholders who will support the delivery of the action.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT – identification of the value(s) that most strongly aligns with the action.

The key below indicates if an action is delivered by Council only or in partnership, whether it is new or continuing, level of investment, and whether it is dependent on initiatives such as the proposed Regional Deal.

DELIVERY	 Council only	 Partnered delivery
ACTION	 New action	 Continuing action
DEPENDENT INITIATIVES	 Regional Deal	
INVESTMENT VALUE (ESTIMATE)	 <\$20K	
	 20K - \$100K	
	 100K - \$500K	
	 >\$500K	
	 TBC – to be confirmed / still under review	



TE TAIAO

The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated



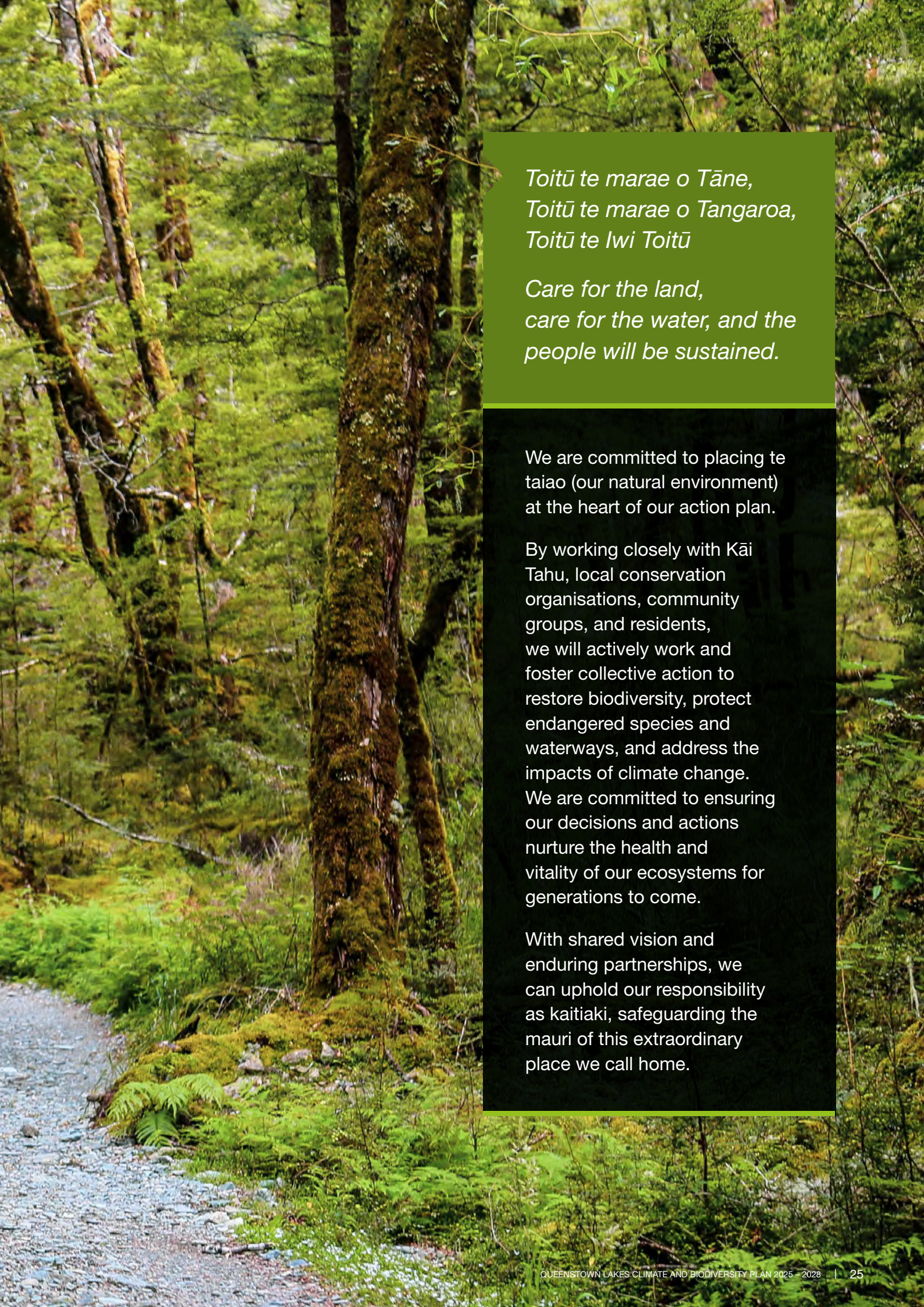
WE WILL DELIVER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL



WE INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS



*Toitū te marae o Tāne,
Toitū te marae o Tangaroa,
Toitū te Iwi Toitū*

*Care for the land,
care for the water, and the
people will be sustained.*

We are committed to placing te taiao (our natural environment) at the heart of our action plan.

By working closely with Kāi Tahu, local conservation organisations, community groups, and residents, we will actively work and foster collective action to restore biodiversity, protect endangered species and waterways, and address the impacts of climate change. We are committed to ensuring our decisions and actions nurture the health and vitality of our ecosystems for generations to come.

With shared vision and enduring partnerships, we can uphold our responsibility as kaitiaki, safeguarding the mauri of this extraordinary place we call home.



1.1

Project Tohu

ACTION:

Revegetate Coronet Forest through the implementation of Project Tohu. The vision guiding Project Tohu is recloaking the giants of the Whakatipu Basin. This project will be a leading example of how large-scale ecological restoration can be successfully achieved in the district. More than 500,000 indigenous grasses, shrubs, and trees will be planted across the south-facing slopes of Coronet Peak. This site was the location of the former Coronet Forest which was harvested to remove a major source of wilding conifers. This project will restore and protect our local indigenous ecosystem, improve water quality within the catchment, and sequester carbon¹⁰.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Te Tapu o Tāne and e3 Scientific Limited were awarded the contract to restore the biodiversity of Coronet Forest with natives.

After harvesting the forest, the first project year focused on site preparation and planning followed by the planting of over 80,000 plants in April 2025. The revegetation focuses on indigenous species such as tawhai rauriki (mountain beech), kōwhai, kōhūhū (pittosporum), and kapuka (broadleaf).

KEY INITIATIVES:

Collaborate with Kāi Tahu to ensure mātauraka Kāi Tahu guides regeneration efforts, enhancing biodiversity and cultural connections to the land.

Engage the community, volunteers, and local conservation groups in planting and maintenance efforts to foster stewardship and environmental education.

Implement ecological best practices to ensure successful establishment of native species, enhance habitat connectivity, and improve climate resilience.

Monitor progress and ecosystem recovery through scientific assessments and community involvement.

Seek funding and support partnerships to expand the project and accelerate native revegetation across the Whakatipu region.

For more information visit

 www.qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu, Te Tapu o Tāne, Citycare Property, e3 Scientific, local conservation and community organisations.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Mauri - Life force





Also see
actions 5.7
and 5.8 that
will support
this project

1.2

Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes restoration

ACTION:

Endorse the Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes Strategy and partner in the implementation of the action plan to restore the water quality and ecology of this treasured lake for generations to come.

The name Waiwhakaata refers to the shimmering reflection from the surface of the lake and the strategy aims to uphold the mana of the name Waiwhakaata so our actions are reflected in the water. Although the lake is a taoka (treasure) for our district, its hauora (health) has been significantly affected over many decades. This intergenerational project aspires to be an exemplar in ecological restoration and a case study for other catchment restorations across the motu.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

The Waiwhakaata Strategy Group has been established between Kāi Tahu (Aukaha, Te Ao Mārama), Otago Regional Council (ORC), Department of Conservation (DOC), Friends of Lake Hayes, and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) to lead the development of the strategy. This strategy will build upon the significant progress that has been made with restoration work around the lake and in the broader catchment, including the installation and clearance of sediment traps, planting of over 140,000 native trees, removal of five hectares of willow trees, and augmentation of water into the lake.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Endorse and support the delivery of the Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes Strategy.

Work in partnership with Kāi Tahu to integrate mātauraka Kāi Tahu into restoration efforts and ensure cultural values are upheld.

Collaborate with Friends of Lake Hayes, ORC, Mana Tāhuna, DOC, local community groups and businesses to implement water quality improvement measures, riparian planting, and catchment management strategies.

Engage the local community in regeneration initiatives, fostering stewardship through education, volunteering, and citizen science programmes.

Support monitoring and reporting on lake health improvements to check the effectiveness of restoration activities, and adapt to changing environmental conditions.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu (Aukaha, Te Ao Mārama), ORC, Friends of Lake Hayes, Mana Tāhuna, DOC, Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, local conservation organisations, community groups, local businesses.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Tikaka - Appropriate action

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Mauri - Life force





1.3

Mt Iron Reserve enhancement

ACTION:

Work in partnership with the community to protect and enhance the biodiversity, cultural significance, and recreational values of the Mount Iron Reserve. This work will be delivered in collaboration with Kāi Tahu, local community organisations, and the wider community.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

The Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan was completed in April 2025. It sets out the vision and objectives that will guide the future management of Mount Iron and was developed following extensive engagement with the community. Community groups have also been working in the Mount Iron Reserve to remove wilding trees and trap pests.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Support the community with removing invasive species and replanting indigenous flora to enhance biodiversity.

Protect and strengthen the ecological, cultural, and recreational values of the reserve in collaboration with mana whenua.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu, DOC, local conservation organisations, community groups.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





1.4

Deliver the Blue-Green Network Plan

ACTION:

Lead the delivery of the Blue-Green Network (BGN) Plan. The BGN Plan seeks to connect and enhance the district's waterways and green spaces including parks, reserves, and natural areas, within the priority development and settlement areas of Council's Spatial Plan.

We will collaborate with developers and partners across the district to protect and restore these vital ecosystems, supporting native biodiversity, improving water quality, and strengthening climate resilience in our urban areas. As the district grows, it is essential to integrate natural systems and open spaces into our future planning to ensure long-term ecological health and more liveable, resilient neighbourhoods.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Partner with Kāi Tahu in the practice Kia uta ki tai which is a natural resource management philosophy that recognises that everything is connected and must be managed as such.

Ensure the BGN principles are implemented into spatial planning:

- > Te mana o te wai¹¹
- > Woven into the context
- > Coexistence of nature and people
- > Connecting people and place
- > Fit for purpose and well serviced

Provide GIS maps and local Blue-Green Network plans to support revegetation projects.

Strengthen the role of Priority Development and Settlement Areas. This will protect existing indigenous ecosystems, as well as support urban regeneration efforts and landscape-scale conservation.

Encourage community involvement and education to inspire shared stewardship of the district's natural spaces.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu, developers, local conservation organisations, community groups.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Mauri - Life force



¹¹ Te mana o te wai refers to the fundamental importance of water. Protecting and restoring water flows and quality in turn protects and restores natural ecosystems, the wider environment, and the communities which depend on this environment.



1.5

Agrichemical reduction programme

ACTION:

Reduce agrichemical use across Council operations, prioritising sustainable control methods within parks and roading areas.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Develop and implement an agrichemical reduction programme with our contractors to reduce reliance on chemical pest control.

