QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Order Paper for a meeting

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS:

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025

to be held on

Monday 21 July 2025

commencing at 10.00am

in the

Council Chambers,

10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS ON:

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025

PANEL MEMBERS

Councillor G Bartlett

Councillor M White

Councillor M Wong

Chair of hearing panel to be determined at beginning of hearing.

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS:
Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025

Agenda for a hearing of submissions on the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025, to be held in the Council Chambers at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Monday 21 July, beginning at 10.00am.

Hearing Panel

21 July 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [1]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: Hearing report for the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to present the submissions received on the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 (draft forestry plan). Council approved the draft forestry plan (**Attachment A**) for public consultation at the full Council meeting on 29 May 2025.

This report also provides an analysis of the submissions on the draft forestry plan. The submission pack (**Attachment B**) contains all feedback received and officers' comments. This report is intended to support a Hearings Panel (the Panel) of councillors. The hearing provides members of the public who have made a submission the opportunity to speak to their submission.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Hearing Panel:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;

2. **Note** all submissions on the draft forestry plan and hear any submitters who wish to speak to their submission; and

3. **Recommend** to full Council (following the hearing) a final form of Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 with changes as an outcome of the consultation process (final forestry plan).

Prepared by:

Name: Briana Pringle
Title: Parks & Open Spaces Planning Manager
11 July 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:

Name: Ken Bailey
Title: General Manager, Community Services
14 July 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) comprises four parcels of land totalling 109 hectares. The Reserve provides a range of opportunities for recreational experiences that are easily accessible to Tāhuna Queenstown.

2. The Reserve is largely covered with wilding conifer tree species. It is predominantly forested with Douglas fir but includes other exotic species. These trees are acting as a seed source facilitating the spread of wilding conifers elsewhere in the Whakatipu basin.

3. Council adopted the current Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan in 2006. This plan is now outdated and no longer fit for purpose. As the plan focused on production forestry and did not consider ecological restoration or improving biodiversity at the site.

4. Council adopted a Statement of Proposal (**Attachment C**) approving formal consultation on the updated Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 (draft forestry plan) under the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on 29 May 2025. A summary of the key milestones achieved to date are summarised in Table 1 below:

   Table 1: Key milestones to develop the draft forestry plan

Date	Milestone
25 March 2025	Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Forestry Plan shared with Councillors at Council workshop to provide an overview and seek input.
29 May 2025	Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan presented to Full Council for approval to consult.
5 June to 6 July 2025	Public consultation on draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan, including 3 public drop-in sessions.
21 July 2025	Public hearing of submissions.
22 July 2025	Public deliberations by the Hearing Panel.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

5. 90 submissions were received on the draft forestry plan between 5 June and 6 July 2025 via Queenstown Lakes District Council's (QLDC's) online submission portal Let's Talk and by email. One late submission was received from the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust on 9 July 2025.

6. 8 submitters indicated they wanted to speak at a public hearing. A schedule of submitters who wish to be heard is attached (**Attachment D**).

7. There are officers' comments responding to each submission (**Attachment B**).

   Of the 91 submissions received:

- 56 strongly support (62%)
- 13 support (14%)
- 5 neutral (5%)
- 4 opposed (4%)
- 13 strongly oppose (14%)

8. Key themes that arose through the submissions were:

Tree Removal
There was strong support from the majority of submissions (76%) for the removal of wilding seed source.
Some submitters noted that removing the invasive trees would significantly reduce future wilding management costs.

Pest (Animal) Management
There was clear support for effective pest control (especially for feral goats), with submissions highlighting the importance of protecting new native plantings. Many noted that pests such as goats pose a serious threat to the survival of new native vegetation.

Fire Risk
Several submissions highlighted the current trees as a wildfire risk, particularly as they age. Submitters believed that tree removal would reduce the threat of wildfire.

Species Selection
There was strong support for planting only native species on the site. A number of submissions opposed the inclusion of exotic species, particularly those with invasive characteristics.
While most favoured native vegetation, some submissions supported species that provide seasonal colour, such as autumn foliage. A number of respondents provided feedback on the species list, requesting revisions to exclude plantings they believe could be problematic due to their potentially invasive nature or unsuitability for the site. Some also suggested alternative species they considered more appropriate for the location.

Planting
Submitters requested the careful selection of future planting locations and species to ensure that existing property view shafts are not obstructed.
There was support for monitoring the success of new plantings over time.
Some submissions suggested the removal of wilding trees should only proceed alongside confirmed funding for native and exotic vegetation restoration, as well as rockfall mitigation measures.

Biodiversity
There was widespread support for restoring the site with species that enhance or improve overall biodiversity. Many submissions viewed the project as a significant opportunity to create a more ecologically diverse and resilient environment.

Recreation Activities
Submissions highlighted the significance of the existing walking 'time walk' trail to the community. Support for its protection both during and after tree harvesting.
Several submissions raised concerns about unofficial mountain bike trails, asking that these be retained and protected. Concerns were also raised that the current plan does not adequately recognise the existing mountain biking activity in the area.

Future Recreational Trails
There was general support for the development of new biking and walking recreational opportunities, provided they are well-planned. Submitters requested that new trails consider appropriate access points and connectivity across the site.

Landscape and Visual Impacts
Some submitters noted that the current trees provide amenity, shelter, and contribute to an alpine appearance. There were concerns that clear-felling would leave a highly visible scar on the landscape.
However, other submissions acknowledged that while the short-term visual impact of removal may be noticeable, it is temporary, and future vegetation is expected to enhance the landscape.

Operational Considerations
Submissions noted that some of the trees may have been planted for slope stability and expressed concern that their removal may lead to increased instability. Others questioned if the proposed replacement trees would serve the same stabilising function.
Additional concerns included noise from harvesting operations, the use of chemicals and potential residual effects, and a lack of detail around water management practices.

Cost
There was concern regarding the overall cost of the project. A submission highlighted that the planting and maintenance should not rely solely on volunteer efforts, and that adequate funding and planning will be essential to the project's long-term success.

9. This report recommends that the hearing panel receives the submissions and recommends to full Council the final form of the forestry plan with changes as an outcome of the consultation process.

10. No options have been considered as this report supports a process set out in accordance with the Statement of Proposal for formal consultation adopted by Council under the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on 29 May 2025.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

11. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024. This is because while there is community interest in the forestry activity in the reserve, the direction of the plan is generally consistent with existing policy and strategy governing the reserves.

12. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are users of the reserve, residents/ratepayers of the Whakatipu Basin community, visitors to Queenstown, immediately adjoining neighbours and local recreation clubs, conservation groups and commercial operators.

13. The Council has undertaken consultation on the draft forestry plan in line with the requirements of the Statement of Proposal for formal consultation adopted by Council under the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on 29 May 2025.

14. The draft forestry plan was open for public submissions on QLDC's online platform Let's Talk from 5 June to 6 July 2025. The draft forestry plan and submission form were publicly notified and advertised through notices in local papers, QLDC's website, social media platforms and radio. A letter drop and targeted emails were sent to addresses within the Queenstown Hill residential suburb located adjacent to the reserve. Council conducted three drop-in sessions with elected members present to talk to people about the draft forestry plan at two locations in Queenstown over two days for people to ask questions.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

15. The Council worked with Aukaha and Te Ao Marama to develop the draft forestry plan.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

16. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10005 Ineffective planning for community services or facilities within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.

17. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to avoid the risk. This will be achieved by creating a clear plan for how Council intends to manage the vegetation within the reserve.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

18. The preparation and finalisation of the draft forestry plan is planned for within existing operational budgets.

19. There is no funding in the QLDC Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034 to implement the draft forestry plan. The LTP does include a capital budget of $21 million to progress the wildfire reduction

programme. Specifically, there is a wildfire mitigation budget of $1,067,000 in year 2026/27 of the LTP; and there are elements of the draft forestry plan which may align to this funding.

20. The reserve was not planted as a production forest, but it does contain some merchantable timber. However, challenges such as slope, rock outcrops, access, and the presence of power lines will impact the feasibility of logging. Harvesting may not generate an economic return due to the site difficulties, although it may offset some costs associated with the operation.

21. Government initiatives which would help with tree removals and tree planting may be available in the future. An example is the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme which is led by Ministry for Primary Industries.

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

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

- Vision Beyond 2050: Our Vision and Mission - QLDC
- The Reserves Act 1977
- Local Government Act 2002
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021
- Significance and Engagement Policy 2024
- Proposed and Operative District Plan
- QLDC Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025
- Draft QLDC Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028
- Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Strategic Plan 2023-2033
- Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019
- National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry

23. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies. It aligns with the QLDC District Plan Designation #374 which specifies that draft forestry plan updates shall be subject to consultation with the community using the special consultative procedure.

24. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan. But the completion of the draft forestry plan will be covered through existing operational budgets.

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

25. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. The development of the draft forestry ensures there is a plan in place to manage the removal of wilding tree species on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve and supports the restoration of a healthy, diverse forest. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

26. The recommended option:
    - Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
    - Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
    - Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025
B	Full submissions pack
C	Statement of Proposal
D	Schedule of submitters who wish to be heard

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan

March 2025

Contents

Preface:

This report has been prepared to replace the Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan adopted March 2006 in so far as it applies to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

Ahika Consulting were engaged by The Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) in 2022 to write the first draft of Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan.

The first version investigated viable pathways for removing the wilding risk from QLDC administered Reserve on Queenstown Hill. The draft outlined a vision for managing the site and provided options and issues as a starting point for discussions with key stakeholders and mana whenua.

Introduction

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill has become progressively dominated by wilding conifers over the past 60+ years and these trees are acting as a seed source facilitating the spread of wilding conifers elsewhere in the Whakatipu basin.

