

Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025 – 2028 Progress Report



JULY 2025

AUGUST 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

OCTOBER 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

DECEMBER 2025

Summary

The third iteration of the Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 (CBP) was adopted by Council on 31 July 2025, where a motion was passed that QLDC report on delivery of the Plan to Full Council on a 6-monthly basis.

This report presents progress from July to December 2025. Climate Risk disclosure is reported in more detail separately to the Audit Finance & Risk Committee with the first report presented at the 2 October 2025 committee meeting.

The CBP contributes to our Community Outcomes – Deafening dawn chorus, Zero carbon communities, Disaster-defying resilience. It aligns with all aspects of the wellbeing outcomes framework and guides the work that Council does. The plan sets out to achieve 7 outcomes with a focus on Te Taiao (the natural environment) at the centre of our planning and the theme of accelerating transformation through partnership.



Measuring success

The CBP has an indicators framework to measure progress and track the success of the plan.

Progress against the indicators framework will be measured annually with the initial measurement provided at the end of the financial year. QLDC also has organisational key performance indicators relating to Resilience & Climate Action, that are reported in the Annual Plan.

RAG status

GREEN	AMBER	RED
ON TRACK	AT RISK	OFF TRACK
The action is progressing as planned and is expected to be delivered within scope, timeframe, and budget. Risks are minor, well understood, and managed through normal business processes.	The action has emerging risks, delays, or dependencies that could affect delivery if not addressed. Mitigations are in place and the action is considered recoverable without material impact to the overall programme.	The action is not currently expected to be delivered within agreed scope, timeframe, or CBP budget. Significant issues have been identified, and the action requires re-scoping, additional resourcing, or a formal decision to pause or change delivery timeframes.



ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
 WE WILL DELIVER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS				
1.1 Project Tohu	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ In Autumn 2025 more than 80,000 native plants were planted for Project Tohu by Te Tapu o Tane and City Care to revegetate Coronet Forest (https://www qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/project-tohu/). ➢ Ongoing monitoring and mapping helps check progress and guide future planting. ➢ Pest control – 200 goats have been culled from around project site and the Soho basin area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Completion of next stage of mountain bike trail construction. ➢ Audit of tree growth and review of plant guards. ➢ Ground spot spraying of planting area to be completed. ➢ March/April 2026 – Autumn planting. 	ON TRACK
1.2 Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes restoration	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The Waiwhakaata / Lake Hayes Strategy was formally endorsed by Otago Regional Council in June 2025, and an Action Plan to deliver the Strategy's objectives is in development. ➢ Key implementation steps have progressed, including completion of sediment removal from the Millbrook ponds to support commissioning of the Arrow River augmentation pipeline. ➢ Supporting communications are being developed, including a coordinated Communications Strategy and a short video case study to support engagement with mana whenua and the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The draft Action Plan will be shared with community groups to confirm responsibilities, identify early actions, and shape a long-term catchment framework. ➢ The Waiwhakaata / Lake Hayes Strategy and Action Plan will be presented to QLDC Councillors for endorsement in early 2026. ➢ Commissioning of the Arrow River augmentation pipeline and completion of the Waiwhakaata strategy video case study are both planned for early 2026. 	ON TRACK
1.3 Mt Iron Reserve enhancement	2027-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Working with Te Kākano to plan future planting on Mount Iron. ➢ Development of an ecological report underway to understand the existing ecological values, opportunities for enhancement and to inform future decision making on the reserve. ➢ Workshop completed with local groups and individuals with ecological knowledge of Mount Iron to input into the ecological report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ecological report to be completed February 2026. ➢ Te Kākano undertake first plantings on Mount Iron – Planning for Autumn 2026. 	ON TRACK
1.4 Blue Green Network Plan	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The Draft Blue Green Network Plan and Local Blue Green Plans were presented to the community for public feedback from 22 September 2025 until Friday 12 December 2025. ➢ Update provided to Grow Well Whaiora Steering Group in November 2025. ➢ Presentation on the BGN plan provided at the Alpine Lakes Forum in December 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ All submissions will be reviewed to inform further changes to the Draft Blue Green Network Plan. ➢ The final Blue Green Network Plan will be presented to Council for adoption at a date to be confirmed. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL				
1.5 Agrichemical reduction programme	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A cross-functional working group has been established within Council to lead the agrichemical reduction programme. ➢ Research has been conducted to understand approaches taken by other local councils and best practices for an agrichemical reduction programme. ➢ Resourcing and funding to support reduction targets still to be finalised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Draft scope for an Agrichemical Reduction Strategy will be developed. ➢ Opportunities for updating Roading contracts and spray practices will be identified. 	ON TRACK
1.6 Rewild & revegetate Council land	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Council continues to support community-led revegetation and planting across Council reserves, with a current focus on coordinating spring maintenance working bees with community groups. ➢ Recent planting has been completed across multiple sites, including Wānaka lakeside reserves, Whitechapel Reserve, Fire Hill (Lake Hayes Estate), and areas around Lake Hayes. ➢ Initial scoping has commenced to identify reserve land suitable for rewilding and meadowing approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A draft strategy on rewilding/meadowing practices for reserve land to be finalised. ➢ Work programmes to control pest plant species prior to native restoration at Peninsula Bay Reserve and Mt Iron to be completed. ➢ Autumn planting programmes will be confirmed. 	ON TRACK
1.7 Predator trapping & species monitoring innovation	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Council continues to support Southern Lakes Sanctuary in delivering landscape-scale predator control and biodiversity monitoring, with over 250 smart traps now active and expanded deployment into key habitats including Bush Creek, Wye Creek, and the Matukituki/Mātakitaki Valley (https://southernlakessanctuary.org.nz/about-southern-lakes-sanctuary/reports-reference). ➢ Predator control methods are being advanced through trials of new technologies, alongside ongoing species monitoring programmes such as audio-based mohua surveys, reptile eDNA sampling, and planning support for takahē and mohua translocations. ➢ Council also supports local delivery partners, including Predator Free Wānaka and the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust, through land access and coordination to enable community-led predator control across the district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Expand deployment of advanced noded trap systems (AT220 and AT520) across additional priority catchments, with further integration of AI-enabled camera and sensor technologies planned for Q2 2025/26. 	ON TRACK
1.8 Wilding conifer control	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Council is providing funding and operational support to the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and the Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group, alongside leading key projects to remove wilding conifer seed sources across priority sites. ➢ Current work includes large-scale wilding conifer removal on sites such as Queenstown Hill, as well as development of long-term tree succession and restoration plans for Eely Point and Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens. ➢ These efforts focus on reducing wildfire risk, protecting native ecosystems, and restoring iconic landscapes, with strong collaboration between community volunteers, local agencies, and funding partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Council will continue to lead and support wilding conifer control and tree succession projects across key sites, working with community groups and agencies to deliver staged removals, restoration planting, and ongoing collaboration, consistent with Chapter 34 of the District Plan. 	ON TRACK
1.9 Cat Management	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The investigation phase of this action has begun with a coordinated and targeted approach, engaging with other councils and experts across the country to learn from their different approaches and experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Continue to build on evidence base before engaging with key stakeholders from across the district. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS				
1.10 Enhance environmental data sharing	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan has been formally adopted by the Otago Regional Council, marking a significant milestone in the shared effort to protect and enhance the health of the Upper Lakes catchment. > Work is underway to establish a governance group that will bring together key partners, local agencies and community representatives to guide and support the delivery of the plan. > The data and insights collected and shared through this collaborative group will form the foundation for coordinated evidence-based decision-making and investment across the catchment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Present the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan to QLDC Councillors in early 2026. > Confirm QLDC representation for the Upper Lake Integrated Catchment Governance Group. > Formalise the Terms of Reference which will include principles for improved environmental data sharing. 	ON TRACK
1.11 Strengthen capability of our local conservation groups	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council continues to support local conservation and environmental organisations through funding, access to Council land, practical resources, and targeted capability development. > Progress includes strengthening governance and leadership capability across volunteer groups through a new partnership with huddl, delivering tailored development workshops. > Ongoing practical support is also being provided for on-the-ground conservation, including habitat restoration, predator control, community planting, and the provision of advice, coordination, and equipment. > Nature ED in the Upper Clutha and the Conservation Curiosity Collective in the Whakatipu, continue to be supported to connect tamariki and whānau with local ecosystems and strengthen long-term community stewardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Expand governance and leadership development with huddl to additional groups, refresh resource and equipment support. > Work with community partners to identify priority planting and restoration sites for the 2026 planting season. > Strengthen alignment between education cohorts and wider biodiversity monitoring and restoration programmes to maximise district-wide impact. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
 CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR DNA				
2.1 Emission reduction investments	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The project to transition QLDC swimming pool heating from LPG to cleaner energy sources is underway, with project governance established and site investigations being reviewed to inform location-specific options and updated cost estimates. > An Energy Steering Group has been established to coordinate Council-wide energy reduction initiatives, informed by a recently completed energy consumption report. > The Organisational Travel Plan has been completed and will set objectives to reduce travel-related emissions and support more sustainable business travel and employee commuting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > High-level options analysis and initial Business Case to be confirmed. > The Energy Steering Group will confirm work programme priorities and recommendations for energy investment opportunities. 	AT RISK Whilst the LPG conversion project will deliver significant GHG emission reductions the installation and commissioning timeframes mean that benefits realisation will occur later than originally planned.
2.2 Embedding climate and biodiversity into Council decision-making	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Planning has commenced for a change management programme to embed climate tools, frameworks, and reporting templates across Council processes, with a focus on targeted training for elected members, ELT, and staff to strengthen climate governance capability. > Updates to reporting templates and adoption of assessment frameworks are being explored to ensure consistent consideration of climate and biodiversity impacts in key decision-making areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Councillor Induction for Climate & Biodiversity Plan in early Feb 2026 > Launch the internal change management programme in Q1 2026. 	AT RISK This action is amber due to current organisational capacity constraints and the challenge of embedding new tools, frameworks and behaviours during high operational and project delivery pressure.
2.3 Protecting indigenous biodiversity through planning policy	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A communications plan has been prepared to guide proactive, transparent, and inclusive engagement with stakeholders and landowners. > This is being conducted as part of implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB), in advance of the new resource management framework and reviewed Significant Natural Areas (SNA) criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Finalise and implement the communications plan to support early and ongoing engagement with affected landowners and stakeholders. > Monitor national reform developments to ensure local planning responses remain aligned with legislative direction. 	ON TRACK
2.4 Sustainable procurement	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A review of the best practice local government procurement guidelines for sustainability and emissions reduction is underway. This has included a review of the ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement Standard and examples from other Councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Opportunities for improvements of QLDC's procurement framework will be investigated in Q1 2026. 	AT RISK This action is being staged to align with broader procurement system and process upgrades.