Review agrichemical use and alignment with best practices as part of contract renewal processes.

Identify and prioritise opportunities for reduction and innovation, such as alternative vegetation management strategies.

Explore and trial eco-friendly pest and weed control methods to enhance biodiversity and soil health.

Monitor and report on progress to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with best practices.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Roading contractors, parks operations contractors.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Tikaka - Appropriate action

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship





1.6

Rewild and revegetate Council land

ACTION:

Implement rewilding practices on Council land to ensure biodiversity enhancement is prioritised. This includes initiatives such as reduced mowing, weed removal and replanting.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

QLDC has undertaken significant weed clearance and revegetation work at Council reserves including Matakauri Wetland, Horne Creek in Warren Park, Bullock Creek and lakeside reserves between the Wānaka Yacht club and Eely Point. To June 2025, QLDC also supports 72 community-led planting projects on reserves around the district including in Wānaka, Hāwea, Albert Town, Lake Hayes, Arrowtown, Quail Rise, Lake Hayes Estate, Kelvin Peninsula, and Glenorchy.

KEY INITIATIVES:

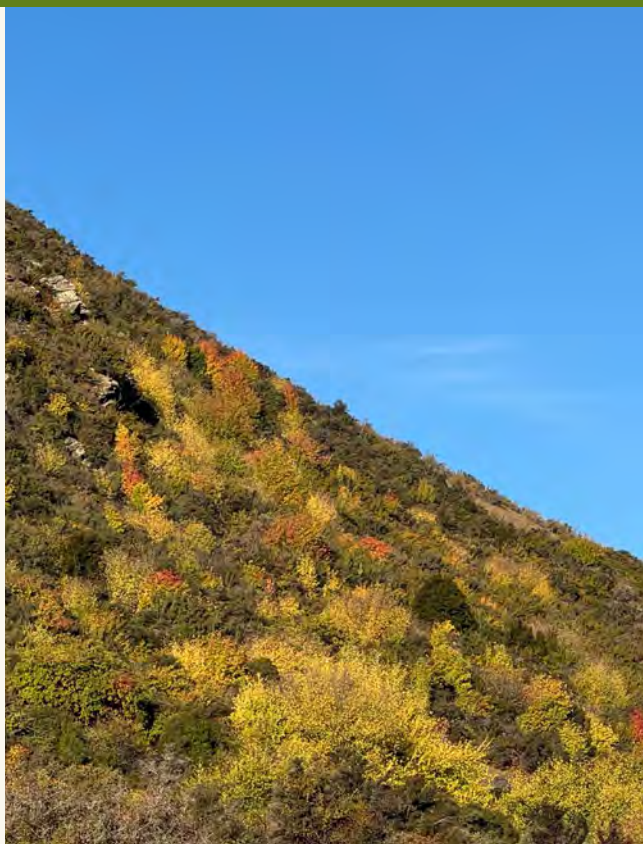
Identify and prioritise reserves or parts of reserves suitable for rewilding practices.

Continue supporting community organisations to revegetate and plant on Council reserves.

Implement planting programmes in areas identified as suitable planting sites.

Monitor and report on progress to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with best practice.

Implement a communication and education plan to support biodiversity enhancement. Share information such as the Potential Ecosystems Mapping¹² and the Otago Native Planting Guide¹³, to guide restoration activities.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Local conservation organisations, community associations, parks contractors.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Tikaka - Appropriate action

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship



¹² Southern Lakes Sanctuary Ecosystems Mapping (2023) <https://gis-qldc.hub.arcgis.com/>

¹³ Otago Regional Council (2024). Otago Native Planting Guide <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/902888d6b5f8d1a9db1234e71379215>



1.7

Predator trapping and species monitoring innovation

ACTION:

Support the trialling and implementing of innovative predator trapping and species monitoring technologies and methodologies. This activity helps with efforts underway across the district to control pests such as stoats, ferrets, possums, feral cats and rats in biodiversity hotspots. This work will also support species monitoring and translocation opportunities.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Support the expansion of predator control and biodiversity monitoring throughout the district.

Support deployment of cutting-edge predator control e.g. AT220 traps and monitoring technologies in priority locations such as Bush Creek, Matakauri Wetlands, and along the trail network.

Support emerging conservation technologies for research and innovation in ecological regeneration in wider catchments.

Use insights from these projects to inform the wider rollout of advanced predator control and biodiversity monitoring across the district.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Southern Lakes Sanctuary, Whakatipu Wildlife Trust, Predator Free Wānaka.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused





1.8

Wilding conifer control

ACTION:

Work in partnership with local wilding control groups to protect the district's unique landscapes and biodiversity from the spread of wilding species. This will be achieved through investment in the control of wildings on Council land, the continuation of provisions in the District Plan to prevent the spread, and the strengthening of partnerships with organisations and community groups.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Wilding species on Council land:

Council is planning the staged removal of wilding species at key Council reserves, combined with revegetation programs. This is to improve biodiversity, reduce the risk of soil erosion, wildfire, and negative impacts on water quality.

Strengthening partnerships:

Continue collaborating and supporting the Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group and the Whakatipu Wilding Control Group to manage and control wilding pines.

Supporting community initiatives:

Maintain support for community-led efforts, including engagement programmes like the Adopt a Plot initiative on Ben Lomond.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group, Arrowtown Choppers, DOC, ORC, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Mauri - Life force

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





1.9

Cat management

ACTION:

Explore and implement options to address the impact feral cats have on native ecosystems and wildlife. Feral cats are highly effective predators and a threat to both wildlife and companion cats. The approach needs to consider the protection of companion and stray cats from viral disease, encourage responsible pet ownership and address increasing feral cat numbers. Potential options will look to the management and protection of welfare for feral, stray and companion cats.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Issue identification and analysis of successful cat management approaches from other local authorities to identify the most effective and practical solutions for our district.

Collaborate with conservation groups, cat welfare organisations, and mana whenua to develop a balanced, community-led approach.

Introduce policy interventions that protect and care for companion cats while reducing feral cat populations and their impact on local ecosystems.

Support an education campaign on responsible cat ownership and the benefits of keeping pets safe at home.

Support targeted actions to mitigate the harm feral cats cause to native species.

Monitor and assess the impact of initiatives on domestic cat welfare and local biodiversity.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, Whakatipu Wildlife Trust, Southern Lakes Sanctuary, Whakatipu Conservation Alliance.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Tikaka - Appropriate action





1.10

Enhance environmental data sharing

ACTION:

Collaborate with ORC and other conservation partners to improve collection and sharing of environmental monitoring data to understand the drivers of, and pressures on, environmental values. This will strengthen our collective ability to protect and restore the mauri of our natural environment.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Work with partners to establish a shared framework for collecting and integrating district-level ecological health data across domains such as biodiversity, water quality, land use, and climate impacts.

Partner in the development of a digital environmental hub to make data accessible to a wide range of audiences, including community groups, researchers, mana whenua, and decision-makers.

Continue to develop online resources such as Optimal Biodiversity Map and Community Planting maps to showcase the regeneration projects that have been completed and those that are planned.

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, DOC, local conservation organisations.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused



1.11

Strengthen the capability of our local conservation groups

ACTION:

Support the capability development of local conservation groups by providing training, resources, and collaboration opportunities.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Provide support for professional development skills, such as governance, and funding coordination for staff, volunteers, and board members.

Explore opportunities for shared service models to improve efficiency and resource-sharing across conservation organisations.

Provide funding for workshops and professional development to strengthen conservation skills and knowledge.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, DOC, local conservation organisations.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused





LEADERSHIP

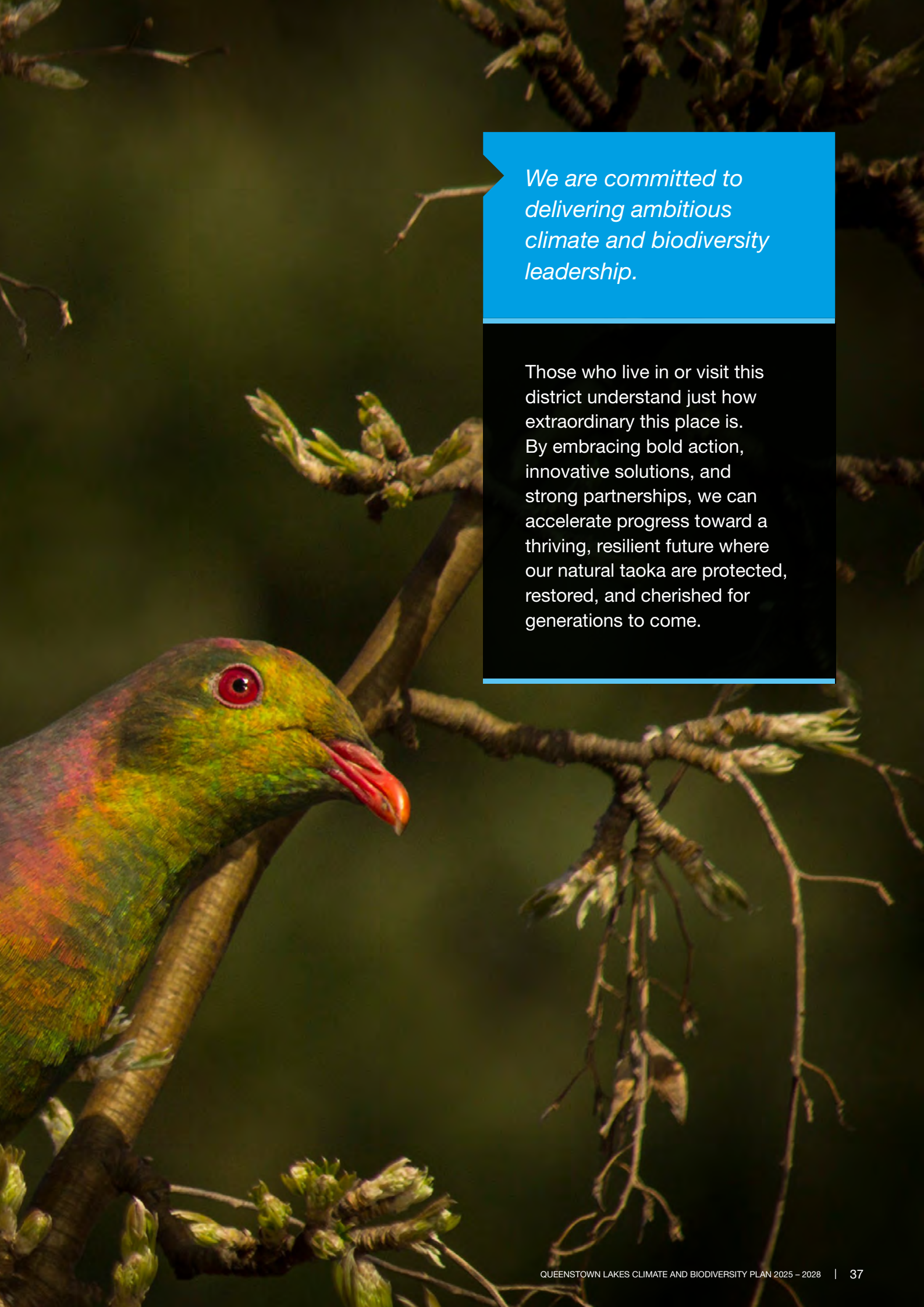
QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership



CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR DNA



WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE



We are committed to delivering ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership.