Background:

Without active management and intervention, wilding conifers will continue to spread, threatening the landscape, and its ecological values, resulting in the loss of biodiversity within and around the Reserve.

The Otago Regional, Pest Management Plan (ORPMP) seeks to progressively contain and reduce the geographic extent of wilding conifers within the Otago Region. A National Wilding Conifer Control Programme has been developed and provides a collaborative funding model for addressing infestations. The Douglas fir on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) provide a significant seed source for the wider Whakatipu Basin.

The ORPMP and National Wilding Conifer Control Programme note that indigenous ecosystems at particular risk from wilding conifer invasions include tussock grasslands and sub-alpine shrublands found on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill and in the mountains beyond.

The Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) was established to control wilding conifers in the Whakatipu Basin, protecting biodiversity and landscapes. The WCG support the removal of this significant wilding seed source on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

The 2006 Forestry Plan is now outdated and no longer fit for purpose. This forestry plan assesses the current tree cover and site conditions, and outlines options for harvesting and replanting to replace invasive wilding trees. It will guide the removal of these species and support the restoration of a healthy, diverse forest for the future. The plan details the proposed harvest, wilding clearance, and restoration activities for the Reserve, based on findings from vegetation surveys and forest measurement data.

The removal of the established Douglas fir forest will alter the landscape and may significantly impact the experience of current recreational activities at the site. The forestry Plan plays a crucial role in communicating the future intentions of the Reserve and informs the community about how tree management will occur and what revegetation will look like.

Key Objective:

QLDC will fell and eradicate all wilding tree species on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. The Reserve will be replanted as a production forest, with the new cover forming a permanent mixed species forest.

The forestry plan has been developed to achieve the following objectives, identified through current policies, regulations, and the aspirations of the local community:

- Control existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation.
- Protect, restore and enhance existing biodiversity values.
- Protect and enhance the water quality in all water catchments within the reserves.
- Protect landscape and ecological values by implementing staged management zones.
- Revegetate harvested areas within two to four years following the completion of harvesting operations in each management zone.
- Ensure that QLDC meets its obligations under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme.
- Manage the risk of erosion and land instability.
- Manage the discharge of contaminants such as silt, sediment and debris to surface water bodies.

District Plan Requirements

The Reserve is zoned Open Space and Recreation – Informal Recreation in the QLDC Proposed District Plan (PDP).

Importantly, the Reserve has a 'designation' for the purpose of 'Forestry Operations' (Designation #374) under the PDP. The purpose of the designation is to enable QLDC to carry out forestry operations which means the use of the land primarily for the purpose of planting, tending, managing and harvesting of trees for timber or wood production.

A designation is a 'spot zoning' over a site or area that authorises the Requiring Authority's (QLDC in this instance) work and activity without the need to comply with the zone rules or obtain a resource consent.

Designation #374 authorises QLDC to carry out forestry operations in the area known as Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Recreational Reserve.
There are specific conditions associated with Designation #374 (as detailed in Appendix 1). In summary the conditions require or regulate: DP

- *All forestry operations to be carried out using best practice.*
- *All forestry operations must comply with the polices in the following plans (or any updated version):*
    - *Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan*
    - *Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan*
- *The current Forestry Plan shall address the following matters:*
    - *Policies and programmes for the re-establishment of production forestry, together with areas to be retired from production forestry following harvesting operations. The revegetation plans shall include*
        - *proposed future re-vegetation (including plant schedules and botanical names) and maintenance programmes*

    - *Proposed control of any wilding generation following harvesting operations.*
    - *That re-vegetation shall occur as soon as practicable and no later than two years after harvesting operations.*
- *Policies in relation to the impact and requirements of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).*
- *All updates of the Forestry Plans shall be subject to consultation with the community using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in section 83 of the **Local Government Act 2002** before adoption by the Council.*
- *An Outline Plan is required for the harvesting of trees prior to any harvesting taking place.*

Reserve Management Plan

The Draft Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan (RMP) has the following objectives and policies[1]:

RMP Objectives:

- To protect, restore and enhance existing biodiversity values by actively managing invasive species.
- To protect landscape and ecological values by implementing staged, considered approaches to wilding conifer and noxious vegetation removal.
- To allow the planting of non-invasive exotics species that assist native regeneration and support sustainable recreation opportunities.

RMP Policies:

- Implement as a priority Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan to remove pest species, particularly Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.
- Forestry management plan needs to consider:
    - Ensuring minimal impact on amenity values through the use of low impact extraction methods, while recognising the long-term goal of restoring the natural environment and enhancing biodiversity values;
    - Allowing for revegetation with a mix of native and non-invasive exotic species;
    - Identification of areas of remnant beech forest and other native vegetation for protection and enhancement;
    - Pest plant and animal control;
    - Acknowledgement of recreation values, ensuring important reserve connections remain accessible where possible; and

1 These draft objectives and policies were undergoing public consultation at the time of writing of this Forestry Plan. Should these change in the final RMP this Forestry Plan shall be updated accordingly.

- Application of a cross-organisational approach in the management of vegetation in the reserves and where possible, work with adjoining landowners to reduce natural hazard risks and pest species.

Emissions Trading Scheme Liabilities

Under the ETS pre-1990 forest landowners can harvest and replant their forest without any liability. If the land is deforested, then the landowner must pay for deforestation.

Over 30 hectares of the Reserve is registered as pre-1990 forest land. Provided that the site is replanted within 4 years with a forest species that will meet the definition of forest land under the ETS, then the current forest can be harvested without any liability. However, if the site is not replanted within 4 years, then deforestation obligations will apply.

Site description - Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve

The Reserve is 109 hectares and is located on the southeast and southwest side of Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill ("the Reserve"). Figure 1 below shows the extent of the Reserve that is the subject of this report.

The Reserve lies to the northeast of the Queenstown town centre and comprises of four land parcels classified as recreation and local purpose reserves. Refer to Appendix 1 for legal descriptions. Residential development has occurred in close proximity to the downslope extent of the Reserve.

The popular 'Time Walk' walking trail traverses through the Reserve to a lookout point on private land to the north of the upper reserve boundary. Aside from the Time Walk, the Reserve is largely undeveloped.

Figure 1: Extent of site - Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve

Forestry Access

There are two public access points into the Reserve in close proximity to one another. One is off Belfast Terrace, which provides the trail entrance to the Time Walk. There is a small car parking area on Belfast Terrace. The second access is off Kerry Drive. This leads to a larger carpark which provides access to the Kerry Drive Pump Track and public toilets. There are no other formed public reserve accessways.

Lot 1 DP 496901, known as the 'Commonage Land', is adjacent to the Reserve, as shown in Figure 2. This land is to be developed as a residential subdivision in the future. QLDC have approved an easement in favour of the developer through the Reserve to provide an alternative road access to the Commonage land. This road could be used to provide vehicle and forestry operational access to the site. The Commonage land can also be accessed via Vancouver Drive.

There is also access to the Reserve via a 10m-wide easement through the Commonage land from Vancouver Drive (Figure 3). This easement is in favour of QLDC and Aurora Energy.

Delta Utility Services utilise this access road to access the power substation. There is an existing single-lane gravel and concrete road following the alignment of this easement that could provide another point of forestry operational and vehicle access to the site.

Figure 2: Easement through Lot 1 DP 496901 in favour of Lot 2 DP 496901

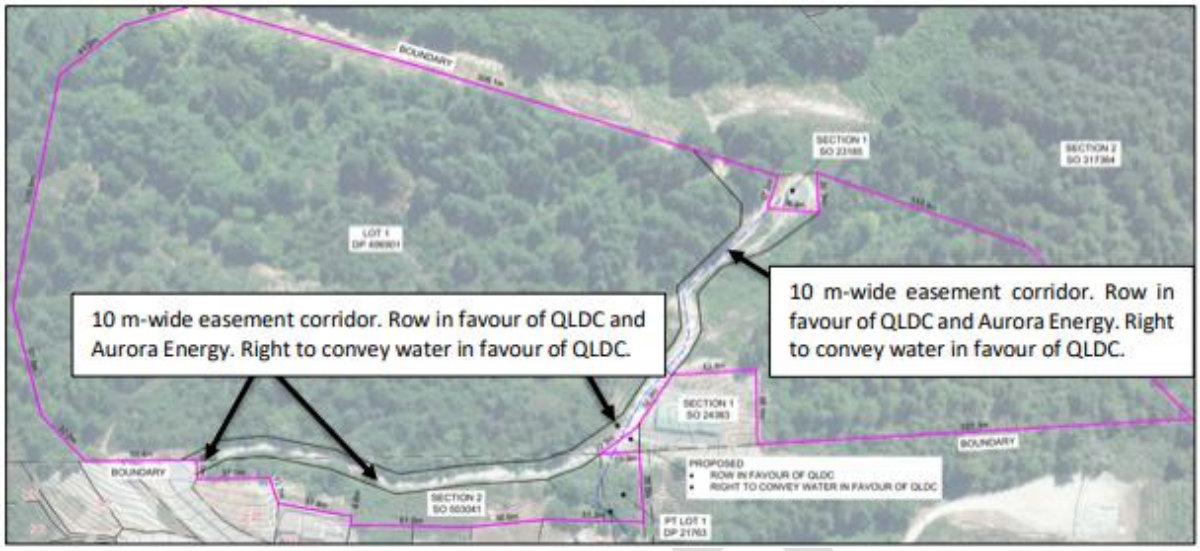

Figure 3: Existing easement through Lot 1 DP 496901

The majority of the Reserve is landlocked by private property boundaries. Further to the east, Tree Tops Rise/Silver creek is currently under development. To access the Reserve at the eastern end would require permission from private landowners.

There is an existing gravel 4WD track that runs from Queenstown Hill Station down into the Silver Creek development and it is understood there is an access agreement in place in favour of Queenstown Hill Station for farming and tourism purposes. Should Queenstown Hill Station decide to harvest the wilding species on their property then this may be a possible vehicle access option.