Action	Timeframe	Progress	Next Key Milestone	RAG Status
 WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE				
LEADERSHIP	2.5 Organisational GHG emissions reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC's organisational GHG inventory for FY24–25 underwent Toitū Envirocare verification against ISO 14064-1:2018 standard in November 2025. > Preliminary findings show a slight increase occurred in FY24–25 for emissions intensity from direct energy and electricity after a downward trend since FY18–19. > Category 1 and 2 emissions have risen by approximately 21% against the FY18–19 baseline, primarily due to higher LPG consumption, increased electricity use, and an elevated national electricity emissions factor. > These results reinforce the importance of planned LPG-to-clean-energy conversions at Council pools and support for investment in solar and battery systems to reduce reliance on grid electricity, and strengthen organisational energy resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Toitū certification expected to be issued in Q1 2026. 	ON TRACK
	2.6 District GHG emissions reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC staff are working with regional partners to investigate the viability of adopting the new national framework for standardised community greenhouse gas emissions reporting. > A subgroup within the Otago Climate Officers Group (OCOG) officers has been formed to assess the feasibility of using the Local Emissions Data Platform (LEDP) and its associated analytics tool for district level emissions reporting for Otago councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The OCOG subgroup will evaluate technical requirements, data compatibility, and resource implications before providing recommendations on next steps. 	ON TRACK
	2.7 Climate scenario analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC staff have been involved in a national working group led by Wellington City Council and KPMG to develop a set of climate scenarios for the local government sector. > These scenarios are a core element of good climate governance and are intended as a toolset to support long-term strategic planning across the local government sector. > More information and a link to the scenarios can be found here: https://www.lgfa.co.nz/sustainability/sustainability-lgfa/local-government-sector-scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review alignment of and localise the scenarios to identify what is relevant to the Queenstown-Lakes District. Downscale physical data to identify local risks. > The work will be used to inform decision-making and test the next Long Term Plan and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy. 	ON TRACK
	2.8 Climate risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC is working with national and regional partners to improve alignment of climate risk assessment approaches, informed by a multi-agency workshop hosted in October that explored best practice, cascading risks, and climate governance. > Insights from this work are informing development of the Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment, scheduled to progress in Q1 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC staff will participate in Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment workshops in early 2026. > Updates on QLDC climate risk programme will be provided to Audit & Risk committee in early 2026. 	ON TRACK
	2.9 Climate insurance strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC is currently developing a proposed insurance and risk transfer strategy. This will involve consideration of climate risk considerations. > The strategy will consider the changing insurance requirements of QLDC in response to its decisions to establish a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) as the future delivery model for water services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Insurance and Risk Transfer Strategy to be presented to Audit & Risk Committee in early 2026. 	ON TRACK