Those who live in or visit this district understand just how extraordinary this place is. By embracing bold action, innovative solutions, and strong partnerships, we can accelerate progress toward a thriving, resilient future where our natural taoka are protected, restored, and cherished for generations to come.



For
information on
scope 3 emission
reductions see
Actions 2.4, 5.1
& 5.2

2.1

Emission reduction investments

ACTION:

Implement targeted investments and initiatives to reduce Council greenhouse gas (GHG) scope 1 (direct) and scope 2 (indirect purchased electricity) emissions by transitioning to cleaner energy sources and aligning future investment priorities with long-term emissions reduction goals.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Investment in Council vehicle fleet electrification, building energy efficiency upgrades, and improved electricity management has produced a 4.4% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions (direct energy) between 2019-2024.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Clean heat projects:

Transition water heating systems at Alpine Aqualand, Wānaka Recreation Centre, and Arrowtown Pool from liquefied petroleum gas to cleaner energy sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and decreasing operational costs.

Energy review:

Conduct a review of energy consumption across Council assets to identify opportunities for improving energy efficiency and reducing associated emissions. Use this information to identify opportunities for efficiency upgrades and investments in solar and battery projects (see Action 4.3).

Organisational travel:

Continue to invest in the electrification of the Council vehicle fleet, and reduce emissions from staff commuting through the Organisational Travel Plan.

Building efficiency:

Continue to invest in energy efficiency improvements for Council buildings and community facilities.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

External procurement.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Tikaka - Appropriate action

CONT.





For information on green project management and embodied emissions see Actions 5.1 & 5.2

2.2 Embedding climate and biodiversity into Council decision-making

ACTION:

Embed climate and biodiversity considerations into governance, decision-making, and organisational development.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Council has taken steps to embed climate action, resilience planning, and a commitment to the natural environment across its strategic planning framework (see page 16). This work guides the direction of planning in documents such as the Spatial Plan, Long-term Plan and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy. Independent reviews of the current state of climate and biodiversity decision-making across the organisation, combined with an analysis of global leading practice, have identified opportunities for new tools, frameworks, templates, and training.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Enhance reporting frameworks:

Implement updated Council reporting templates that require climate and biodiversity impact.

Governance training:

Provide climate action training for Elected Members to support informed, sustainable decision-making.

Develop staff expertise:

Deliver professional development opportunities to build internal capability in climate resilience and biodiversity protection.

Align organisational roles:

Update role responsibilities to reflect evolving climate and biodiversity priorities, embedding sustainability across all functions.

Green Financing:

Investigate green financing opportunities for council-led climate and biodiversity projects.

These initiatives will commence in year one of the plan and be reviewed annually as part of the continual improvement process.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Internal staff.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Tikaka - Appropriate action

Haere whakamua - Future focused





2.3

Protecting indigenous biodiversity through planning policy

ACTION:

Develop a programme of work to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB).

PROGRESS TO DATE:

The District Plan identifies and protects Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and other areas with high indigenous biodiversity values. Chapter 33 of the Proposed District Plan enables the ongoing identification and protection of SNAs through resource consent applications, and encourages land owners to consider non-regulatory approaches for protecting indigenous biodiversity.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Indigenous biodiversity programme of work:

Develop a programme of work to give effect to the NPS-IB in the District Plan.

Collaboration with key stakeholders:

Work in partnership with key stakeholders to support shared understanding and coordinated action to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity across the district.

Data collection on indigenous biodiversity:

Continue to collect information on important biodiversity across the district through planning policy, consenting and other Council processes.

Cross-department collaboration:

Improve cross-department collaboration to improve biodiversity outcomes, through regular information sharing and sustainable project management practices.



For more information on embedding climate and biodiversity into Council decision-making and green project management practices, refer to actions 2.2 and 5.1

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

External procurement.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Tikaka - Appropriate action

CONT.





2.4

Sustainable procurement

ACTION:

Integrate best-practice sustainability standards into Council procurement processes. Ensure purchasing decisions are aligned with emissions reduction, sustainability, waste minimisation, and social development objectives of Council.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Standardise sustainable procurement:

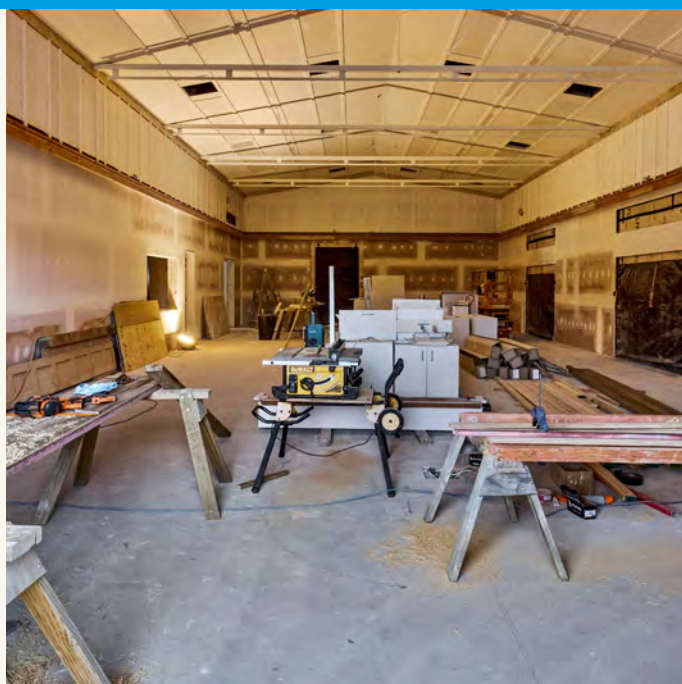
Embed globally recognised frameworks like ISO 20400¹⁴ to ensure sustainability is a core consideration in all Council procurement activities.

Build knowledge and capability:

Deliver training for staff and suppliers to enhance expertise and practical application of sustainable procurement principles.

Sustainability reporting:

Establish robust reporting mechanisms to track and report on the progress and performance of supplier sustainability commitments.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Internal staff.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Tikaka - Appropriate action

CONT.



¹⁴ ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable procurement — Guidance.



2.5

Organisational greenhouse gas emissions reporting

ACTION:

Undertake organisational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting and achieve annual carbon reduction certification through independent third-party auditing, in accordance with ISO 14064-1:2018¹⁵.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Council received Toitū Carbon Reduce certification in 2023 and needs to demonstrate a 44% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions (against a 2019 baseline) by 2030 to maintain certification.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Monitor and report progress annually to track emissions reductions progress.

Update the Council's Emissions Reduction Plan to inform investment priorities for the Long Term Plan 2027-2037.

Assess the viability of including wastewater emissions into targets based on the outcomes of the government's Local Water Done Well plan.

PROJECT DETAILS**INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Carbon management consultants, third party auditors.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Tikaka -
Appropriate action
Haere whakamua -
Future focused



2.6

District greenhouse gas emissions reporting

ACTION:

Undertake district-level GHG reporting to track emissions trends, measure progress toward reduction targets, and inform coordinated climate action planning across the district.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Previous district level reporting has been completed by Council in 2017 and 2019 before being transferred to ORC to lead at a regional level. Through agreement this will now be returned to Council to lead.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Delivery:**

Undertake a district-level GHG inventory report (minimum of every three years) in accordance with Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC).

Collaboration:

Work with local businesses, industries, and government agencies to improve data accuracy and gain a comprehensive understanding of district-wide emissions.

PROJECT DETAILS**INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Internal staff, external partners, external procurement.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Tikaka -
Appropriate action
Haere whakamua -
Future focused





ACTION:

Undertake a climate scenario analysis in line with recognised frameworks e.g. Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards (NZCS) to help Council evaluate a range of plausible climate futures, assess district-wide resilience, and plan for emerging risks and opportunities.

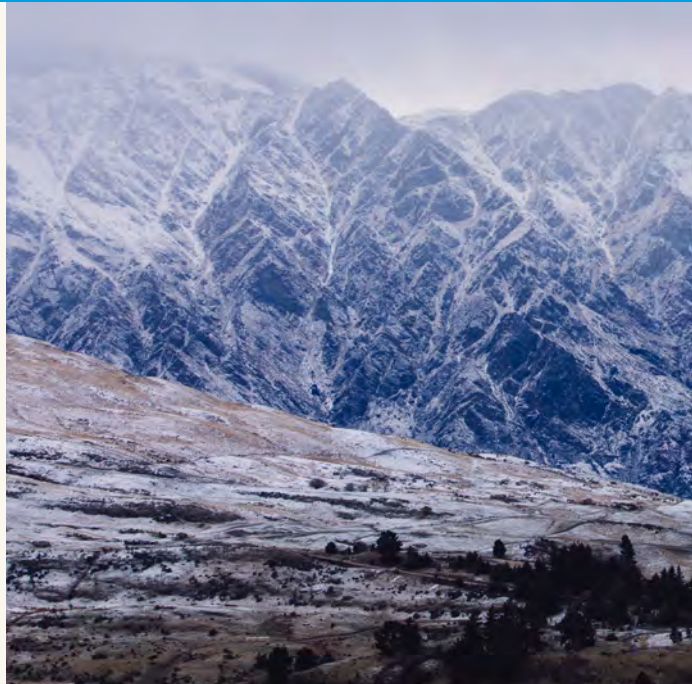
KEY INITIATIVES:

Explore potential climate impacts:

Use scenario analysis to identify and evaluate potential climate impacts (including physical and transitional risks) that could impact the district and Council operations.

Inform strategic planning:

Integrate scenario outputs into materiality assessments, transition planning, and to provide a foundation for climate risk management frameworks.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Local Government sector partners, internal staff, Councillors, external experts.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Haere whakamua - Future focused

NEW





2.8

Climate risk assessment

ACTION:

Develop a robust climate risk assessment and reporting framework that is aligned with national and international best practices. As climate change impacts intensify across Aotearoa, Council must understand and proactively manage climate-related risks to the district while identifying opportunities for adaptation and resilience.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Establish a climate risk reporting framework:

Develop and implement a structured reporting system that aligns with the Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards (NZCS) and best practice guidance.

Identify and assess climate risks:

Evaluate climate-related risks and opportunities affecting Council operations, infrastructure, assets, and service delivery.

Strengthen alignment and collaboration:

Work with central and regional government, iwi partners, and peer councils to ensure consistent approaches and share knowledge.

Embed continuous improvement:

Regularly review and update the framework to reflect evolving science, regulation, and community expectations.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Internal staff, external procurement, Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





ACTION:

Conduct a comprehensive review of Council's insurance strategy to ensure adequate coverage for severe weather events and climate-related risks. A proactive, strategic approach to insurance will enhance Council's ability to manage climate-related financial risks and build long-term resilience.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Identify coverage gaps:

Assess current insurance policies to ensure sufficient protection against climate-related risks, including flooding, storms, and other extreme weather events.