Much of the reserve is landlocked because of urban development and there are limited options for Forestry access for vehicles such as logging trucks into the Reserve.

Public Utility Infrastructure

The Reserve contains Aurora 33kV power lines. The lines run up the Reserve from Anderson Heights through to the Aurora Commonage Substation and run though the Reserve parallel to Frankton Road (Figure 4).

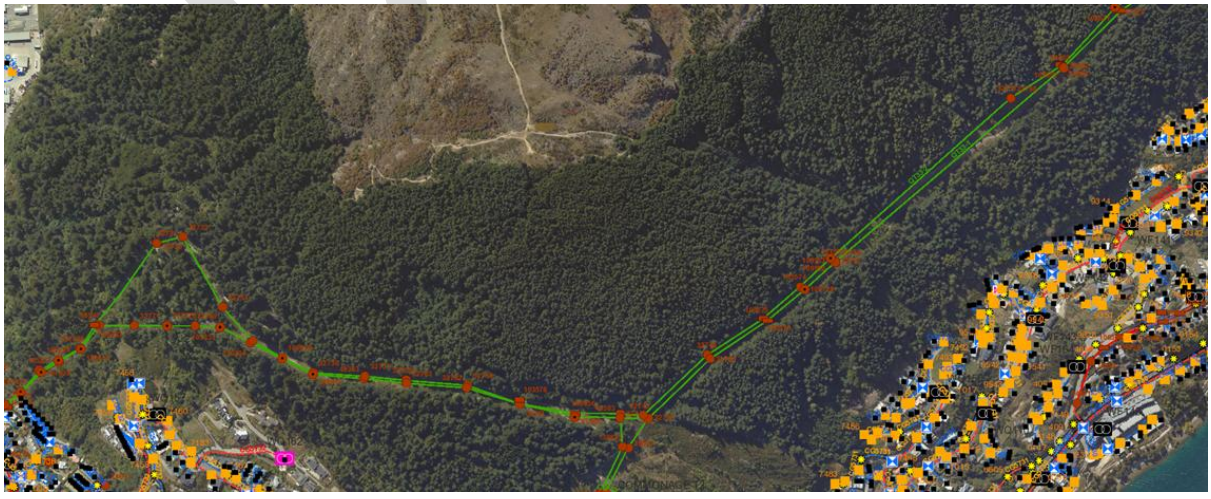

Figure 4: *Aurora 33kV power lines within the reserve shown in green.*

Recreation

The Reserve supports the following recreational activities:

- Walking
- Trail running
- Mountain biking (Kerry Drive Jump Park)
- Guided walking
- Rock climbing

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk (Figure 5) is a well utilised walking trail that leads up to the Basket of Dreams sculpture and viewpoint. The walkway contains interpretative panels the length of the trail.

Figure 5: Map showing Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk

Rock climbing is undertaken on the northwestern side of the Reserve accessed from Gorge Road. A commercial recreation climbing activity 'Via Ferrata' using fixed metal handles is accessed via an easement over the reserve.

Unauthorised mountain biking tracks have been developed within the Reserve. In many locations the trails cross private land before entering the Reserve. The removal of the mature canopy will affect this network as it protects trail surfaces by reducing water damage and decreases trail deterioration from users. There is a cost to protecting trails when harvesting. While the 'time walk' will be protected, unauthorised bike tracks may be removed due to felling techniques, operational tracking and residual slash left on the site.

The development of new logging road infrastructure provides an opportunity to create a new network of walking trails for public use once the site is safe to access again. This desired end use should, therefore, be taken into consideration when designing the layout of logging infrastructure in this zone.

The Queenstown Mountain Bike Club has a licence over an area at the end of Kerry Drive where they have developed a dual pump track. QLDC will work with the club to remove any wilding trees within the site.

Geology

The site is underlain by finely foliated schist rock and onsite observations revealed that the topsoil is shallow in many places. Localised glacial soils will be present in some areas. Figure 6 below shows the mapped soil types across the site. The limited soil profile needs to be considered as it may inhibit restoration efforts in some areas. The majority of the site is classified as having a low erosion susceptibility in the National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry.

Figure 6: Soil types across the site (source: New Zealand Land Resource Inventory, lris.scinfo.org.nz)

Topography

The Reserve showcases the effects of past glacial activity that shaped the Whakatipu Basin. Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill's summit at 907m is situated outside of the reserve boundaries on Queenstown Hill Station (Figure 7). The highest elevation within the Reserve is 670 m the site is and features scoured many bluffs, cliffs, gullies, and rocky outcrops

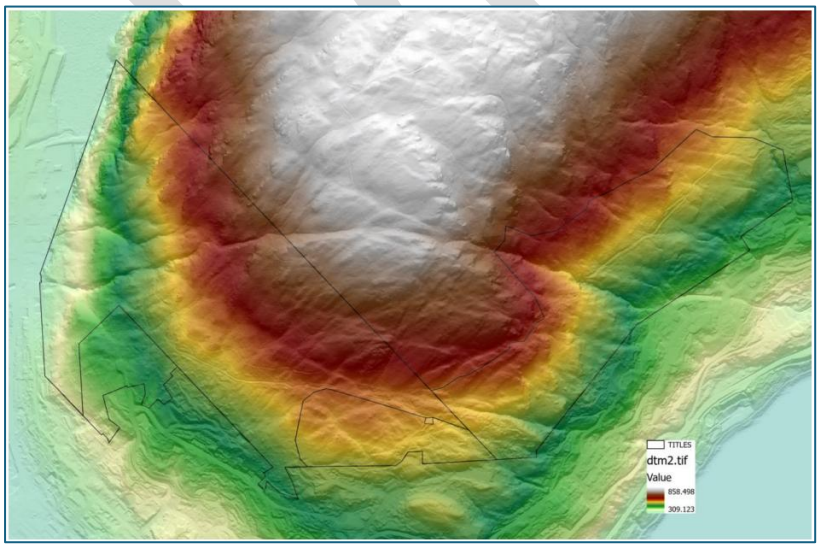

Figure 7: Digital elevation model (DEM) derived for the area (Interpine 2021)

A rockfall assessment was undertaken to assess the rock fall hazards on Queenstown Hill. The report detailed risks and appropriate measures that can be taken during harvesting operations to minimise likelihood of rock fall. The high-risk outcrop areas are mainly located above Gorge Road, with a few on the Frankton Road side of the Reserve. This forestry plan includes low-impact techniques, such as drill-and-fill herbicide methods, which leave standing dead trees to reduce ground disturbance in these areas.

Hydrology

The reserve does not contain any named waterways, but the land area forms part of the eastern side of the Horne Creek catchment, which flows into Matakauri Wetland entering Lake Whakatipu at Te Karere Queenstown Gardens. The catchment on the southern side of the reserve discharges into waterways that flow towards and under Frankton Road into Lake Whakatipu.

The catchments area and drainage points within the Reserve are mapped and are shown in Figure 8.

A stormwater runoff assessment of the Queenstown Hill deforestation has been completed. The assessment detailed the effects of the planned deforestation on downstream overland flow and stormwater pipe network. Any operational planning will consider and mitigate any future effects.

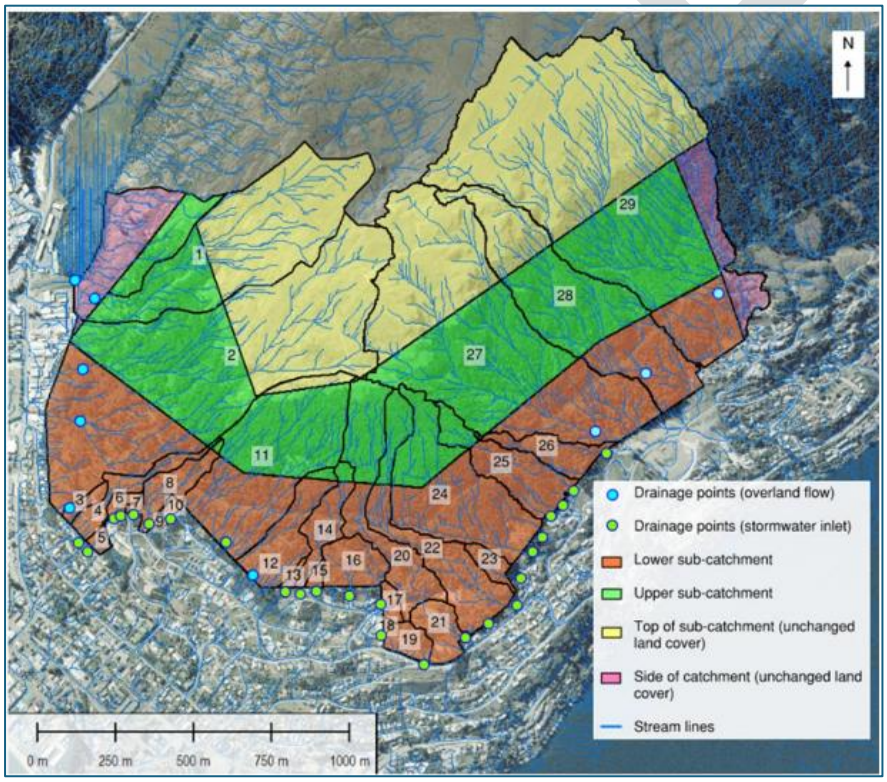

Figure 8: Te Tapunui Queenstown hill catchment delineation and drainage points (Beca 2024 Queenstown Hill Deforestation Stormwater Runoff Assessment)

Existing Vegetation

The Reserve is largely covered with wilding conifer tree species. It is predominantly forested with D. fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) but includes other exotic species such as Pinus radiata (Pinus radiata), larch (Larix spp), cypress species, silver birch (Betula pendula). Damp gullies contain patches of sycamore

species, rowan (Sorbus subg. sorbus) and hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna). Numerous other weed species are present on the lower slopes

The Reserve supports very small areas of remnant beech forest, but most native species have been suppressed and outcompeted by D. fir.