COMMUNITIES					ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
 WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE									
3.1 Preserving our cultural and natural heritage	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Tāhuna-Glenorchy has been selected as one of two national participants in the Preserving Legacies programme, supporting place-based climate action, environmental protection, and cultural heritage preservation. > Site custodians have recently received training to build knowledge and expertise that they can then apply locally. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support site custodians to apply learnings from the Preserving Legacies programme to local planning, conservation, and adaptation initiatives in Tāhuna-Glenorchy. 		 ON TRACK			
3.2 Ensuring a just transition	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC is working with the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator to support an equitable transition to low-emissions energy, helping households and businesses reduce energy costs, improve resilience, and access electrification solutions. > This includes piloting a Solar for Renters programme to extend benefits to groups who typically face barriers to participation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meet with the QEA team to discuss next steps for Solar for Renters programme and other energy equity projects. 		 ON TRACK			
 WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE									
3.3 Community resilience groups	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC and Emergency Management Otago continue to strengthen the Community Resilience Group (CRG) network, with recent activations in Glenorchy and Kingston demonstrating the value of locally led responses during severe weather and high lake level events. > The network is expanding, with new groups forming in West Queenstown, Cardrona, and Queenstown Central, alongside refreshed resources for existing groups and the launch of a quarterly CRG newsletter to improve communication and coordination. > Targeted preparedness sessions have been delivered in partnership with Welcoming Communities, Lakes Multicultural Collective, and the NZ Red Cross, strengthening inclusive community readiness and engagement with migrant communities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Continued deployment of CRG Training sessions > New CRG templates and guidance documents to be released. > Next CRG newsletter to be sent out. > Annual CRG hui being planned for early 2026 		 ON TRACK			

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
3.4 Community adaptation – Head of the Lake natural hazards	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Glenorchy Community Resilience Group (CRG) performed exceptionally well in October to support the Council Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) response to the high-lake level event and the risk of overtopping of the floodbank. > In the aftermath of this event Council has undertaken extensive repair and remediation works across the Head of the Lake road network, restoring access and reducing immediate safety risks for communities and visitors. > Targeted river training and erosion control works have also been undertaken at Scotts Creek to protect bridge infrastructure and prevent further scouring, enabling safe reopening of the Routeburn Road bridge. > Council is progressing a programme of renewal and resilience improvement projects to reduce future hazard exposure. This includes the Shepherds Creek Hut Bridge replacement project, which will replace an undersized culvert with a single-span bridge designed to safely convey debris flows and extreme flood events over a 100-year design life. > Work has commenced on the QLDC Lower Rees River and Glenorchy flood resilience project, which includes concept design for flood resilience investments at Bible Stream, the lake foreshore, and the Glenorchy water supply borefield, alongside detailed design for upgrades to the Lower Rees lagoon floodbank. > Council is also investigating options for resilience investments for Glenorchy Community Hall and Glenorchy wharf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Learnings from the CRG activation to be shared with EOC. > Project design services to commence and stakeholder engagement and communications plan to be approved for the QLDC Lower Rees River and Glenorchy flood resilience project. > Business case for investments in Glenorchy Hall and Wharf to be initiated. 	ON TRACK
3.5 Community adaptation – Wildfire hazards	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC continues to work closely with Fire and Emergency New Zealand through pre-season workshops and multi-agency coordination exercises, including participation in the national FENZ “Maikuku” wildfire exercise at Moke Lake, to strengthen operational readiness and clarify roles and responsibilities. > In parallel, Council is reviewing wildfire closure protocols for reserves with FENZ, business, and community partners ahead of the summer period, ensuring alignment with the district’s wildfire risk reduction programme. > Progress has also been made to improve the performance and resilience of the district’s environmental monitoring network, with planning underway for next-phase enhancements, including the development of smart smoke-recognition capabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Work closely with FENZ to coordinate summer preparedness activities, including joint briefings, refinement of communication protocols, and alignment of public messaging for the 2025–26 fire season. 	ON TRACK
 WE WILL HELP GROW A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM				
3.6 Strengthen local food system resilience	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council continues to partner with Wao Aotearoa to deliver the Food Resilience programme through the Southern Lakes Kai Collective (SLKC), a multi-sector network of 31 partners working across the local food system. > The 2025 Southern Lakes Food Resilience Report has been released and is informing SLKC priorities and actions, highlighting critical vulnerabilities and guiding initiatives across collaboration, education, grower support, and policy (https://www.wao.co.nz/s/Southern-Lakes-Food-Resilience-Report-2025_Wao-Aotearoa.pdf). > Council is supporting delivery of priority SLKC initiatives, including an Emergency Food Charter and Community Household Resilience projects, alongside wider sector engagement strengthened through the recent WAO Food Resilience summit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ongoing delivery of the food resilience roadmap initiatives through the Southern Lakes Kai Collective. > Launch of the Emergency Food Charter project 	ON TRACK
3.7 Exploring Kaupapa Māori food projects	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This action will commence in 2026. > Background: The Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan includes strategic objectives for cultural food gathering practices, mahika kai priority areas and habitat restoration opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Utilise the ULCAP’s mahika kai priorities, including wetland restoration, riparian planting, habitat protection to guide the QLDC work programme in 2026. 	NOT STARTED