Explore new solutions:

Investigate emerging climate risk insurance products and financial instruments to enhance Council's ability to manage potential losses.

Strengthen partnerships and best practices:

Collaborate with insurance providers, industry experts, and other local Councils to identify best practices and scalable solutions for climate risk management.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Internal staff, insurance brokers, insurance providers.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





COMMUNITIES



Our communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate



WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



WE WILL HELP GROW A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



Our communities are at the heart of climate resilience.

By sharing knowledge, supporting local initiatives, and taking collective action, we can strengthen our ability to respond to challenges, embrace new opportunities, and protect the deep sense of connection that defines our district. We will help empower our communities with the information, resources, and support they need and ensure a more adaptable, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.



3.1

Preserving our cultural and natural heritage

ACTION:

Collaborate with the Preserving Legacies Project which has selected Tāhuna Glenorchy as an international climate adaptation heritage site. This global initiative, launched in 2023, empowers communities to protect cultural and natural heritage from climate change by providing scientific knowledge and technical training. In March 2025, Tāhuna Glenorchy was officially accepted into the program.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Support local leadership:**

Assist appointed site custodians as they receive training in global best practices for climate adaptation and heritage protection.

Enhance local adaptation:

Work with site custodians to apply this knowledge locally.

Preserve cultural landscapes:

Develop tailored strategies to safeguard iconic landmarks and heritage sites.

Community engagement:

Collaborate with local groups to create climate models that visualise future hazards and inform planning.

Storytelling:

Utilise storytelling methods to share knowledge, explain the challenges, and inspire action.

Foster global connections:

Build international networks among heritage professionals to share expertise and best practices.

For more information visit

 www.heritageadpts.org

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Preserving Legacies Project team, site custodians.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Haere whakamua - Future focused





3.2 Ensuring a just transition

ACTION:

Strengthen partnerships between Council, Kāi Tahu, local kaupapa Māori organisations, social service providers, Te Whatu Ora, NZ Public Health, and social investment groups to ensure a just and inclusive transition¹⁶ to a low-emissions, climate-resilient future. By working alongside iwi, Māori organisations, and community agencies, we aim to better understand and address the social and economic challenges of this transition.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Address energy hardship:

Support social service agencies and iwi to assess the scale of energy hardship in the district and support community-led solutions to improve energy resilience.

Support workforce transition:

Collaborate with industry partners to explore upskilling and reskilling opportunities in renewable energy, sustainable construction, regenerative agriculture, and conservation.

Engage and educate newcomers:

Implement initiatives to inform, educate, and support newcomers in embracing the district's sustainability goals.

Healthy homes:

Work with QLDC Libraries and other agencies to provide access to Healthy Home Kits, helping renters and homeowners identify issues such as dampness, insulation gaps, and energy inefficiencies.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu, KUMA (Te Kupeka Umaka maori kin Araiteuru), Mana Tāhuna, Ministry of Social Development, Lakes Multicultural Collective, Salvation Army, Happiness House, Community Link Upper Clutha, Wao, Te Whatu Ora, local social service organisations.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Makaakitaka - Hospitality



¹⁶ A just transition is an inclusive approach to climate action that ensures the shift to a low-emissions, climate-resilient future is fair and equitable. It recognises that the impacts and opportunities of this transition are not felt equally, and actively works to protect the wellbeing of workers, communities, iwi/Māori, and vulnerable groups.



3.3

Community Resilience Groups

ACTION:

In partnership with Emergency Management Otago, accelerate the growth and capability development of Community Resilience Groups to ensure communities across the district are well-prepared for major emergency events.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

A network of 17 Community Resilience Groups has been established across the district, helping to build local readiness for emergencies and climate-related events. These groups have been supported through education workshops, technical training sessions, and the distribution of Community Emergency Preparedness brochures and locally tailored Resilience Plans. In 2024, more than \$40,000 worth of emergency equipment was supplied in partnership with Central Lakes Trust, to groups including generators, EcoFlow batteries, lighting, heaters, whiteboards, first aid kits, and large gearboxes. This investment builds on a \$60,000 co-investment the previous financial year for VHF radio equipment.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Enhance communication and coordination:

Launch a dedicated information hub and communications plan to support information sharing, volunteer coordination, and community engagement across the groups.

Expand emergency training:

Continue to provide technical training programmes, such as first aid, Community Emergency Hub management, and essential preparedness skills.

Increase resilience investments:

Accelerate investment in backup power, emergency communication tools, and critical equipment to improve the functionality and preparedness of Community Emergency Hubs.

Strengthen support for culturally diverse communities:

Enhance emergency preparedness across culturally and linguistically diverse communities to ensure inclusive and equitable support during emergency events.

This action supports the delivery of the Emergency Management Otago Community Resilience Strategy.

www.otagocdem.govt.nz/media/1649/emo-community-resilience-strategy.pdf

For more information visit

www.otagocdem.govt.nz/get-your-community-ready



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Emergency Management Otago, Community Resilience Groups, Central Lakes Trust, Kāi Tahu, New Zealand Red Cross, emergency services, health organisations, local businesses.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Makaakitaka - Hospitality





3.4

Community adaptation - Head of the Lake natural hazards

ACTION:

Partner with ORC and Glenorchy community to implement adaptation actions from the Head of the Lake Adaptation Strategy to address the climate-related hazards facing the community at the head of Lake Whakatipu.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Over the past three years, significant progress has been made in assessing natural hazard risks in Glenorchy and the wider head of the lake area. This includes the completion of reports such as the Glenorchy Natural Hazards Risk Assessment, Socio-Economic Impact Study, and Dart-Rees Flood Hazard Study, which provide a detailed understanding of flooding, alluvial fan activity, landslides, and seismic risks. Twelve community workshops and more than 40 newsletter updates have been delivered to inform residents and gather input for the Head of the Lake Adaptation Strategy, which is now being finalised to guide future investment and resilience planning.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Governance:

Develop a governance framework with ORC to oversee the long-term delivery of adaptation actions.

Hazard monitoring:

Ongoing hazard monitoring and data collection to track changes in the landscape and establish trigger points for adaptation measures.

Strategic alignment:

Ensure alignment of the Adaptation Strategy with Council Long Term Plan, Spatial Plan, District Plan, and other policies.

Resilience investments:

Deliver resilience projects, including Shepherds Hut Creek, Glenorchy stop bank upgrades, and maintenance of the Glenorchy jetty and marina.

Consenting:

Integrate the hazard reports and natural hazard risk data into resource and building consent processes.

Land-use planning:

Evaluate the outputs from the Adaptation Strategy to support future land use zoning and planning guidelines to help manage the evolving risk profile of the area.

For more information visit

 www.orc.govt.nz/get-involved/projects-in-your-area/head-of-lake-whakatipu



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, Kāi Tahu, Emergency Management Otago, DOC, local community, local businesses.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





Community adaptation - wildfire hazards

ACTION:

Strengthen wildfire risk reduction efforts across the district to mitigate the increasing threat of wildfires due to climate change. Council will continue implementing proactive measures to protect people, property, and ecosystems from heightened fire risks.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Over the past three years, Council has enhanced wildfire preparedness by developing fire risk management protocols for Council reserve land, working closely with stakeholders to identify strategic vegetation management programmes, and investing in an environmental monitoring network. Collaborative efforts with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), ORC, and local community groups have helped improve fire response coordination, public awareness, and fuel load reduction strategies.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Risk-based controls:

Continue to improve risk-based fire management protocols for Council reserves with key partners and stakeholders.

Vegetation management:

Progress work programmes for strategic vegetation management, including targeted fuel load reduction and replanting with fire-resistant native species.

Environmental monitoring:

Leverage the environmental monitoring network to improve real-time wildfire risk assessment and support emergency response coordination.

Partnerships:

Strengthen partnerships with FENZ, ORC, and support agencies to improve fire prevention, response, and recovery strategies.

Public information:

Improve public awareness and preparedness through targeted education campaigns on fire risk reduction and emergency evacuation planning.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

FENZ, Emergency Management Otago, Whakatipu Wilding Control Group, reserve leaseholders, community.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Mauri - Life force

Tikaka - Appropriate action





3.6

Strengthen the resilience of our local food system

ACTION:

Partner with the Southern Lakes Kai Collective to implement a strategic roadmap of projects and initiatives to develop a more resilient, sustainable and community-driven local food system.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

The Wao Food Resilience Project in Queenstown Lakes has made significant progress in strengthening local food security. In 2023, it completed a research phase, including surveys, stakeholder interviews, and a hui to develop a roadmap for food resilience. Insights from this work were compiled into the 2023 Food Resilience Report, outlining the current food system and future opportunities. Building on this, Wao launched the Southern Lakes Kai Collective to support community-driven, sustainable food solutions, with a vision of fostering long-term food resilience in the district.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Expand local food production:**

Support efforts to increase the scale of community gardens, food forests, and sustainable agriculture initiatives on public land.

Public education:

Promote food resilience through education campaigns that encourage local food growing, sharing, and sustainable food practices.

Emergency planning:

Develop an emergency food charter with protocols for ensuring food access during major emergencies.

Diversion of food and organic waste from landfill:

Support behaviour change initiatives in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) that prevent food losses within the local food system and divert organic waste from landfill¹⁷.

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Southern Lakes Kai Collective, Wao.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused



¹⁷ Each year, around 16,000 tonnes of organic waste go to landfill—13,000 tonnes of which are food scraps and garden waste, making up 27% of total waste. In landfill, this material produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting instead turns organic waste into a valuable resource that improves soil, reduces the need for fertilisers, and cuts emissions. The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan prioritises food waste diversion and expanding composting options across the district.



3.7

Exploring Kaupapa Māori food projects

ACTION:

Support Kāi Tahu and local kaupapa Māori organisations in strengthening food sovereignty for iwi, protecting mahika kai sites and practices, and embedding mātauraka Kāi Tahu to promote sustainable harvesting practices.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Mahika kai:

Work alongside Kāi Tahu whānau, papatipu rūnaka, and local communities to protect mahika kai sites and practices, ensuring they thrive for future generations.

Sustainable kai projects:

Support Kaupapa Māori food initiatives that promote regenerative agriculture, innovative food technology, and wild food harvesting, fostering a resilient, locally driven food system.

Sustainable harvesting practices:

Support efforts to enhance knowledge-sharing and practical opportunities for sustainable foraging, ethical harvesting, and the responsible use of wild game and pest species to strengthen food security.

Emergency planning:

Support iwi-led food security initiatives in emergency response and recovery by partnering with mana whenua to establish resilient food distribution networks that integrate mātauraka Kāi Tahu into emergency food planning.