The conifer forest provides a significant seed source for wilding conifer spread in the Wakatipu basin despite regular control of the upper margins with aerial application of herbicide**.**

The fast-growing D. fir is also encroaching on the 'Basket of Dreams', which is the destination for many of the reserve users who are undertaking the Time Walk through the reserve. Iconic panoramic views are being lost to the D. fir.

Proposed Future Vegetation Cover

The future vegetation cover proposed across the site (Figure 9) has been informed by:

- landform (location of gullies, bluffs and spurs),
- existing pockets of native vegetation that may be retained,
- feasibility of establishing different vegetation types in each area,
- site constraints including risk of invasive species from neighbouring areas,
- current policy
- community drivers

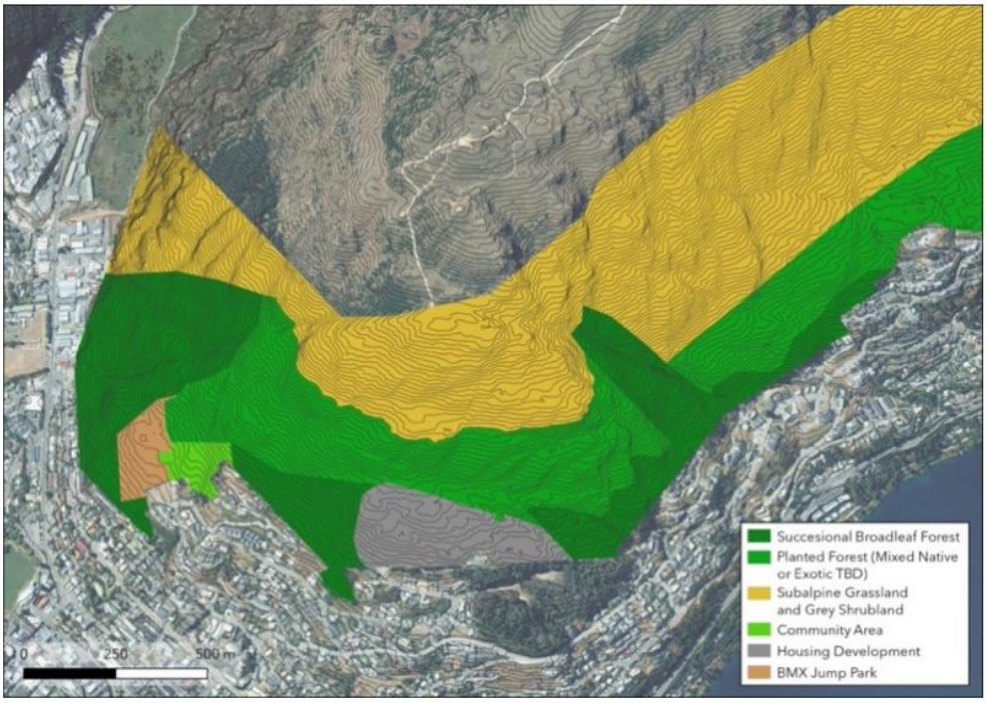

Figure 9: Proposed vegetation cover across the site

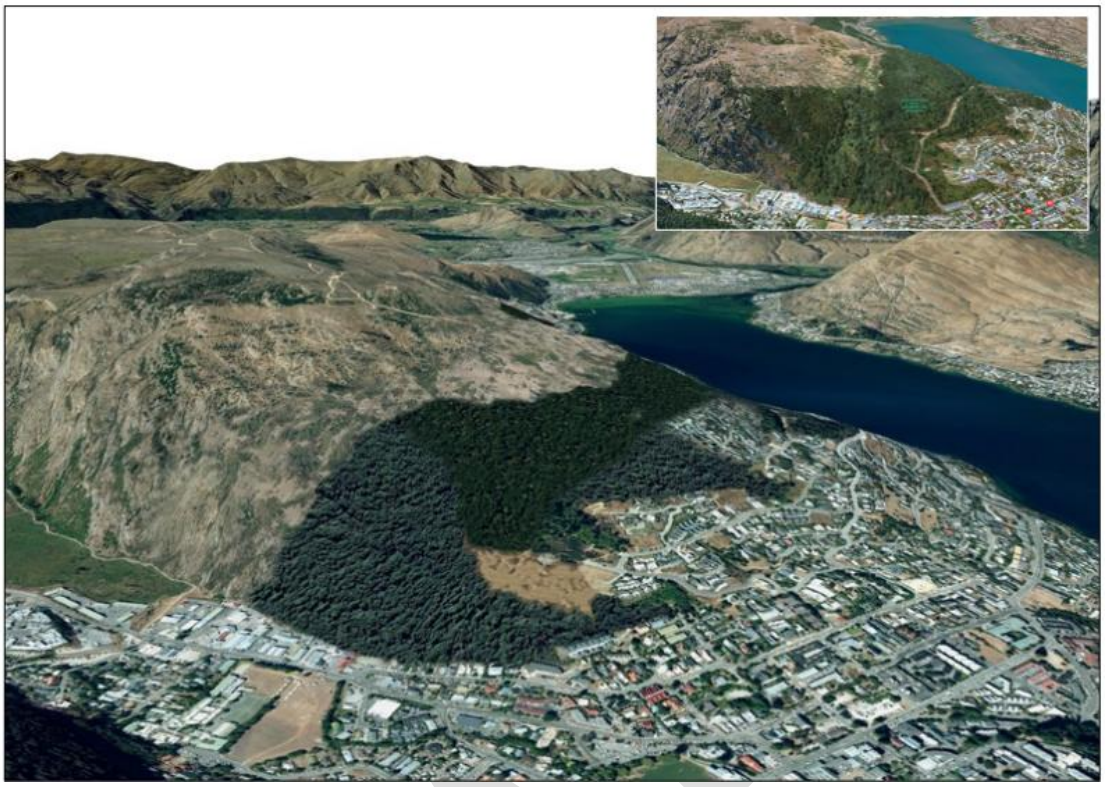

Figure 10: Proposed vision - 3D interpretation viewed from the west, and comparison with current vegetation cover (inset)

Figure 11: Proposed vision - 3D interpretation viewed from the southeast, and comparison with current vegetation cover (inset).

Landscape

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill is a steep mountain block. The conifers form contiguous vegetative cover. The changes to vegetation are to be carefully managed and are staged to ensure amenity values are maintained. Future landscape values will be enhanced in the long term with the implementation of this forestry plan.

Leaving the existing lower risk wilding species in place where possible will provide a temporary vegetation buffer which will lessen the impact on landscape values than clearing. The buffer will also help soften the visual impacts of harvesting in management zones above.

Re-grassing the site as soon as operationally possible after each area is harvested will provide vegetation cover and a natural appearance when viewed from the Whakatipu basin.

Forestry Site Assessment

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forest Yield Estimation, 2021

In 2021, a survey was conducted combining LiDAR data and ground-based forest surveying to estimate tree volumes and identify areas with the highest timber volumes (Figure 12). This approach used remote sensing for detailed mapping and ground measurements for accuracy to assess forest resources.

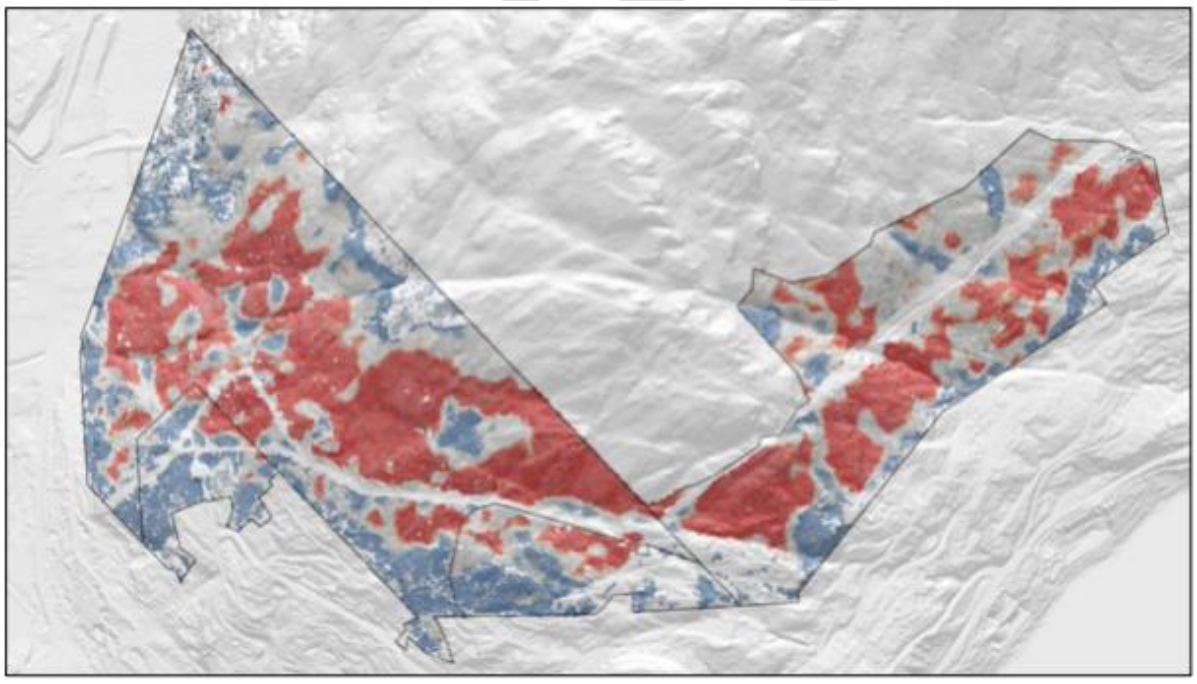

Figure 12: Highest merchantable volume areas in red (Interpine report)

A 39-hectare area of forest within the Reserve has been identified as having the highest volume of merchantable timber. The harvestable tree species include D. fir, radiata pine, larch, and cypress.