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEM				
4.1 Supercharge the rollout of residential solar and batteries	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council approved a contribution of up to \$250,000 at its 31 July meeting to support the final development phase of the national Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS), subject to matched funding totalling \$2.5 million from other councils and/or central government. This decision confirms QLDC's commitment to actively partner in shaping the scheme's design and delivery. > Following this resolution, QLDC officers have been actively involved in the next phase of the RAS development, including participation in the Property Improvement Loan working group. > Outputs from this working group will directly inform the final recommendations on the structure and implementation of the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > RAS Steering group to make its final recommendations for the structure of the scheme. 	ON TRACK
4.2 Empowering community-led electrification	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA) partnership formally commenced following the signing of the service agreement between QLDC and Rewiring Aotearoa. > Work is underway on community delivery programmes that provide independent electrification advice, technology packages, and support for households upgrading heating, hot water, EV charging, solar, and batteries. > QEA is working with Electrify Wānaka to deliver initiatives across both Queenstown and Upper Clutha, ensuring districtwide reach and alignment. > Further information on resources, projects and links can be found below: https://www.qea.nz/ https://www.rewiring.nz/communities/wanaka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Continue to support both QEA and Electrify Wānaka with deployment of their work programme 	ON TRACK
4.3 Accelerator projects	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has established an Energy Steering Group to lead and coordinate energy transition initiatives, providing cross-department oversight and support for projects that deliver emissions reduction, cost savings, and improved energy resilience. > The group is actively investigating a range of accelerator opportunities, including Community Energy Trust model, public EV charging, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), vehicle-to-grid charging, and demand flexibility and load management. > Opportunities to integrate these technologies into existing capital projects e.g. the Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) Upgrades Project, are being assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Identify priority electrification and solar/battery opportunities on QLDC sites that can inform capital projects. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL HELP CREATE A MORE ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT				
4.4 Energising regulatory reform	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC prepared a comprehensive submission on behalf of Otago Central Lakes for the Energising Queenstown consultation, articulating a clear regional position on long-term electricity transmission, growth pressures, resilience needs, and the role of distributed energy resources. > Regional Deal negotiations are ongoing and include proposed energy regulatory reforms that would support accelerated delivery of local energy solutions and the wider energy transition in the district. > A District Plan assessment has been completed to test the feasibility of solar deployment across a range of site typologies, including commercial rooftops, car park canopies, ground-mounted arrays, and community-scale solar farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Central Government briefings for the Energising Queenstown programme to be completed. > Additional District Plan guidance for small and community scale renewable energy will be developed. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
 WE ADOPT BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS				
5.1 Sustainable project management	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This action will commence in 2026. > Background: In 2024 Council commissioned a Sustainable Project Management Current State Assessment report to identify opportunities for where Council can embed climate and biodiversity considerations into QLDC's Project Management Framework (PMF). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Evaluate options to deploy learnings within active projects, with the Community Services programme being a lead candidate for implementation. 	NOT STARTED
5.2 Best practice carbon management	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has maintained its use of the Moata Carbon Portal to assess carbon impacts across the capital programme and build internal capability through participation in national knowledge-sharing. > Work is underway to integrate the tool into the Sustainable Project Management framework, including defining assessment points across project phases and supporting templates. > Options for targeted staff training are being explored to embed carbon assessment as standard practice in infrastructure planning and delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prepare an options paper on adopting whole of life carbon assessment into the new Sustainable Project Management Framework. 	AT RISK
5.3 Designing for climate resilience	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In line with the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy, Council is delivering a significant programme of investment to strengthen the climate resilience of its infrastructure assets, addressing risks such as flooding, erosion, wastewater overflows, supply continuity, emergency flows, and wider environmental hazards. > Alongside delivery of existing projects, Council officers are engaging with national workstreams to understand emerging best practice in infrastructure resilience, including the role of nature-based solutions. > Early internal scoping is underway to identify where nature-based solutions are already contributing to risk reduction and ecosystem outcomes across QLDC projects, such as riparian planting, wetland restoration, and catchment-based programmes, and to assess where these approaches could replace or complement traditional engineered interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Continue progressing the major infrastructure resilience programme identified in the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy. > Identify priority projects where nature-based solutions could be trialled or incorporated alongside engineered solutions, including flood attenuation, erosion management, water quality improvements, and biodiversity enhancement. 	ON TRACK
 WE WILL ACCELERATE THE GREEN BUILDING TRANSITION				
5.4 Promoting a better building standard	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council continues to provide support for the Better Building Working Group, Wao Summit and NZ Green Building Council to promote high-performing, climate-resilient buildings and initiatives that lift minimum building standards and encourage best-practice design across the district. > QLDC has also supported the Superhome Movement, with the development of their recently released Superhome Design Guide, which provides practical guidance on designing healthy, energy-efficient, and low-emissions homes suited to Aotearoa New Zealand conditions. > Council adopted the new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan which has a strong focus on preventing and reducing construction waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Promote the 2026 work programme for the Better Building Working Group > Promote the Superhome Design Guide (https://www.superhome.co.nz) 	ON TRACK