Photo credit: Wao

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu whānau, Papatipu Rūnaka, Mana Tahuna, Te Tapu o Tane.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Haere whakamua - Future focused







ENERGY



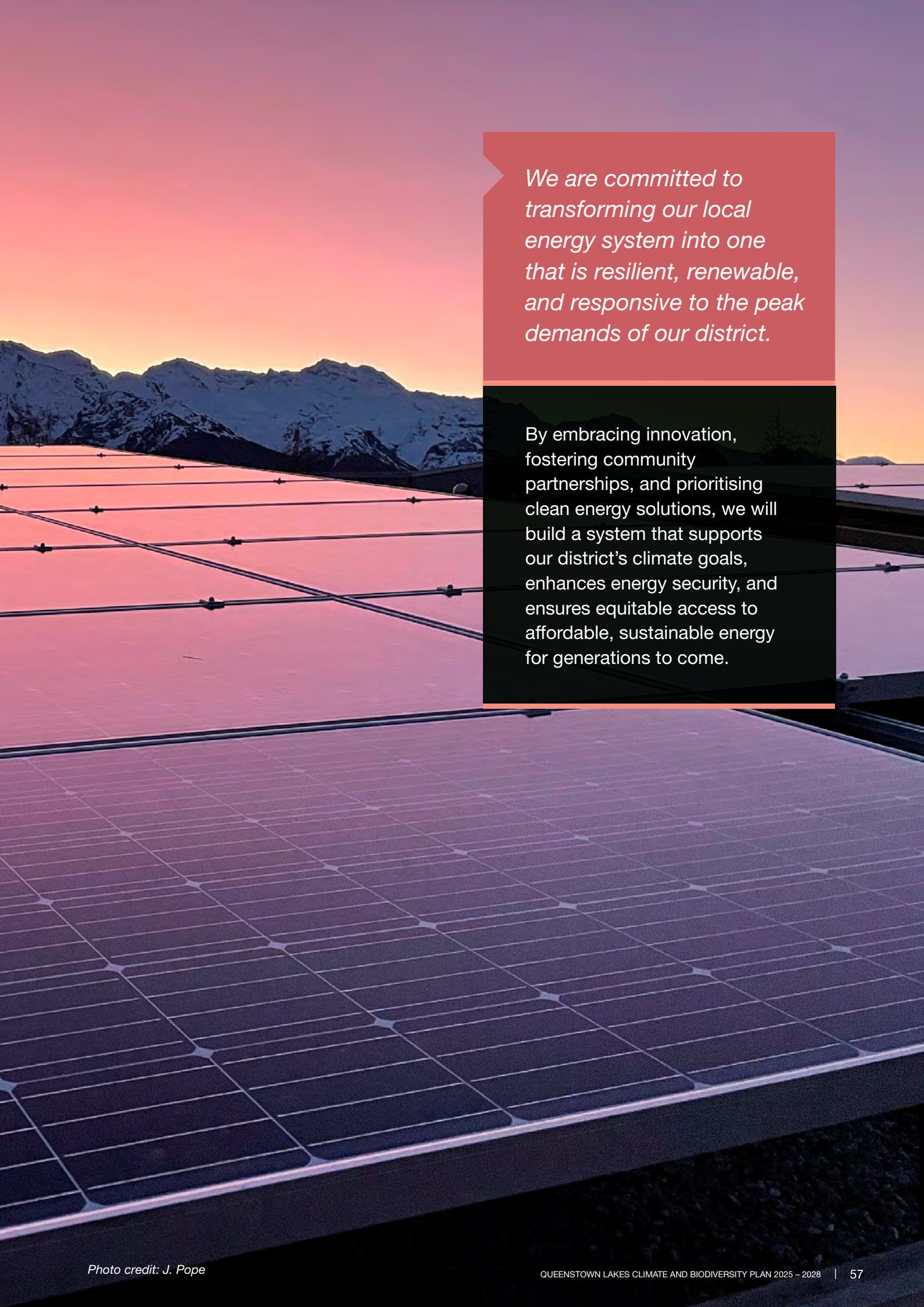
Our energy system is resilient, renewable and responsive



WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEM



WE WILL HELP CREATE A MORE ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT



We are committed to transforming our local energy system into one that is resilient, renewable, and responsive to the peak demands of our district.

By embracing innovation, fostering community partnerships, and prioritising clean energy solutions, we will build a system that supports our district's climate goals, enhances energy security, and ensures equitable access to affordable, sustainable energy for generations to come.



4.1

Supercharge the rollout of residential solar and batteries

ACTION:

Support the launch of a pilot Ratepayer-Assisted Scheme (RAS) to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar and battery storage across the district, thereby enhancing energy resilience and contributing to sustainable economic growth.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Financial accessibility:

Partner into the RAS scheme to help provide access to long-term, low-interest loans for the installation of solar panels and battery systems on rateable properties.

Strategic partnerships:

Collaborate with local energy providers, training institutes and technology firms to ensure integration across the sector and alignment with the district's economic diversification goals.

Pilot evaluation:

Conduct comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the pilot program to assess its impact on energy consumption, cost savings, and grid reliability.

Smart energy solutions:

Leverage the rollout to promote the adoption of smart energy management technologies at a community level to optimise electricity consumption, reduce costs, and minimise reliance on high-emission peak generation.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Rewiring Aotearoa, Local Government Funding Agency, Ara Ake, central government.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused





4.2

Empowering community-led electrification

ACTION:

Partner with Rewiring Aotearoa and industry stakeholders to support community electrification groups in Wānaka and Queenstown as they drive local energy transition efforts.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Public education and engagement:

Support community electrification groups to deliver workshops, outreach campaigns, and community events that raise awareness and provide practical guidance on electrification and energy efficiency.

Advisory services:

Support efforts to establish an advisory service to provide residents and businesses with up-to-date, independent technical guidance on solar panel and battery options, system design, and installation best practices.

Community-led decarbonisation:

Support community-led efforts to replace fossil fuel-dependent appliances and equipment (such as gas heaters, water heaters, and petrol-powered tools) with energy-efficient, electric alternatives.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Rewiring Aotearoa, Ara Ake.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Mauri - Life force





4.3

Electrification Accelerator Projects

ACTION:

Collaborate with industry partners to support the installation of innovative demonstration projects on Council-owned land and properties. These will showcase sustainable energy technologies and inspire wider adoption across the district.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Council facility upgrades:

Identify opportunities to install solar panels and battery storage systems on Council facilities such as recreation centres, community halls, and libraries.

Community-scale projects:

Explore and support community-scale energy solutions, such as the installation of public EV chargers, bulk-buy programmes, and the potential for grid-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems to enhance local energy resilience and sustainability.

 www.qea.nz



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Rewiring Aotearoa, Ara Ake, EECA, industry partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused





4.4

Energising Regulatory Reform

ACTION:

Advocate for central government regulatory reform to help accelerate the rollout of small-scale renewable energy generation (REG) and community-scale REG across the district, and ensure the District Plan alignment.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Partnered advocacy:**

Advocate for the removal of national regulatory barriers to enable faster deployment of localised energy systems. For example, introduction of two-way electricity tariffs that reward households and businesses for exporting renewable energy to the grid, especially during periods of peak demand.

Collaborative policy development:

Establish an energy advisors working group to co-design regulatory improvement recommendations.

District Plan alignment:

Integrate recommended improvements into the next District Plan review of Chapter 30 Energy and Utilities.

Develop improved guidance:

Provide clear guidance for small-scale REG and community-scale REG projects in the district to improve understanding of District Planning rules and requirements for consenting.

Monitoring and feedback:

Implement a tracking system for small-scale REG and community-scale REG consent outcomes to refine future regulation review.

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

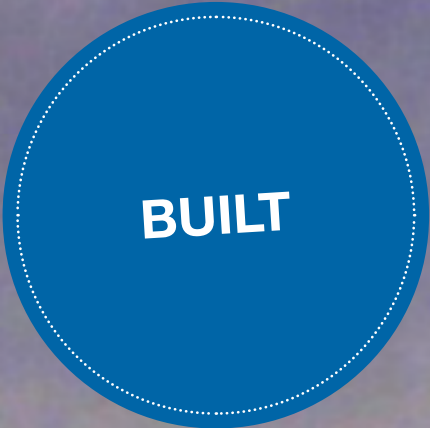
Internal staff, Rewiring Aotearoa, Are Ake, industry partners, infrastructure providers.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





BUILT



Our built environment is resilient with low environmental impact



WE ADOPT BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS



WE WILL ACCELERATE THE GREEN BUILDING TRANSITION



WE WILL PROTECT & MANAGE OUR WATER TOGETHER



We will prioritise investment in buildings and infrastructure that minimises their impact on the environment, whilst being resilient to a changing climate.

Council infrastructure will prioritise energy efficiency, resource conservation, and community well-being, ensuring that future growth aligns with our district's climate and biodiversity goals. By collaborating with industry, iwi, and the community, we will build a future where our homes, businesses, and public infrastructure supports a thriving, low-emissions district for generations to come.



5.1

Sustainable project management

ACTION:

Embed sustainable project management practices aligned with international best practice throughout the lifecycle of capital projects to reduce environmental impacts and enhance long-term sustainability.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Sustainability tools and frameworks:**

Incorporate carbon assessment platforms, biodiversity impact assessments, and other sustainability tools into project planning and decision-making.

Capacity building:

Provide training and resources to upskill staff, contractors, and governance decision-makers in sustainable project management practices.

Sustainability management plans:

Embed sustainability management plans into all phases of project planning and delivery to ensure a structured and measurable approach to reducing environmental impact.

Enhanced project reporting:

Integrate sustainability metrics into project reporting to track progress, measure impact, and drive continuous improvement.

Whole-of-life carbon evaluation:

Require projects with moderate to high climate impact to assess and minimise whole-of-life emissions, ensuring informed decision-making for long-term sustainability.

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Internal staff, industry partners, external consultants.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship

Tikaka - Appropriate action





5.2

Best practice carbon management

ACTION:

Embed best practice carbon management standards, such as PAS 2080:2023, into all stages of infrastructure planning and delivery to track, reduce, and manage whole-of-life carbon in major capital works projects.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

QLDC has been a leader in assessing and managing embodied carbon within local government infrastructure. The Carbon Baseline Project with Mott MacDonald provided a foundational understanding of emissions associated with capital works, informing targeted reduction strategies. To support data-driven decision-making, Council has adopted carbon assessment tools such as the Moata Carbon Portal, to track emissions across infrastructure planning and delivery. Additionally, project-specific carbon assessments for major developments such as the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, have highlighted opportunities to reduce whole-of-life carbon impacts, setting a strong precedent for future projects.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Whole-of-life carbon reduction:

Implement robust processes to assess and minimise carbon emissions at every stage of a project from material sourcing and construction to operation and end-of-life, enabling informed decision-making that lowers both embodied carbon and long-term operational costs.

Industry collaboration and leadership:

Strengthen partnerships across the value chain including designers, constructors, and suppliers, to drive innovation, share best practice and accelerate the implementation of low-carbon infrastructure solutions.