Challenges such as slope, rock outcrops, access, and the presence of power lines will impact the feasibility of logging. Harvesting may not generate an economic return due to the site constraints.

Management Zones

The Reserve has been divided into six Management Zones based on the vegetation present, harvesting methodology and site restoration (see Figure 13). Each Management Zone contains the following:

- Key action
- Size
- Topography and characteristics
- Vegetation
- Forest yield
- Implementation plan - Site Restoration and Maintenance

Note forestry access to each of the Management Zones will be designed and confirmed in the future Outline Plan application, which will detail exact harvest methodology, forestry roads and tracking within the site.

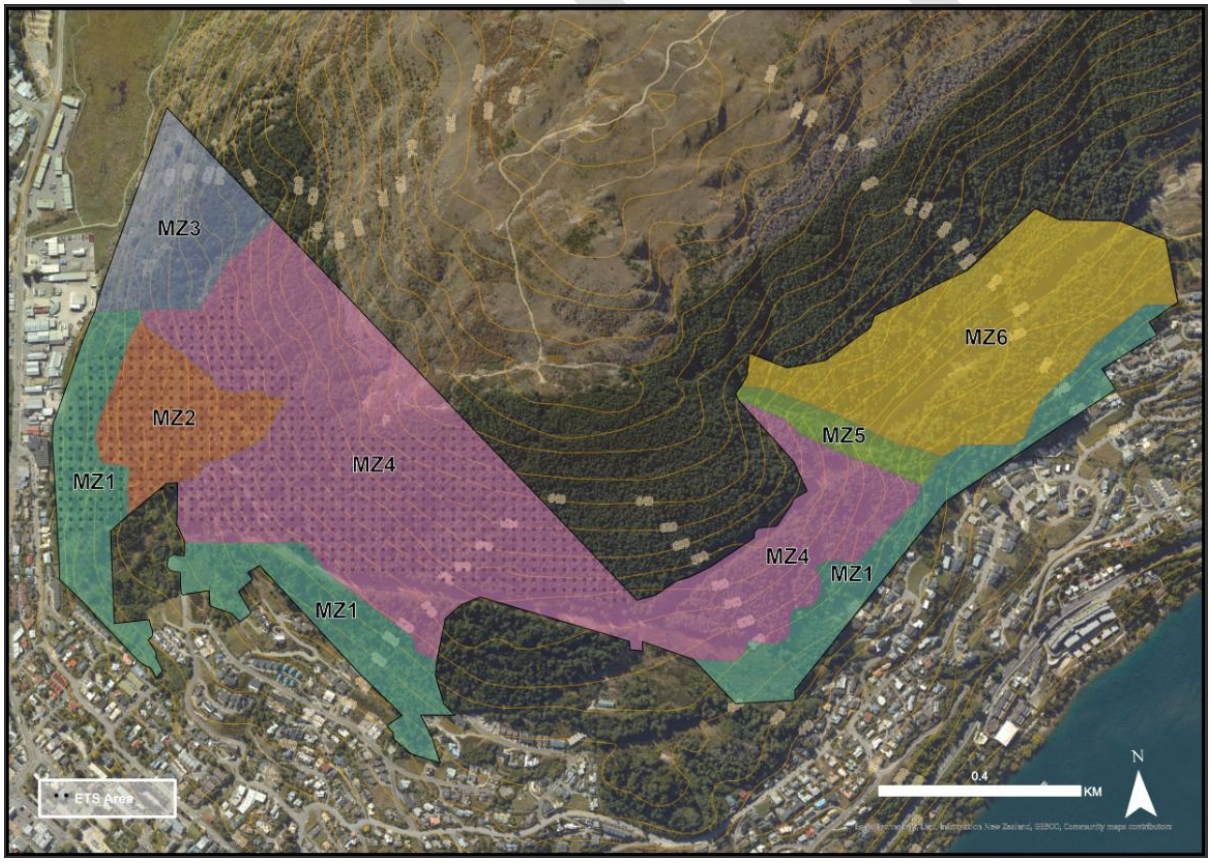

Figure 13: Proposed management zones

Management Zone 1 (MZ1)

Key Action: Fell all remaining wilding conifers in this zone using ground-based techniques, leaving other weed species on site as a revegetation buffer to the urban boundary below.

- West MZ1 – remove any older and young emerging wilding trees from this zone.

- East MZ1 – fell and extract all wilding trees.

Area: 21.7 ha

Forest Yield: Zero yield expected from this MZ, due to the age and form of the wilding trees.

Topography and characteristics: This zone is steep in places and is the nearest to privately-owned residential and industrial properties.

Vegetation: This zone is dominated by weed trees species, particularly rowan, sycamore and holly. Other weed species, including blackberry, create a dense understorey. Some native ferns and coprosma occur infrequently.

A number of mature cypress, D. fir, radiata pine and silver birch are present, but they are not abundant on the lower slopes.

MZ1 Implementation plan – tree removal, site restoration and maintenance

- Undertake a ground-based harvesting programme for all remaining wilding conifers in MZ1. Revisit the western portion of this zone to remove any emerging young wilding conifer growth.
- Where possible and practicable create a 20 m firebreak where the site borders residential properties.
- Remove large slash on the urban boundary, because of the high wildfire risk.
- Leave other (non-wilding) vegetation standing until resource is available to clear it. Restoration to achieve a native species-dominated canopy can be undertaken at a later date.
- Once wilding clearance and restoration activities upslope are underway, it is recommended that ground-based felling and chemical treatment of the remaining weed tree species in this zone (rowan, sycamore, hawthorn) is undertaken, to prevent seeding into adjacent areas of restoration. The initial year or two could focus heavily on removing invasive or undesirable weeds that threaten the ecosystem or future plantings.
- MZ1 will be divided into several smaller treatment areas for restoration.
- This zone will be planted with hardy fast-growing low flammable native trees and shrubs that can establish quickly (such as pittosporum, broadleaf, coprosma, carmichaelia, wineberry, five finger, tutu). An intensive programme of planting over many years will eventually convert the dominant canopy cover in these areas to native species, and the result will provide a fringe along the slower slopes of the site that is contiguous with the dominant vegetation type in the gullies (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list).
- Ongoing maintenance after the initial clearance, which would comprise regular monitoring and follow-up treatments (e.g., spot spraying or manual removal) will help prevent regrowth.
- The annual budget would influence the scale and speed at which weed clearance and planting can occur. In some years, only basic weed control and smaller-scale planting might be feasible, while in others, a larger portion of the area might receive treatment.

- Community groups or neighbouring properties could adopt areas and volunteer to assist with the ongoing maintenance program in the zone.

Fire Break

Where possible it is recommended that a fire break is created in MZ1 as this area is adjacent to residential properties. This should be a minimum of 20 m wide, with 5 m of this cleared to mineral earth. This break would reduce the risk of a fire on a neighbouring property spreading onto the site and provide access to the area should a fire start.

Management Zone 2 (MZ2)

Key action: To reduce disturbance to the native understory and lower the risk of soil erosion in this zone, mature larger trees targeted by the following methods:

- Herbicide, drill and fill
- Fell to waste
- Removed with low impact harvesting techniques

Young wilding tree regrowth will be felled to waste.

Area: 7 ha

Forest yield: Zero yield recovered from this zone.

Topography and characteristics: Several steep-sided gullies with flowing creeks traverse MZ2 in an east-west direction. These creeks appear to be largely perennial and have carved flow paths into the underlying bedrock. Large rocky outcrops and cliff faces are common throughout this zone.

Access for logging operators and equipment would be difficult (if not impossible), with steep sided gullies and bluffs particularly hazardous.

Vegetation: Mature radiata pine is the dominant canopy species, with some D. fir and cypress also common. Some of the radiata pine trees are exceptionally large, with low, widespread branches, In the gullies, sycamore, rowan, hawthorn and holly are the dominant tree species, with both mature and seedling trees of these species present.

The understorey is diverse and dense, and dominated by native ferns in places. Coprosma seedlings occur occasionally. Some foxglove, cotoneaster and other weeds are also present

Figure 14: Example of vegetation present in MZ2

MZ2 Implementation plan – tree removal, site restoration and maintenance

- Treat wilding conifers and other weed trees using herbicide or fell to waste methods, taking care to avoid adverse effects on existing native vegetation and surface water bodies.
- In some areas of the zone it may be possible to harvest the trees using low impact harvesting techniques
- Underplant/interplant with suitable native species where practicable (Appendix 3).
- Over-sow harder-to-access areas of MZ to suppress weed invasion, Perennial rye and cocksfoot should be avoided as these grass species can be too competitive against native seedlings.
- Clear dead trees where they pose a risk to public safety.
- Allow for ongoing maintenance for 3 - 5 years until planted native species are established.
- Safe access to restoration areas will be required for several years. Working under decaying wilding trees can become extremely hazardous within 2 - 5 years of treatment as dead material starts to fall. If the wilding conifers are left dead standing, then planting operations should commence as soon as possible to allow time for planting and maintenance before the site becomes too unsafe to access.

Management Zone 3 (MZ3)

Key Action: The trees will be targeted using herbicide or fell to waste or low impact harvest extraction methods, the technique used will be dependent on the size of each tree being treated.