Action	Timeframe	Progress	Next Key Milestone	RAG Status
5.5 Sustainable Council Buildings	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A Project Management company and design team have been appointed for the Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) Upgrades project. > Priorities for the project include investigation of energy efficiency improvements, solar panel investments, potential Greenstar rating and the use of whole of life assessments to guide design decision-making. > Options for installation of solar during refurbishment and improvements of community facilities are also being reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Final design programme for the QEC Upgrades will be developed with design workshops scheduled in 2026. > Business case for options for community facility solar upgrades. 	AT RISK This action is amber due to the challenge of driving consistent sustainability improvements across Council's property portfolio without creating pressure on approved budgets or extending project delivery timeframes.
 WE WILL PROTECT & MANAGE OUR WATER TOGETHER				
5.6 Promoting responsible water usage	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has completed the first workshop for the new Water Demand Management Business Case. > This work builds on a long-running programme of initiatives aimed at improving water efficiency and resilience, including smart water metering trials in Luggate and Glenorchy, which have provided valuable insights into consumption patterns, peak demand drivers, and customer behaviour. > Ongoing public information and behaviour-change campaigns are promoting responsible water use and support community awareness of water scarcity and system constraints, particularly during peak summer periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Progress development of the Water Demand Management Business Case, incorporating learnings from smart metering trials, and targeted user engagement. > Continue engagement with high-use customers to implement and monitor demand reduction measures and refine future intervention options. 	ON TRACK
5.7 Strengthening stormwater resilience	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council is developing Stormwater Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) for Queenstown and Wānaka to establish a consistent, catchment-based approach to managing stormwater quantity and quality. > The plans combine updated hydraulic and contaminant modelling with water quality data to better understand flood risk, overland flow paths, and impacts on sensitive receiving environments. > A risk-based prioritisation framework has been applied to identify and rank stormwater issues based on flood hazard, frequency, data confidence, and receiving environment sensitivity, providing a clear evidence base for investment and intervention. > The CMPs set out a coordinated programme of actions, including capital works, investigations, enhanced monitoring, and operational and policy improvements, informed by future climate change scenarios and growth pressures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Undertake validation of priority stormwater issues and modelling outputs. > Progress detailed investigations and business cases for priority capital works identified in the CMPs, including attenuation, treatment, and flood mitigation options. > Embed CMP recommendations into long-term planning, capital programme development, and future spatial and structure planning to strengthen district-wide stormwater resilience. 	ON TRACK
5.8 Supporting community-led water initiatives	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QLDC is strengthening its partnership approach to freshwater science by actively supporting WAI Wānaka and their catchment-scale research and monitoring programmes. Officers continue to participate in information sharing sessions to ensure that emerging freshwater data and climate-related risks, such as lake warming, nutrient loading, microplastics and sedimentation, are incorporated into Council decision-making. > This includes supporting the Alpine Lakes Forum, which brings together scientists, councils, iwi representatives and community groups to coordinate research and monitoring across the region's sensitive alpine lakes > Council also continues to support the work of the Friends of Lake Hayes, including their community-led monitoring, catchment restoration advocacy, and investigations into options to improve water quality in Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes (https://www.savelakehayes.org.nz/) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Incorporate insights from these partnerships into QLDC's climate adaptation, biodiversity restoration and three-waters planning work, to help ensure that freshwater science and community-based knowledge are embedded across Council programmes. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
 WE WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAVEL				
6.1 Investing in our future transport network	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Significant investment is underway to improve transport capacity, safety, resilience, and active and public transport performance, delivered in partnership with Otago Regional Council, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and the Trails Trusts. ➢ Construction of the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub upgrade is in a major delivery phase, representing a \$250 million investment to improve network efficiency, safety, and public transport reliability, with completion expected by mid-2028. ➢ Public transport infrastructure upgrades are progressing alongside roading works, including new bus shelters at the Frankton Bus Hub and preparation for further works in early 2026 to support service reliability and future growth. ➢ Regional investment continues through ORC governance committees and the NZTA South Island Resilience Programme, strengthening critical corridors serving Queenstown Lakes, including Cromwell–Frankton, Frankton–Kingston, and Häwea–Haast. ➢ Active travel delivery is progressing through partnerships with Queenstown Trails Trust and Upper Clutha Tracks Trust, with new and planned trails increasingly positioned as core transport infrastructure supporting everyday travel and local connectivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ See the below website for next milestones for the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub upgrade project: https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/queenstown-package/publications ➢ See the below website for next milestones on the state highway resilience projects: https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/south-island-resilience ➢ See below Queenstown Trails Trust website for next milestones on the Jack's Point to Frankton project: https://jacks-point-to-frankton-trail.raiselysite.com/ 	ON TRACK
6.2 Growing community-led active travel initiatives	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Community-led active travel initiatives continue to play an important role in supporting behaviour change and reducing reliance on private vehicles, complementing Council and regional investment in transport infrastructure and services. ➢ The Lightfoot Initiative has continued to deliver programmes that encourage walking, cycling, and other low-emissions travel choices through workplace engagement, challenges, and practical behaviour-change tools. This includes workplace travel planning, school travel planning, training webinars, Guaranteed Ride Home Programme and key activation events. ➢ Wao continues to promote better transport choices through community-facing campaigns and storytelling that highlight the benefits of active travel, public transport, and reduced car dependence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The next key activation event will be the Aotearoa Bike Challenge in February. 	ON TRACK
6.3 Smarter parking solutions	2026-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Council has progressed a district-wide Parking Management framework, including a Parking Strategy, Guidelines, and draft Parking Management Plans for Queenstown, Frankton, and Wānaka. ➢ The framework provides a consistent approach to managing parking demand and prioritising access across user groups and locations, informed by occupancy surveys, user hierarchies, and a graduated toolkit of management measures. ➢ Draft proposals place greater emphasis on demand management, improved information and enforcement, and supporting mode shift, including changes to time limits, pricing, permits, EV charging, and active shared transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Elected member workshop in early 2026 to test the Parking Strategy, Guidelines, and Management Plans and confirm the approach to public consultation planned for March-April 2026. ➢ Finalise and publish the Parking Management Plans by mid-2026 and commence phased implementation in priority locations. 	ON TRACK