Low-carbon and circular construction:

Regularly update the Approved Materials Register to prioritise low-carbon construction materials and encourage circular economy practices, such as using recycled or repurposed materials in infrastructure projects.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Industry partners, external consultants.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Haere whakamua - Future focused





5.3 Designing for climate resilience

ACTION:

Embed climate resilience into infrastructure strategic planning and engineering codes of practice to future proof for a changing climate.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Council has committed to the resilience of its infrastructure through the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy. These documents highlight the importance of proactive investments, such as upgrading critical assets to withstand extreme weather events. Investment in the maintenance and renewal programmes are also a focus area.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Infrastructure strategy:

Integrate the outputs from the actions relating to Climate Scenario Analysis (2.7) and Climate Risk Assessment (2.8) into the next 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy to ensure climate risk, resilience, and adaptation remain central to long-term investment planning.

Adaptive planning for climate change:

Apply the Dynamic Adaptive Planning Pathways framework where appropriate to ensure climate adaptation trigger points are well understood, allowing for proactive and flexible infrastructure responses.

Strengthening engineering standards:

Embed best-practice climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity protection measures into Council's Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice to ensure all new developments align with sustainability goals.

Resilient asset renewal planning:

Continuously update asset renewal plans based on the actions associated with climate scenario analysis and climate risk assessments to strengthen long-term resilience.

Enhancing biodiversity and nature-based solutions:

Integrate biodiversity-enhancing measures and nature-based solutions, such as native planting for habitat regeneration, wetlands for stormwater management, and permeable infrastructure, into infrastructure investment planning and project delivery.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Industry partners, developers, external consultants, community.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Haere whakamua - Future focused





5.4

Promoting a better building standard

ACTION:

Partner with the Better Building Working Group to implement a comprehensive education and outreach programme that empowers the community and building industry to adopt climate-smart, resilient, and healthy construction practices.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Industry collaboration and innovation:**

Foster partnerships among builders, developers, architects, and industry professionals to drive innovation in low-carbon, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient construction.

Training and capacity building:

Deliver training, workshops, and resources to upskill industry professionals and homeowners in sustainable design, energy efficiency, and building performance.

Circular economy and sustainable materials:

Support the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) to promote the use of sustainable, locally sourced materials, encourage waste reduction, and support construction practices that extend building longevity and reduce environmental impact¹⁸.

Scaling best practices:

Investigate how other Councils across New Zealand have incentivised green building standards, to identify the most effective and practical solutions for our district. Work alongside the building sector, NZ Green Building Council, Superhome Movement and other advocacy organisations to accelerate the adoption of cutting-edge sustainable building technologies and methodologies.

For more information visit

 www.wao.co.nz/better-building

Better
Building
SOUTHERN LAKES

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

Wao, local building industry stakeholders, NZ Green Building Council, Better Building Working Group, Superhome Movement, community.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused

Haere whakamua - Future focused



¹⁸ Currently, construction and demolition waste accounts for around a third of all material sent to Victoria Flats Landfill from Queenstown Lakes District - over 16,000 tonnes each year. This is highlighted as a priority area for action in the WMMP including best practice initiatives to drive change in the building and construction industry, development of regulatory tools, services and facilities for construction waste diversion, industry research, and monitoring and data collection.



5.5

Sustainable Council buildings

ACTION:

Implement eco-design principles, low-impact construction methods, and renewable energy integration in Council-led building projects to minimise environmental impact, enhance resilience, improve long-term efficiency, and reduce operation costs.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Council has made significant strides in advancing sustainable building practices, with a focus on energy efficiency, low-carbon design, and resilience. A major achievement is the Luggate Memorial Centre | Whare Mahana, the first community building in Aotearoa New Zealand built to the Passive House standard. In 2023, it received the Southern Architecture Award in the Public Architecture category from the New Zealand Institute of Architects. The success of Luggate Hall reinforces the importance of eco-design principles, renewable energy integration, and low-impact construction.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Whole-of-life sustainability:

Embed lifecycle assessment into project decision-making, ensuring a balance between upfront capital costs and long-term benefits, including energy efficiency, operational savings, and reduced maintenance requirements.

Renewable energy integration:

Prioritise the installation of solar photovoltaic, battery storage, and other renewable energy solutions in new and refurbished Council buildings to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and enhance energy resilience. See Action 4.3.

Innovative and low impact construction:

Partner with local experts, industry leaders, and suppliers to champion sustainable building innovations, drive the adoption of low-carbon materials, and promote circular economy practices in Council projects.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Community, construction partners, external consultants.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

CONT.





5.6

Promoting responsible water usage

ACTION:

Implement the Water Demand Management Plan to encourage responsible and efficient water use, helping safeguard our pristine sources for future generations.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Smart metering initiatives have been implemented in Luggate, Glenorchy and Hawea, enabling accurate monitoring of individual water consumption per connection, early detection of private leaks and highlighting areas with elevated per-connection usage. Complementing these efforts, a targeted education campaign has been delivered to promote sustainable water use practices, including public sessions and seasonal water level restrictions. In addition, QLDC has been continuously running a comprehensive districtwide water loss monitoring and prevention programme to support long-term water resource sustainability and resilience across the region.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Targeted water management:

Explore volumetric charging options that balance affordability with incentives to reduce energy demand, minimise waste and water loss and encourage responsible consumption practices.

Policy interventions:

Investigate additional policy measures to further support and incentivise responsible water usage across the district.

Sustainable building and landscaping:

Promote the adoption of water-efficient fixtures, encourage rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling, and support the establishment of low-water-use plants that are well suited to the conditions of our district.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Industry partners, WAI Wānaka, community partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Mauri - Life force

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused





5.7

Strengthening stormwater resilience

ACTION:

Develop and implement integrated stormwater catchment management plans across the district to ensure a science-based, nature-positive approach to stormwater management.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Council has made significant investments in stormwater management, with a strong focus on improving resilience to future climate impacts. Extensive stormwater modelling has been conducted across the Wānaka and Whakatipu basins, providing valuable insights into flood risk and system performance under varying conditions. This data has guided strategic investments in stormwater infrastructure, ensuring that new and upgraded systems are built to withstand predicted increases in rainfall due to climate change.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Collaborative planning:

Engage with mana whenua, local communities, and environmental experts to integrate mātauraka Kāi Tahu, ecological knowledge, and community priorities into stormwater management solutions.

Climate-resilient infrastructure:

Integrate future rainfall variability, extreme weather adaptation, and urban growth pressures into stormwater infrastructure planning.

Nature-based solutions:

Prioritise nature-based solutions, including water sensitive urban design, to improve water quality, climate resilience, and support biodiversity.

Measurable impact:

Set clear targets for water quality improvements, flood risk reduction, and ecological regeneration within stormwater catchments.

Robust monitoring programme:

Work with ORC, local communities and other key stakeholders to implement a robust water monitoring programme.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Industry partners, Wāi Wanaka, community partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Mauri - Life force





5.8

Supporting community-led water initiatives

ACTION:

Collaborate with Kāi Tahu, WAI Wānaka, Mana Tāhuna, Friends of Lake Hayes, ORC and others to accelerate catchment -scale planning and community-led initiatives that enhance freshwater health, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Support community action:

Work with partners to support community-led projects and initiatives that are focused on water quality improvement and catchment regeneration. Examples include riparian planting, invasive species control, citizen science, water quality monitoring, and adopt a drain.

Integrated catchment planning:

Collaborate with partners on initiatives such as the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Management Plan to develop community-led, catchment-level strategies and work programmes.

Facilitate knowledge sharing:

Coordinate resources, technical expertise, and funding opportunities. Draw on ORC's Deep Lakes Technical Advisory Group to support local groups in enhancing their environmental efforts including monitoring and data collection.

Community education and engagement:

Support local communities, schools, and volunteers through education programmes that encourage participation in environmental regeneration and climate adaptation.

For more information visit

- upper-lakes-orc.nz.hub.arcgis.com
- waiwanaka.nz/projects/community-catchment-plan
- www.savelakehayes.org.nz
- www.manatahuna.co.nz/environmental



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Kāi Tahu, WAI Wānaka, Mana Tāhuna, Friends of Lake Hayes, ORC, community groups.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Mauri - Life force

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused





TRANSPORT

**Our transport
system is
low-emission
and better
connected**



WE WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAVEL



WE WILL HELP ACCELERATE TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION



We are committed to creating a sustainable, low-carbon transport system that is better connected and accessible to all our community.

By shifting towards active travel and more sustainable modes of transport, we aim to build a connected network that encourages walking, cycling, and public transport, decreasing our transport emissions. Through collaboration with local communities, we will ensure our transport network is designed to meet the future needs of our community.



6.1

Investing in our future transport network

ACTION:

Collaborate with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, ORC, and the private sector to implement a low emission, efficient, and better-connected public transport system and active travel network for the district.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Although transport congestion remains a major challenge for our district, progress is being made to transform the network through the NZ Upgrade Programme, Better Ways to Go Mode Shift Plan and Grow Well Whaiora Spatial Plan. Major infrastructure investments have been delivered, including improved cycling and pedestrian connections, enhanced public transport facilities, and road network upgrades to improve safety and efficiency. The expansion of bus services in Queenstown, alongside initiatives to increase frequency and reliability, has strengthened public transport and lead to record increases in patronage. Significant progress has also been made to extend the cycling trails network and provide improved signage and wayfinding.

KEY INITIATIVES:**Public transport:**

Partner with regional agencies to accelerate the development of a more frequent, reliable, and comprehensive Queenstown bus network, as well as advocating for public transport investment in Upper Clutha and outlying communities.

Transport network investments:

Deliver major transport infrastructure projects that integrate shared and active travel modes and ensure that all Council led infrastructure projects (e.g., stormwater, power, and minor upgrades) incorporate or enhance shared and active transport infrastructure as a standard practice.

Integrated urban transport network:

Collaborate with partners to design and implement a district-wide network of shared and active transport options, ensuring that all residents and visitors in Queenstown and Wānaka have accessible, sustainable travel choices.

Micromobility¹⁹:

Explore how we can incorporate different micromobility solutions across the district to further develop the integrated transport network and provide first/last mile options.

Active trails network:

Continue to invest in the Queenstown Lakes Trails Network to enhance connectivity into the Integrated Urban Transport Network, promote sustainable transport options, and encourage outdoor recreation.

**PROJECT DETAILS****INVESTMENT:****KEY PARTNERS:**

NZTA, ORC, central government, Trails Trusts, private sector, industry partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





6.2

Growing community-led active travel initiatives

ACTION:

In partnership with Lightfoot Initiative, Wao and other local organisations, accelerate community-led transition towards shared and active travel.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Local organisations such as the Lightfoot Initiative and Wao are leading the way in promoting sustainable transportation and encouraging active travel mode shift across the Queenstown Lakes District. These organisations are delivering a wide range of initiatives, campaigns and programmes to encourage people to swap their cars for more sustainable and healthy active travel options. These efforts align closely with the priorities of Council's Travel Demand Management work programmes and Better Ways to Go Mode Shift Plan.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Travel planning:

Collaborate with schools, community groups, households, and local businesses to promote shared and active travel and assist them in developing and implementing low-emission travel plans.