There are a number of trees in the northern-most part of MZ3 perched precariously on rock faces immediately above industrial properties and the wetland reserve walking track on Gorge Road (Figure 15). Specialist arborist assessment and careful removal will be required for these trees.

Area: 7.6 ha

Forest yield: Zero yield recovered from this zone.

Topography and characteristics: This zone has very steep and hazardous terrain and includes some of the steepest terrain on the site. Rocky outcrops, gullies and cliff faces are abundant, and operation of heavy machinery in this area would likely lead to erosion and land instability. Much of this area is difficult to traverse.

Rock climbing/via ferrata activities are in MZ3, local climbing organisations and tour operators must be consulted well in advance of any wilding control operations commencing and access must be prohibited while the risk of harm to site users cannot be avoided.

Vegetation: There is good coverage of mixed-age and mixed-sized D. fir and radiata pine on the upper slopes, but canopy cover is sparser on the rocky faces. Hawthorn and rowan occur in more exposed areas.

Figure 15: Example of vegetation present in MZ2

MZ3 Implementation plan – site restoration and maintenance

- Treat wilding conifers and other weed trees using herbicide or fell to waste methods. Targeted specialist arborist removal of very high-risk trees will be required.
- Investigate if some trees can be harvested using low impact harvesting equipment and techniques.
- The steep and rocky nature of this site and the thin topsoil layer in places will make restoration difficult. Over-sow with grasses and/or early native successional forest species, opportunities for maintenance will be limited once the dead tree start to decompose.
- This vegetation will also help to suppress (but will not eliminate) emergence of wilding conifer seedlings. Maintenance in this management zone will be minimal due to access issues, so only native species where there is abundant local seed available (e.g. mānuka) should be used.

- Nearby wilding seed sources (e.g. from Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond) and remaining seed in the soil will mean that ongoing control of emerging seedlings will be required until these two seed sources are removed/depleted. Aerial application of herbicide may be the only feasible method for managing emerging weed tree seedlings, but any herbicide use needs to be targeted so as not to cause damage to the grass or other more desirable successional vegetation.

Management Zone 4 (MZ4)

Key Action: Clear fell the wilding tree species using ground based or hauler harvesting methods.

Area: 47.1 ha

Forest yield: This zone contains merchantable timber, and a relatively high yield is expected.

Topography and characteristics: Parts of MZ4 are steep and there are several cliffs and rocky outcrops (especially in the upper slopes). Site slope, rock outcrops, limited access, and the presence of power lines will create challenges to logging operations, which may result in minimal net gain or even a negative financial return from the harvesting of these trees.

The rock outcrops have been mapped and rock fall hazards assessed; mitigation measures will be included in the outline plan and harvest plan.

Vegetation Survey: Radiata pine is common in the western-most part of this zone, but D. fir is the dominant canopy species elsewhere.

Large, old, and wide radiata pine, which were likely some of the original exotic conifer species in the area, occur in the mid-slopes of MZ4. These trees often have large, heavy limbs that are beginning to break off, which creates a hazard and results in un-merchantable timber.

Large areas of MZ4 are dominated by D. fir that is of relatively uniform height but somewhat mixed volume. These areas have no understorey - not even regenerating D. fir seedlings - and the forest floor is covered in a thick layer of needles.

Mature larch occurs in parts of the upper slopes and also infrequently elsewhere. Some hawthorn, rowan, sycamore and smaller weed species occur occasionally in more exposed areas and on the forest margins. Very few native species are present.

MZ4 Implementation plan – site restoration and maintenance

- Harvest all merchantable timber using clear felling methods.
- Design forestry access infrastructure in this zone with the desired end use in mind (walking trails).
- Ensure that the time walk remails accessible or an alternative route to the basket of dreams and summit is available during harvesting operations.
- Due to the proximity of the site to urban boundary and the high fire risk at the site, it is recommended that at a minimum slash that meets the following definition is removed from site:

- Slash longer than two metres, and with a large-end diameter of more than 10 cm, must be removed after harvesting.
- Where budget allows, some slash will be mulched and spread across the harvested area to help with weed suppression and to provide ease of access for future planting. This option is extremely costly and will only be considered in high profile location.

- Establishing vegetative cover across MZ4 as soon as possible following clear felling harvest activities by over-sowing harvested areas with grass species and top dressing. Over-sowing and topdressing should occur in the spring or autumn immediately following harvesting.
- Over-sowing with grass will help to suppress D. fir and other weeds species, but it will not stop them altogether. Post-harvest, the site will be subject to rapid woody weed establishment, particularly from germinating D. fir seed, but also a range of other weeds including hawthorn, sycamore, rowan, briar, broom and gorse (among other weed species). The most efficient method of managing emerging D. fir seedlings and other weeds is by targeted aerial and ground application of herbicide. The method of weed control across the site will be determined by the proximity of neighbouring residents. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) / drones could be considered for this targeted aerial work. Access roads created for logging purposes could ensure easy-access for these ground-based operations.
- Follow-up control can be managed by ground-based crews (hand-pulling, spraying using backpack spray units, or spray using a spray unit via hose from a truck or tractor).
- A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be undertaken (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list). Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in turn will minimise the "window of vulnerability" for erosion and land instability.
- Restoring this zone with a sequoia-dominated exotic forest will ensure that much of this aesthetic is retained.
- Patch planting across the site or planting in clusters with other non-invasive exotic tree species such as elm, oak and ash may also be desirable to provide a more diverse aesthetic for MZ4 than the monoculture appearance provided by the current conifer-dominated forest
- Allow for ongoing ground-based maintenance and weed control immediately prior to the first year of planting to remove any weeds that might have established, the control will continue for 3 - 5 years until planted native species are established.
- Replant the upper part the zone (above 620 m) with subalpine grassland and grey shrubland landscape that is more typical of the wider Central Otago/Lakes District landscape (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list).
- Community groups may be able to assist with hand-pulling wildings and other weeds in areas where it is safe to provide public access.

Figure 16: Current aesthetic provided by MZ4

Figure 17: Example of vegetation present in MZ4

Management Zone 5 (MZ5)

Key Action: To reduce disturbance to the native understory and lower the risk of soil erosion in this zone, mature larger trees targeted by the following methods:

- Herbicide, drill and fill
- Fell to waste

Area: 2.2 ha

Forest yield: No yield is expected to be recovered from this MZ

Topography: This zone is steep and contains several bluffs and rocky outcrops that make access by foot difficult and vehicle access impossible. There is one large bluff in particular that has prevented the continuation of the access road for the overhead power line.

Vegetation: Due to the topography there are a number of areas where larger trees have not been able to establish. D. fir is the dominant trees species, with abundant sycamore and blackberry present in areas with lower D. fir canopy coverage.

MZ5 Implementation plan – site restoration and maintenance

- Treat wilding conifers and other weed trees using herbicide or fell to waste methods, taking care to avoid adverse effects on existing native vegetation and surface water bodies.
- Underplant/interplant with suitable native species (Appendix X).
- Over-sow harder-to-access areas of MZ to suppress weed invasion, Perennial rye and cocksfoot should be avoided as these grass species can be too competitive against native seedlings.
- Clear dead trees where they pose a risk to public safety.
- Allow for ongoing maintenance for 3 - 5 years until planted native species are established.
- Safe access to restoration areas will be required for several years. Working under decaying wilding trees can become extremely hazardous within 2 - 5 years of treatment as dead material starts to fall. If the wilding conifers are left dead standing, then planting operations should commence as soon as possible to allow time for planting and maintenance before the site becomes too unsafe to access.

Management Zone 6 (MZ6)

Key Action: Clear fell the wilding tree species using ground based or hauler harvesting methods and replant with a mix of suitable exotic and natives to ensure a rapid establishment to minimise reinvasion of wildings

Area: 19.7 ha

Forest yield: This zone contains merchantable timber, and a medium yield is expected.

Topography: Steep land is common throughout this zone**.**

Vegetation: Due to the topography there are a number of areas where larger trees have not been able to establish. There are, however, also large areas of dense canopy cover. D. fir is by far the most dominant tree species across this zone. These trees are of a uniform size at similar altitude, but of varying volume. Where there is a dense coverage of these trees, there is little understory and the forest floor is covered in a thick layer of needles.

Some hawthorn, rowan, sycamore and smaller weed species occur occasionally in more exposed areas and on the forest margins. Very few native species are present.

Figure 18: Example of vegetation present in MU6

Figure 19: Conifer forest to the west of MU6, as seen from Kelvin Heights, with dead trees seen along the upper margin

MZ6 Implementation plan – Tree Removal, site restoration and maintenance

- Harvest all merchantable timber using clear felling methods.
- Design forestry access infrastructure in this zone with the desired end use in mind (walking trails).
- Ensure that the time walk remails accessible or an alternative route to the basket of dreams and summit is available during harvesting operations.

- Due to the proximity of the site to urban boundary and the high fire risk at the site, slash longer than two metres, and with a large-end diameter of more than 10 cm, must be removed after harvesting.

- Where budget allows, some slash will be mulched and spread across the harvested area to help with weed suppression and to provide ease of access for future planting. This option is expensive and therefore will only be considered in high profile locations.

- Establishing vegetative cover across MZ4 as soon as possible following clear felling harvest activities by over-sowing harvested areas with grass species and top dressing. Over-sowing and topdressing should occur in the spring or autumn immediately following harvesting.

- Over-sowing with grass will help to suppress D. fir and other weeds species, but it will not stop them altogether. Post-harvest, the site will be subject to rapid woody weed establishment, particularly from germinating D. fir seed, but also a range of other weeds including hawthorn, sycamore, rowan, briar, broom and gorse (among other weed species). The most efficient method of managing emerging D. fir seedlings and other weeds is by targeted aerial and ground application of herbicide. The method of weed control across the site will be determined by the proximity of neighbouring residents. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) / drones could be considered for this targeted aerial work. Access roads created for logging purposes could ensure easy-access for these ground-based operations.