	Action	Timeframe	Progress	Next Key Milestone	RAG Status
 WE WILL HELP ACCELERATE TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION					
TRANSPORT	6.4 Expand the EV charging network	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has approved a procurement plan to deliver a district-wide public EV charging network, enabling fast-charging infrastructure on Council land at no capital or operational cost to Council. > Approximately ten priority sites have been identified across Queenstown, Wānaka, Arrowtown, Glenorchy, Kingston, and Cardrona for public fast-charging infrastructure, with a coordinated procurement process being prepared to ensure consistent, equitable delivery. > In parallel, Council is progressing innovative EV integration through the Queenstown Vehicle-to-Grid trial, exploring how bi-directional charging can support energy resilience, peak demand management, and emergency response capability alongside everyday charging needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Procurement for the public EV charging network will be conducted via an open-market Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS). 	ON TRACK
	6.5 Exploring innovative mass transport solutions	2026-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has been actively monitoring and engaging with emerging proposals for innovative mass transport solutions in the district, including recent announcements by Woosh and Southern Infrastructure Limited, which are exploring novel approaches to high-capacity, low-emission transport systems suited to constrained alpine environments. > These proposals signal growing private-sector interest in alternative transport modes that could complement existing public and active transport networks > Council officers are maintaining a watching brief to understand the technical feasibility, scalability, governance models, and potential district-wide benefits of these concepts as further details emerge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Engage with central government and proponents to understand planning, regulatory, and partnership pathways for innovative mass transport. > Position innovative transport options within the proposed Regional Deal, noting negotiations are ongoing and subject to central government decisions. 	ON TRACK
	6.6 Supporting the aviation transition	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) presented an update to QLDC and the Climate Reference Group in September 2025 and released its 2025 Sustainability Report in December https://www.queenstownairport.co.nz/media-releases/queenstown-releases-sustainability-report. > Queenstown Airport has achieved Level 4+ Airport Carbon Accreditation and reduced Scope 1, 2 and limited Scope 3 organisational greenhouse gas emissions by 76% since 2019 and remains on track for an 85% reduction by 2028. > QAC is continuing to make strong progress with the electrification of their operations, waste minimisation initiatives, climate-related risk and opportunities assessment, development of a Sustainable Construction Guideline and a new biodiversity partnership with Remarkables Station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QAC to progress its Capital Investment Programme. > Target is to maintain ACA Level 4+ accreditation. 	ON TRACK