Activation events:

Provide funding support for events and activations such as Aotearoa Bike Challenge and Biketober.

Community engagement:

Promote ongoing education and engagement campaigns to raise awareness of the environmental and personal benefits of shifting to more sustainable, low-emission transport options.

Invest in technology:

Collaborate with partners to develop technology to support the use of shared and active modes for organisations and communities.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Lightfoot Initiative, Wao.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Whanaukataka - Family and community focused





6.3

Smarter parking solutions

ACTION:

Implement innovative parking management strategies that promote sustainable transport choices, reduce dependency on private vehicles, and support a low-carbon, people-focused transport system.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Explore adaptive pricing and technology solutions:

Assess demand-based pricing, time restrictions, and smart parking technologies to optimise parking efficiency.

Encourage sustainable travel choices:

Leverage parking policies to incentivise public transport, active travel, and shared mobility options.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, NZTA, industry partners, community.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action





6.4

Expand the EV charging network

ACTION:

Accelerate the transition to low-emission transport by expanding accessible, reliable EV charging infrastructure for shared and personal vehicles across the district.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Strategic site identification:

Identify and prioritise locations on Council land for public EV charging stations. This includes providing space for car-sharing services that require EV charging.

Collaborative expansion:

Partner with energy providers, businesses, and local organisations to expand both public and private EV charging networks for shared and personal vehicles.

Future-proofing infrastructure:

Integrate EV charging requirements into planning and development regulations for new residential, commercial, and public projects. Ensure car-sharing services have dedicated EV charging space within all future developments.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

EECA, commercial partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Tikaka - Appropriate action



Exploring innovative mass transport solutions

ACTION:

Collaborate with partners to assess the feasibility of innovative mass rapid transport solutions that seamlessly integrate with traditional public transport. These solutions aim to provide efficient, low-emission alternatives, reducing congestion and carbon emissions while enhancing connectivity.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Advocate for streamlined implementation:

Engage with central government to enable a more flexible and efficient planning process for innovative transport solutions.

Identify optimal routes:

Work with developers and stakeholders to determine suitable corridors, particularly in high-traffic areas and tourism hotspots.

Support pilot projects:

Support trial implementations to evaluate feasibility, gather operational data, and refine strategies before expanding to additional routes. Ensure community engagement and behaviour change strategies are embedded in all pilot projects to maximise community support and uptake.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:

TBC

KEY PARTNERS:

ORC, NZTA, central government, commercial partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

NEW



Supporting the aviation transition

ACTION:

Work collaboratively with Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC²⁰) to position Queenstown Lakes as a national sustainability leader, aligning and strengthening local sustainability initiatives, and advocating and supporting the transition to low-emission aviation technologies.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Over the past three years, QAC has made significant sustainability progress, achieving a 71% reduction in organisational emissions since 2019 and transitioning to certified 100% renewable electricity. It attained Level 4+ Airport Carbon Accreditation, recognising its advanced carbon management efforts. QAC has also led biodiversity initiatives, earning an ACI Green Airports 'Platinum' Award for the Shotover Wetland restoration project. Other initiatives include expanded waste management programmes and strong community partnerships with local organisations.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Aligning strategies for greater impact:

Ensure synergy between this plan and QAC's Sustainability Strategy to drive a cohesive approach to emissions reduction.

Knowledge sharing:

Explore opportunities to share expertise and resources to enhance the effectiveness and impact of sustainability projects.

Accelerating electrification and decarbonisation:

Increase energy independence through onsite generation and storage, reducing pressure on local network and strengthening operational resilience. Advocate and plan for the adoption of sustainable aviation fuel and the transition to low-emission aviation technologies.

Enhancing sustainable transport access:

Collaborate on initiatives to improve public and active transport options for airport users and employees, including better bus services and cycling infrastructure.

Circular economy practices:

Partner on programmes to reduce waste generation at the airport, including construction and transition towards a circular economy model.

Resilient and sustainable infrastructure:

Demonstrate leadership of sustainable construction practices whilst enhancing resilience of one of the district's most significant infrastructure assets.

For more information visit

www.queenstownairport.co.nz/sustainability-strategy



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

QAC, industry partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Makaakitaka - Hospitality



²⁰ Queenstown Airport Corporation Limited (QAC) is a Council-Controlled Trading Organisation, with QLDC the major shareholder (75.1%).



ECONOMY

Our economy leads the transition to a low emission future



WE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM



WE HELP ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY



We will support the Queenstown Lakes economy to lead the transition to a low-carbon future. Through sustainable businesses, circular practices, and environmentally conscious industries, we will drive economic prosperity while protecting our natural environment for generations to come.

By embracing clean energy, sustainable practices, and regenerative tourism, we create opportunities that benefit both people and nature. Collaboration, innovation, and community action will ensure our economy thrives while making Queenstown Lakes a model for sustainable growth.



7.1

Partnered delivery of the Destination Management Plan

ACTION:

In partnership with Destination Queenstown (DQ) and Lake Wānaka Tourism (LWT), deliver projects from the Travel to a Thriving Future - Queenstown Lakes Regenerative Tourism Plan. This partnership will drive meaningful progress towards reducing tourism's environmental footprint, restoring ecosystems, and enhancing climate adaptation and emergency preparedness.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Achievements include the Regenerative Tourism Plan's endorsement by QLDC in February 2023 and the launch of community platforms like Love Queenstown and Love Wānaka to fund local climate and conservation projects. Initiatives to decarbonise the visitor economy by 2030 have been introduced, with research papers and business plans aligning to support this goal. Work has included Electrify Queenstown events, the Optimal Visitation Project, Member Capability Programme and the Cogo Vistr Carbon Measurement tool.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Integrating work programmes:

Collaborate with DQ and LWT to integrate climate and biodiversity objectives into tourism initiatives, ensuring alignment with this plan.

Data sharing and reporting:

Facilitate data-sharing and reporting between Council, DQ, and LWT to track progress, identify challenges, and inform future decision-making.

Enabling projects:

Support tourism businesses in adopting low-emission practices, enhancing biodiversity efforts, and preparing for climate-related risks through education, incentives, and regulatory guidance.

For more information

 www.regenerativetourism.co.nz

Travel to a thriving future

Heereka whakamua ki te ao taurikura

A Regenerative Tourism Plan

Te Mahere Whakahaumanga Tūpui

Wānaka

Destination Queenstown

Lake Wānaka Tourism



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Destination Queenstown, Lake Wānaka Tourism, industry partners, Emergency Management Otago, conservation sector partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship





7.2

Supporting the financial growth of the environmental services sector

ACTION:

Support the long-term financial growth of the environmental services sector through the delivery of Project 3.3: Environmental Enterprise in the QLDC Economic Diversification Plan.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Innovative funding models:

Collaborate with partners to explore new revenue streams and financial mechanisms to enhance the financial sustainability of environmental service organisations.

Enhancing financial security:

Investigate carbon sequestration, biodiversity offset funding, and commercial partnerships to increase revenue for ecosystem regeneration efforts.

Private sector collaboration:

Foster partnerships between not-for-profits and businesses to secure financial stability and boost long-term resilience for local conservation groups.



PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Conservation sector partners, ORC, DOC, industry partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Rakatirataka - Leadership

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Haere whakamua - Future focused





7.3

Supporting our local business transition

ACTION:

Support local organisations and industry leaders to transition to more sustainable practices that reduce emissions, promote a circular economy, minimise waste, and improve resource efficiency in our local economy.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Sustainability programmes:

Partner with business networks to offer education, resources, and incentives for businesses to lower their environmental impact.

Energy efficiency support:

Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy and low-carbon technologies to support the transition to low-emission operations.

Waste minimisation:

Support the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan to encourage resource recovery, waste reduction, and sustainable product design through circular economy principles.

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Chamber of Commerce, Ignite Wānaka, industry partners.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Haere whakamua - Future focused

Makaakitaka - Hospitality



7.4

Supporting sustainable film productions

ACTION:

Support the film sector to adopt sustainable practices within Queenstown Lakes. Connect production companies with local organisations and suppliers, help identify energy and emissions reduction opportunities, and facilitate waste reduction.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Guidance and support:

Collaborate with local film industry groups to provide resources and guidance on implementing sustainable practices, including energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transport for production teams.

Network building:

Connect film companies with local suppliers offering environmentally friendly products and services to reduce the environmental footprint of productions.

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Film Queenstown Lakes, film industry.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship



7.5 Enabling sustainable events

ACTION:

Support the transition towards sustainable event practices in Queenstown Lakes District by providing education, guidance and toolkits for event organisers.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Setting the standard:

Partner with Better Events Collective to develop a Sustainability Charter for local events which establish clear standards. Develop sustainability guides for event organisers, covering waste minimisation, emissions reduction, sustainable transport and biodiversity protection.

Education and support:

Partner with community organisations and environmental groups to provide hands-on support, resources, and education for implementing sustainable event practices.

Funding:

Ensure all events receiving Council grant funding meet a required set of sustainability criteria, encouraging best practices in emissions reduction, waste management and environmental stewardship.

Celebration and recognition:

Promote sustainable event certification and recognition programmes to celebrate and incentivise low-impact events.



Photo credit: The Wild and Sustainable Queenstown

PROJECT DETAILS

INVESTMENT:



KEY PARTNERS:

Destination Queenstown, Wao Better Events Collective, Sustainable Queenstown.

KĀI TAHU VALUE ALIGNMENT:

Makaakitaka - Hospitality

Kaitiakitaka - Stewardship



Plan Summary

ACTION		PROJECT DELIVERY	TIMEFRAME			INVESTMENT VALUE
			2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
TE TAIAO - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	 WE WILL DELIVER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS					
	1.1 Project Tohu	Partnership				\$ \$ \$ \$
	1.2 Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes Restoration	Partnership				\$ \$
	1.3 Mt Iron Reserve Enhancement	Partnership				\$ \$
	1.4 Blue Green Network Plan	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	 WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL					
	1.5 Agrichemical Reduction Programme	Council led				\$ \$
	1.6 Rewild & Revegetate Council Land	Council led				\$ \$ \$
	1.7 Predator Trapping & Species Monitoring Innovation	Partnership				\$ \$
	1.8 Wilding Conifer Control	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	1.9 Cat Management	Partnership				\$ \$
	 WE INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS					
	1.10 Enhance Environmental Data Sharing	Partnership				\$ \$
	1.11 Strengthen Capability of our Local Conservation Groups	Partnership				\$ \$
LEADERSHIP	 CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR DNA					
	2.1 Emission Reduction Investments	Council led				\$ \$ \$ \$
	2.2 Embedding Climate & Biodiversity into Council Decision-making	Council led				\$ \$
	2.3 Protecting indigenous biodiversity through planning policy	Council led				\$
	2.4 Sustainable Procurement	Council led				\$
	 WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE					
	2.5 Organisational GHG Emissions Reporting	Council led				\$ \$
	2.6 District GHG Emissions Reporting	Council led				\$ \$
	2.7 Climate Scenario Analysis	Council led				\$
	2.8 Climate Risk Assessment	Council led				\$ \$
2.9 Climate Insurance Strategy	Council led				\$ \$	
COMMUNITIES	 WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE					
	3.1 Preserving our Cultural & Natural Heritage	Partnership				\$
	3.2 Ensuring a Just Transition	Partnership				\$
	 WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE					
	3.3 Community Resilience Groups	Partnership				\$ \$
	3.4 Community Adaptation - Head of the Lake Natural Hazards	Partnership				\$ \$ \$ \$
	3.5 Community Adaptation - Wildfire Hazards	Partnership				\$ \$ \$ \$
	 WE WILL HELP GROW A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM					
3.6 Strengthen Local Food System Resilience	Partnership				\$ \$	
3.7 Exploring Kaupapa Māori Food Projects	Partnership				\$ \$	