- Follow-up control can be managed by ground-based crews (hand-pulling, spraying using backpack spray units, or spray using a spray unit via hose from a truck or tractor).

- A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be undertaken (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list). Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in turn will minimise the “window of vulnerability” for erosion and land instability.

- Restore the upper half of MZ6 above the power line corridor to create a subalpine grassland and grey shrubland landscape, plant out with grey tussock shrubland species to improve the native biodiversity values of the area (species list)

- It is recommended that the land to south (downhill) of the powerline corridor is replanted in forest species as soon as possible (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list)

- Replant this zone with a sequoia-dominated exotic forest. Patch planting across the site or planting in clusters with natives and other non-invasive exotic tree species such as elm, oak and ash (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list).

- Allow for ongoing ground-based maintenance and weed control immediately prior to the first year of planting to remove any weeds that might have established. The control program will continue for 3 - 5 years until planted native species are established.

Pest Animal Management

Successful restoration of the Reserve will require intensive pest animal management, particularly goats. There is a significant feral goat population at the site and these goats have adapted to human presence. It would only take a small number of goats to decimate an area of planted seedlings and so the importance of goat control cannot be understated. There may also be deer, pigs, possums, rabbits and hares that require control. As with any mammalian control, there is rarely one solution that is suitable for every situation. An adaptive herbivore control programme that incorporates several methods will, therefore, need to be developed for the site. For this to be effective it should be implemented concurrently on Queenstown Hill Station.

In terms of goats, an obvious solution may be to erect a deer fence around the entire site. However, given the challenging terrain and the desire to incorporate the Queenstown Hill Station into the proposed strategy (which would result in a very large area to fence), this is not considered practicable. Fencing smaller subzones such as MZ4 may be possible, but this does not negate the need to undertake control work outside of these subzones

The next strategy would be shooting, which may be challenging on this property due to recreation access and the proximity to residential areas but is achievable when undertaken by an experienced professional and with reserve closures and adequate notice to the police and the public. It is recommended that an intensive goat shooting programme is undertaken before any planting commences. This should be followed up with regular monitoring and further control work as soon as the site is reinvaded. This monitoring will be able to detect if any other herbivores (rabbits etc.) are also invading the site and require control, although the most suitable control method may be different for different species.

Fire Hazard Mitigation

The current wilding conifer-dominated forest poses a significant fire risk, particularly if wood volumes are left unchecked. A formal flammability assessment of the current vegetation cover compared to the proposed vegetation cover has not been undertaken as part of this report. However, it is noted that the proposed vegetation cover is likely to pose a lower fire risk for the following reasons (especially if the strategy is extended onto Queenstown Hill Station):

- Removal of uncontrolled flammable wilding conifer forest;
- Improvement of the soil water balance resulting from wilding conifer removal;
- Rapid removal of dense ground cover of pine needles in harvested areas;
- Large areas of forest replaced by sub-alpine grassland, which is also flammable but doesn't burn for as long;
- Replacement of uncontrolled weedy areas with native species-dominated vegetation, which is not deciduous and can, therefore, provide better-regulated sub storey conditions year-round; and
- Replacement of highly flammable conifers with a range of native species including broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis) which has lower fire susceptibility.

- Better access to, and utilisation of certain parts of the site, which allows for easier maintenance of material that may pose a fire risk and improved access for emergency services in the event of a fire.

Other considerations

The forestry plan impacts the community and surrounding landscape, as outlined below:

Recreational Experience: The removal of wilding conifers will alter the experience of the Timewalk trail, which is valued by locals and visitors. The transition to a more open landscape will change the feel of the trails, especially during the first 5-10 years while vegetation is re-established. This is a common occurrence for trail networks within plantation forests. The long-term benefit will be an enduring trail in a permanent mixed species diverse forest.

Mountain Biking: While informal unauthorised mountain biking trails are present within the Reserve, they will be removed during the tree harvesting process. These trails, some of which cross public and private land, are not currently part of an official trail network. Council will work with the key stakeholders to develop a post-harvest trail masterplan for the reserve.

Visual Landscape Changes: The dense tree cover, familiar to the community, will be significantly altered. Some people may not support this change in landscape, particularly as we transition to the long-term goal of establishing a more ecologically resilient and diverse environment.

Impact on Neighboring Properties: Tree removal will have mixed effects on neighboring properties. While some landowners support the removal due to shading and invasive spread, others may be concerned about the increased visibility of their property or changes to privacy. Replanting with appropriate species aims to address these concerns. There will be effects from the harvesting activity on some properties such as noise and increased tree removal related vehicle movements.

Natural hazards: There are concerns about rockfall, stormwater, and slash movement during harvesting and while new vegetation establishes on site. Specific measures during the operation will manage these risks, including erosion control and ongoing monitoring to ensure public safety.

Fire Hazard: The removal of wilding conifers will significantly reduce the fire hazard in the area. The proposed replanting with low-flammability vegetation will further decrease fire risks.

Biodiversity: The plan will enhance biodiversity within the Reserve. By replacing wilding conifers with native and carefully selected non-invasive species, the Reserve will see improved flora and fauna diversity, contributing to the overall ecological health of the area.

Other related documents and references:

Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Reserves Act 1977
Resource Management Act 1991
Conservation Act 1987
Health and Safety Act 2015
Wildlife Act 1953
Wild Animal Control Act 1977
Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017
National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry 2023
Otago Regional Pest Management Plan
National Wilding Confer Strategy
FENZ 'Flammability of indigenous plant species' guide
A Kāi Tahu Blue Green Network Ki Uta Ki Tai

Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond and Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management plan
QLDC District plan
QLDC Climate and Biodiversity Plan

Note that this is not an exhaustive list – additional policies may be relevant and any future variations of the polices listed.

References:

2021, QLDC, Queenstown Hill Reserve Forest Yield Estimation Ref. No: J6049, Interpine Group Ltd
2022 QLDC, Draft Queenstown Hill Options and Issues, Forestry Plan, Ahika
2024, QLDC Rockfall Hazard Assessment Queenstown Hill, Geosolve
2025, QLDC, Queenstown Hill Deforestation Stormwater Runoff Assessment, Beca

Appendix 1:

C.71 Designation # 373, # 374 and # 375 – Forestry Purposes (RM100722)

Link - Proposed District Plan - Queenstown Lakes Proposed District Plan

1. The purpose of the designation is to enable the Queenstown Lakes District Council ("the Council") to carry out forestry operations within the designated forestry reserves. "Forestry operations" means the use of the land primarily for the purpose of planting, tending, managing and harvesting of trees for timber or wood production.

2. (All forestry operations will be carried out using best management practices under the New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry, Second Edition, May 2008; together with any subsequent updates or editions. (http://www.fitec.org.nz/Resources/NZ-Environmental-Code-of-Practice-for-Plantation-Forestry/).

3. All forestry operations must comply with the management policies and programmes set out in the following current plans:

   a) Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan adopted 3 August 2005;

   b) Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan adopted March 2006; and

   c) Coronet Forest Management Plan dated 26 July 2001;

   or any updated versions of these plans adopted by the Queenstown Lakes District Council in accordance with condition (iv) below.

4. The current Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan and the Coronet Forest Management Plan ("the Forest Plans") shall be reviewed and updated by 31 December 2012, and thereafter every 5 years, and shall address the following matters:

   a. policies and, where applicable, proposed programmes in relation to the re-establishment and/or re-vegetation of production forest, together with areas to be retired from production forestry following harvesting operations. The re-establishment and/or re-vegetation plans shall include the following (as applicable):

      i. details of any production forest re-establishment programmes; including plant schedules, density of planting and grades of plants by botanical name;
      ii. areas of land to be retired from production forest following harvesting operations, together with the proposed future re-vegetation (including plant schedules and botanical names) and maintenance programmes;
      iii. details of all indigenous species planting programmes, where applicable. Indigenous species should be planted, inter alia, to establish permanent non-linear forest and shrub land margins of no less than 20m in width to integrate production forest into the outstanding natural landscape, and to limit wilding spread. The botanical names of species, location and extent of planting to achieve landscape integration (where required), together with proposed maintenance programmes, should be included;
      iv. proposed control of any wilding regeneration following harvesting operations, both within re-established or re-vegetated areas and in proximity to remnant stands of existing indigenous Beech forest. The Forestry Plans shall provide that any wilding generation is to be eradicated within two years of harvesting;

      v. the Forestry Plans shall provide that re-establishment or re-vegetation of harvested areas will occur as soon as practicable and no later than two years after the completion of harvesting operations.

   b. areas where additional indigenous Beech species are to be planted (adjacent to Beech remnants) with priority in those areas that will link Beech remnants. Planting

programmes for the establishment of indigenous Beech species shall run concurrently with harvesting programmes;

c. details of indigenous eco-systems to be protected and extended within the Ben Lomond reserve, including One Mile Creek;

d. policies in relation to the impact and requirements of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and subsequent implications for the longer term management of the production and non-production forests.

All updates of the Forestry Plans shall be subject to consultation with the community using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 before adoption by the Council.

5. No forestry harvesting operations will be undertaken within 30m of the Skyline or Ziptrek leased areas unless the prior consent of the affected leaseholder(s) has been obtained.

   *Note: As lease operations expand or reduce, the 30 metre buffer zone will be adjusted accordingly to include/exclude the lease area from harvesting operations.

6. The Requiring Authority shall consult with the following parties that may be potentially adversely affected by harvesting operations. These parties must be consulted at least one month prior to an Outline Plan being submitted in relation to the particular forest:

   Queenstown Hill Forest

   a. Department of Conservation; and

   b. any other lease holders within the designated area.