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM				
7.1 Partnered delivery of the Destination Management Plan	2025-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A joint governance and delivery structure between Council, Destination Queenstown, and Lake Wānaka Tourism is now embedded, supported by monthly progress reporting to Steering and Working Groups. > Updates on project progress are being publicly available on the DMP website https://www.regenerativetourism.co.nz/. > Progressing key Destination Management Plan workstreams, including advancing Place DNA research with Destination Think, confirming the Electrify Queenstown 2026 programme and sponsors, delivering business carbon reduction workshops, supporting circular economy trials with accommodation providers, and running emergency preparedness workshops for the visitor accommodation sector. > Community and business capability building continued through funding support, planting days, grants, case study development via the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator, and member events across Queenstown and Wānaka. > External engagement remained active, with alignment on the Regional Deal, integration of Optimal Visitation Project outputs into work planning, and joint input into action implementation for the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan. > Electrify Queenstown won 'Excellence in Environmental Sustainability' and the 'Legacy Award' at the Aotearoa Business Events Awards in November 2025, recognising the impact of the event to accelerate electrification in the district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Commence iwi, stakeholder, and community engagement for the Place DNA research in January–February 2026, supported by Council's Cultural Narrative workstream. > Finalise Electrify Queenstown 2026 programme details and sponsorship arrangements and progress ticketing and event delivery planning. > Continue development of QEA tourism case studies and provide the next round of funder reporting. > Deliver the next capability and business support activities, including targeted workshops and member hub consolidation for shared services. 	ON TRACK
WE HELP ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY				
7.2 Support growth of the environmental services sector		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Early scoping work has started with the Economic Futures team to evaluate options for partnered delivery of this action and Project 3.3 Environmental Enterprise in the Economic Diversification Plan (EDP). > An area of exploration is biodiversity credits and the potential for district-level application. Early analysis has been undertaken into market mechanisms, emerging financial standards and taxonomy, and opportunities for landowners and community partners in pilot project. > Council officers supported a local screening of <i>Think Like a Forest</i> by Pure Advantage to build awareness of biodiversity credit systems and catalyse interest among regional stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Evaluate options for joint delivery of CBP action 7.2 and EDP Action 3.3 > Explore options to convene a biodiversity credits workshop with national experts, including scoping potential facilitators, confirming objectives, and identifying partner agencies and landholders. 	AT RISK This action is amber due to the complexity of Council navigating its role within a local environmental services sector that already has a high level of subject matter expertise.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
7.3 Supporting our local business transition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A range of initiatives across the Destination Management Plan, Economic Futures and Waste Minimisation work programmes are helping to support local businesses to transition toward a more regenerative, resilient, and low-impact visitor economy. > This includes delivery of business carbon reduction workshops, circular economy trials with accommodation providers in partnership with Wastebusters, and emergency preparedness workshops for the hotel and accommodation sector. > Council adopted the new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in September, which includes actions to support businesses to transition to a circular economy, reduce waste to landfill, improve resource efficiency, and adopt more sustainable production and consumption practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Explore opportunities to scale business-facing programmes that support emissions reduction, electrification, and climate resilience, including access to advice, funding pathways, and demonstration projects. > Monitor emerging central government policies, funding mechanisms, and standards to ensure local businesses are well positioned to adapt and remain competitive as the low-emissions transition accelerates. 	ON TRACK
7.4 Supporting sustainable film productions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collaboration with Film Otago Southland and internal Council teams has supported the integration of sustainability considerations into filming guidance, permitting processes, and location management discussions. > Early efforts have focused on encouraging practical, achievable actions such as reduced waste to landfill, improved energy use, transport efficiency, and alignment with emerging best practice for sustainable screen production in Aotearoa New Zealand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Continue to strengthen guidance and expectations for sustainable film production through filming permits, location agreements, and pre-application engagement. > Explore opportunities to align local filming practices with national sustainable screen production standards and tools, and to share case studies and lessons learned with the sector. 	ON TRACK
7.5 Enabling sustainable events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Council has continued to support the transition to more sustainable events by embedding climate and waste minimisation considerations into event planning, approvals, and delivery processes. > Guidance and expectations for event organisers have been strengthened, building on previous work to reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, and encourage low-emission transport, energy use, and procurement practices at events across the district. > Council staff have supported event organisers through advice, coordination, and the sharing of best practice, helping to lift capability and normalise sustainability as a core component of event delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Engage with Better Events Collective on development of learning materials to support sustainable events in the district. > Continue to refine and promote sustainable event guidance and tools to support organisers to reduce emissions, minimise waste, and improve environmental outcomes. 	ON TRACK