ACTION		PROJECT DELIVERY	TIMEFRAME			INVESTMENT VALUE
			2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
ENERGY	⚡ WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEM					
	4.1 Supercharge the rollout of Residential solar and batteries	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	4.2 Empowering Community-led Electrification	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	4.3 Accelerator Projects	Partnership				\$ \$ \$ \$
	🔧 WE WILL HELP CREATE A MORE ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT					
	4.4 Energising Regulatory Reform	Partnership				\$
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	🌐 WE ADOPT BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS					
	5.1 Sustainable Project Management	Council				\$ \$
	5.2 Best Practice Carbon Management	Council				\$ \$
	5.3 Designing for Climate Resilience	Council				\$ \$ \$ \$
	🏠 WE WILL ACCELERATE THE GREEN BUILDING TRANSITION					
	5.4 Promoting a Better Building Standard	Council				\$ \$
	5.5 Sustainable Council Buildings	Council				\$ \$ \$ \$
	💧 WE WILL PROTECT & MANAGE OUR WATER TOGETHER					
	5.6 Promoting Responsible Water Usage	Council				\$ \$ \$ \$
	5.7 Strengthening Stormwater Resilience	Council				\$ \$ \$ \$
5.8 Supporting Community-led Water Initiatives	Partnership				\$ \$	
TRANSPORT	🚌 WE WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAVEL					
	6.1 Investing in our Future Transport Network	Partnership				\$ \$ \$ \$
	6.2 Scaling up Community-led Action	Partnership				\$ \$
	6.3 Smarter parking solutions	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	🏠 WE WILL HELP ACCELERATE TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION					
	6.4 Expand the EV charging network	Partnership				\$ \$
	6.5 Exploring Innovative Mass Transport Solutions	Partnership				TBC
6.6 Supporting the Aviation Transition	Partnership				\$	
ECONOMY	🔄 WE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM					
	7.1 Partnered delivery of the Destination Management Plan	Partnership				\$ \$ \$
	💰 WE HELP ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY					
	7.2 Support Growth of the Environmental Services Sector	Partnership				\$ \$
	7.3 Supporting our Local Business Transition	Partnership				\$ \$
	7.4 Supporting Sustainable Film Productions	Partnership				\$
7.5 Enabling Sustainable Events	Partnership				\$ \$	

3

Measuring our progress

Indicators framework

This section outlines how we will measure progress and track the success of our plan. It outlines measures, targets, and data sources, as well as how we will report on outcomes to stay on track and adjust our actions as needed.

We will be working with partners to refine measures and targets throughout the duration of the plan, including collecting baseline data where needed.

The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated



WE WILL DELIVER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL



WE INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
Total areas (ha) under protection or regeneration through Council's activities	Annual increase in total areas under protection and/or regeneration	Annually	Significant Natural Areas or Council reserves defined in the District Plan	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.11
Indigenous land cover across the district	Increase in indigenous land cover across the district by 2028	Every 5 years	Stats NZ Indigenous Land Cover data ²¹	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6
Population numbers of specific native birds	Increase in population numbers of specific native birds	Biennially	DOC species records	1.7, 1.9
Biodiversity monitoring reporting (including on Council land)	Increase in population numbers of endemic species	Annually	Partner reporting	1.7, 1.9
Tracking of predator trap inventory	Year on year increase	Quarterly	Partner reporting	1.7,1.10
Tracking of predator suppression area (ha)	Year on year increase	Quarterly	Partner reporting	1.7,1.10
Tracking of pest/ predator populations (e.g. wax tag indexing to track possum abundance)	Year on year decrease	Annual	Partner reporting	1.7,1.10
Water quality results at selected sites	Annual improvement in water quality results at selected sites	Annually	LAWA Water quality data, ORC Environmental Portal	1.2, 1.4, 5.7, 5.6, 5.8
Council agrichemical usage	Annual decrease in agrichemical use on Council land	Annually	Internal agrichemical reporting	1.6
Wilding control – area of land cleared/number of trees removed	Annual increase	Annually	Wilding control partner reporting	

²¹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/indigenous-land-cover/>

QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership



CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR ORGANISATIONAL DNA



WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
Organisational greenhouse gas emissions	Meet or exceed Toitū Carbon Reduce GHG emissions targets by 2028	Annually	Annual Organisational GHG Emissions Inventory	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
District greenhouse gas emissions	District greenhouse gas emissions reduce by 36% by 2028 (against 2019 baseline).	Triennially	District GHG Emissions Inventory	2.5
Programme delivery of the Climate and Biodiversity Plan	Consistent quarterly programme reporting to Audit, Finance & Risk Committee	Quarterly	Audit Finance & Risk Committee Reports	All
Climate-related disclosures metrics (Measures to be defined in FY25-26)	(Targets to be set in FY25-26)	(Reporting frequency to be set in FY25-26)	Aotearoa NZ Climate-related Disclosures metrics ²²	2.2, 2.7
Number of green financed projects	Year on year increase	Annually	Internal data	2.8

Our communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate



WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



WE WILL HELP GROW A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
Number of climate risk assessments completed for heritage sites (to be confirmed in FY25-26)	(Targets to be set in FY25-26)	Annually	Preserving Legacies metrics	3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Energy hardship levels across the district	Year on year improvement	Annually	Quality of Life Survey – energy hardship	3.2, 4.1, 4.2,
Proportion of the district with an active Community Resilience Group (CRG)	100% of communities and settlements with active CRGs by 2028	Triennially	Emergency Management Otago reporting	3.3
Percentage of CRGs with “Enabled” level of capability by 2028 ²³	100% of groups	Annually	Emergency Management Otago reporting	3.3
Percentage of respondents who agree they are prepared for an emergency event	Year on year improvement	Annually	Quality of Life Survey	3.3, 3.4, 3.5
Community Resilience Score for Queenstown Lakes District	Year on year improvement	Annually	Emergency Management Otago – Community Resilience Survey	3.3, 3.4, 3.5
Delivery to schedule of adaptation projects and investments	(See adaptation programmes)	Annually	Local adaptation programmes metrics	3.4, 3.5
Number of community members participating in food resilience initiatives	Year on year increase	Annually	Southern Lakes Kai Collective reporting	3.6, 3.7
Annual tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill	Waste reduction targets defined in the WMMP	Annually	QLDC solid waste assessment	3.6

²³ Emergency Management Otago (2023). Community Resilience Strategy, September 2023
<https://www.otagocdem.govt.nz/media/1649/emo-community-resilience-strategy.pdf>

Our energy system is resilient, renewable and responsive



WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEM



WE WILL HELP CREATE A MORE ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
Proportion of residential and commercial properties that have solar installations	Year on year increase	Annually	Solar installation data from industry	4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5
Proportion of solar installations on QLDC assets	Year on year increase	Annually	Internal data	4.3
GHG emissions from stationary energy per capita	Reduction in GHG emissions from stationary energy per capita (against 2019 baseline)	Annually	Stats NZ Stationary Energy data	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5
Number of community members participating in electrification initiatives	Year on year increase	Annually	Electrify Wānaka/ Electrify Queenstown	4.2

Our built environment is resilient with low environmental impact



WE ADOPT BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS



WE WILL ACCELERATE THE GREEN BUILDING TRANSITION



WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT AND MANAGE OUR WATER

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
Capital Projects embodied carbon emissions intensity (CO2e/\$ spend)	Reduction in embodied carbon emissions intensity by 2028	Triennially	Internal	5.1, 5.2, 5.5
Annual tonnes of demolition and construction waste diverted from landfill	Waste reduction targets defined in the WMMP	Annually	QLDC solid waste assessment	5.4, 5.5
Number of community members engaging in Better Building Southern Lakes initiatives	Year on year increase	Annually	Better Building Southern Lakes reporting	5.4
Number of projects registered for Homestar or Greenstar ratings	Year on year increase	Annually	New Zealand Green Building project registration data	5.4, 5.5
Energy consumption in council buildings (kWh/m²)	Year on year decrease	Annually	Annual Organisational GHG Emissions Inventory	5.5
Average water consumption (L) per capita	Water demand targets defined in the Water Demand Management Programme	Annually	Average water consumption per capita data from the Water Demand Management Programme	5.6, 5.7, 5.8
Water quality results at selected sites	Annual improvement in water quality results at selected sites	Annually	LAWA Water quality data, ORC Environmental Portal	1.2, 1.4, 5.7, 5.6, 5.8

Our transport system is low-emission and better connected



WE WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAVEL



WE WILL HELP ACCELERATE TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
GHG emissions from transport per capita	Reduction in GHG emissions from transport per capita (against 2019 baseline)	Triennially	Stats NZ Transport data	6.1, 6.2, 6.5
Annual demand on key active travel routes	Year on year increase	Annually	Active travel route counter data	6.2
Percentage of respondents who agree that public transport meets their needs	Year on year improvement	Annually	Quality of Life Survey – Public transport	6.1
Annual bus patronage numbers	Bus patronage numbers maintained or increased	Annually	ORC bus patronage data	6.1
Public transport reliability measures	Year on year improvement	Annually	ORC bus reliability data	6.1
Number of community members participating in mode shift initiatives	Year on year increase	Annually	Partner reporting	6.2
Number of public EV chargers in the district	Year on year increase	Annually	EECA public charger dashboard	6.4

Our economy leads the transition to a low emission future



WE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM



WE ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

Measures	Targets	Reporting	Source	Relevant Actions
GHG emissions from visitor economy	Reduction in GHG emissions against baseline	Triennially	Partner reporting	6.1
Programme delivery of the Destination Management Plan	Destination Management Plan KPIs	Annually	Destination Management Plan Quarterly and Annual Reports	7.1
Financial revenue estimates for the environmental services sector	Year on year increase	Annually	TBC	7.2
Business engagement levels with sustainability programmes	Year on year increase	Annually	Partner reporting	7.3
Annual tonnes of commercial waste to landfill	Waste reduction targets defined in the WMMP	Annually	QLDC solid waste assessment	7.1, 7.3
Percentage of events adopting sustainability practices	Year on year increase	Annually	Internal, partner reporting	7.5
Annual tonnes of event related waste to landfill	Waste reduction targets defined in the WMMP	Annually	Internal, partner reporting	7.5