7. An Outline Plan is required for the harvesting of trees for timber or wood production prior to any harvesting taking place. The Outline Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry (as defined in condition (ii) above) and shall address the following matters:

   a. a site plan shall be prepared, defining:

      i. site and boundaries of the forestry designation;

      ii. location and extent of existing beech remnants or other indigenous forest;

      iii. location and extent of heritage or cultural sites to be protected;

      iv. land contours and features;

v. the location and extent of proposed harvesting and associated works, including proposed structures;

vi. the staging and stage boundaries of proposed harvesting;

vii. extent of replanting for production forest, for permanent forest margin 'buffer' planting, and all areas of indigenous planting;

viii. areas of marginal forestry to be retired;

b.. the extent and location of existing and new tracking works required for the duration of the works shall be outlined;

c. a re-establishment and/or re-vegetation programme for the harvested area in accordance with the relevant Forestry Plan shall be included. The programme should contain details of the matters set out in condition (iv) above where applicable (by reference to the relevant Forestry Plan) and shall comply with all of the requirements set out in that condition.

d. forestry operations shall be undertaken in accordance with the Harvesting Hazard Management document (attached as Appendix 1 to these conditions). An assessment of natural hazards within the harvesting area shall be undertaken to identify the effects of natural hazards on and off site and the Outline Plan shall provide details of the following matters:

i. mitigation on-site and off-site of the natural hazards identified;

ii. contingency plans to reduce adverse effects of hazards should the proposed mitigation not be effective;

iii. long term management of slope stability, where appropriate.

e. the Outline Plan shall have regard to the relevant objectives and policies of the Queenstown Lakes District Council District Plan.

8. Any structures necessary for forestry operations shall be located so as not to break the line or form of any ridges, hills or prominent slopes. Structures shall be located so as to be reasonably difficult to see from surrounding public locations and shall be coloured in dark recessive colours, within the tones of grey, green or brown with a light reflectivity value less than 36%, and shall appear recessive within the landscape. All structures and traces of their presence shall be removed on completion of silvicultural operations or harvesting as applicable.

9. Harvesting should occur only along natural boundaries (such as the edges of stream beds or stands of indigenous vegetation), and should endeavour to avoid the creation of arbitrary lines in the landscape which do not harmonise with underlying features or

topography. Harvesting in geometric blocks should be avoided where possible.

10. The method of harvesting should minimise any adverse effects on visual amenity and soil disturbance. To avoid adverse effects of any temporary or permanent roads or other earthworks on the landscape, helicopters should be used for harvesting operations where practicable. Otherwise earthworks should be undertaken in a way that minimises cut and fill. Batters must be rehabilitated as soon as possible and no less than 6 months following harvesting operations. All earthworks are to be restored to original ground level as soon as harvesting has been completed and re-vegetated immediately.

Appendix 2:

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill

Referred to as	Record of Title	Legal Description	Classification	Area
Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (containing the entrance to the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk)	569609	Lot 4 Deposited Plan 447835	Recreation Reserve	6.05 Ha
Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve	732627	Lot 2 Deposited Plan 496901 and Section 1 Survey Office Plan 503041	Recreation Reserve	61.98 Ha
Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve	26956	Lot 602 Deposited Plan 306902	Local Purpose Reserve (Beautification)	0.43 Ha
Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve	109819	Section 2 Survey Office 317364	Conservation	40.66 Ha
			Total area	109.12 Ha

Appendix 3:

Restoration Species list

At a minimum it is expected that 1,100 trees per hectare will be planted. In some areas across the Reserve many more trees and shrubs per hectare will be planted.

All planting will occur in pockets or small cluster planting across the Reserve. Planting trees and shrubs in proximity will support each other by providing shelter while encouraging faster growth.

1. **Native tree species** found in the Wakatipu Basin which will be planted within the Reserve to maximise the resilience include:

Mountain beech (Fuscospora cliffortioides), tōtara (Podocarpus totara), mānuka (Leptospermum Mscoparium), broadleaf (Giriselinia littoralis), kōhūhū (Pittosporum tenufolium), kōwhai (Sophora microphylla), ribbonwood (Plagianthus regius), mountain lacebark (Hoheria lyallii), lancewood (Pseudopanax crassifolius), cabbage tree (Cordyline australis).

2. **Grey tussock and shrubland species** :

Suitable species include coprosmas, olearias, hoherias, tussocks, matagouri (Discaria toumatou), corokia (Corokia cotoneaster), cottonwood (Ozothamnus leptophyllus), mountain pinkberry (Eptecophylla juniperina subsp. juniperina), poataniwha (Melicope simplex), porcupine shrub (Melicytus alpinus).

3. **Non-invasive exotic tree species** such as elm, oak and ash.

Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Abies alba	European silver fir
Abies species	fir
Acer platanoides	Norway maple
Acer rubrum species	red maple
Acer x freemanii 'Jeffersred'	autumn blaze maple
Aesculus species	chestnut
Cedar varieties	cedar
Cedrus atlantica	Atlantic cedar
Eucalyptus	eucalypts
Juglans regia	Walnut
Liriodendron tulipifera	tulip tree
Malus species	apple
Olea species	olive tree
Picea	spruce
Pip fruit species	fruit tree
Plantanus species	plane
Populus deltoides	eastern cottonwood, necklance poplar
Populus nigra	black poplar
Quercus palustris	pin oak, swamp Spanish oak
Quercus robur	English oak
Sequoia giganteum	giant sequoia
Tilia x europaea	common lime
Ulmus procera	English elm
Ulmus varieties	elm

Attachment B: B Full submissions pack

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
1	Leigh Mutton		Strongly support	I look forward to the changes outlined in the draft Forestry Plan. Wilding conifers have no place within the sensitive Queenstown Lakes district, and the wild goats need to be managed to support reforestation	I would like to see QLDC work with Otago Regional Council and Central Government, to develop 'good neighbour' laws/bylaws, to manage wilding conifers and pest wildlife including goats, to support the proposed Forestry Plan on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill	Support for wild goats management to enable revegetation
2	Jeremy Payze		Strongly support	The pines are a major fire risk and don't provide anything to support biodiversity of other bird, plant or insect life.	100% support natives	Noted conifer trees are a fire risk Support for planting natives Support improved biodiversity
3	Marie Ann Dennis		Strongly support	Wilding pines are invasive and the general public does not realise the damage they cause and the risk they pose. The threat of wildfire increases each year and if it was to happen would be devastating for the town. Returning the area to a biodiverse area would be the best option allowing increased use by the community and reducing the risk of wildfire and windfall.		Support removing wilding seed source Noted that wilding conifers are invasive. Noted that the threat of wildfire increases as the trees age. Support improved biodiversity in the area
4	Dave George		Support	Council could ascertain whether there is evidence of spread of conifers. If so make an assessment of the extent and nature of this spread. Based on this assessment- there could be incremental change, even over decades. The reason for this is that the confers can provided shelter while new native species are established. This would reduce costs markedly.		Suggestion to asses the speed of spread of the conifers. Conifers can provide shelter while new natives establish.
5	Adam Carlson		Support	The removal of wilding species needs this area to be removed as a seed source.	Any development of recreational activities should consider the established rules for the area to remain a peaceful place. This doesn't necessarily mean no biking, but it should consider how biking and other activities can ocurr without sharing of trails.	Support removing wilding seed source Suggestion that new recreational activities should be well planned and considered
6	Justin Hamilton		Support	Sensible idea to deal with the wilding trees and we need to keep getting on top of it in the area.		Support removing wilding seed source
7	Cam Pyke		Strongly support	It's a great proposition to remove these trees.	It's not super clear if all the trees are to removed (ie the area towards gorge road and private land). There should also be provision to reinstate formal bike tracks with qtmtb. Natives with irrigation (like jardine park) would be preferable to exotics	Support removing wilding seed source. Clarification about the area of trees to be removed. Provision to reinstate bike tracks Support planting natives
8	Simon Hall		Strongly support	I support the proposed change as it will Reduce fire risk, increase bio diversity and restore native habitats back to Queenstown though the removal of the exotic pines and reduce the risk and extent of further wilding pines.	'-	Support removing wilding seed source to reduce the fire risk. Support improved biodiversity
9	Parid Basha		Strongly support	'-To support local biodiversity -Remove the seed source for wilding species -Create a native forest -Forest Fire prevention due to the ever growing threat of climate change	also would love to have official mountain biking tracks to be developed	Support removing wilding seed source. Noted threat of fire from climate change Support improved biodiversity Support for development of bike tracks.
10	miles holden		Strongly oppose	QLDC has been spending money it does not have, these trees provide an amenity, as a place to walk in any weather.... QLDC have proven they are not capable of looking after our assets and so this should be left alone	At the very most this should be selective cut to provide more view windows including on the walking track and at the basket of dreams	Noted current trees provide amenity and shelter Suggestion that selective trees should be felled to create view shafts
11	Rachel Senior		Strongly support	We live in Goldfields and wilding pines have taken over the whole hill		Noted wilding conifers are invasive
12	Kit Robbins		Strongly support	It will significantly enhance the Hill and contemporaneously remove an invasive tree species.	Very disappointed that the area proposed for removal and replanting does not come all the way down to Edinburgh Drive. Accordingly a large area of Wilding pine will remain.	Noted that wilding conifers are invasive. Noted the removal will significantly enhance the Reserve.

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
13	Liz	Queenstown Primary School	Strongly support	Eradication of wilding pines and a return to greater biodiversity.		Support removing wilding seed source Support improved biodiversity
14	Owen Hale		Strongly support	Rehabilitation towards a more natural environment will benefit all involved	Please do the same for Ben lomond and all local reserves	Support planting natives. Support improved biodiversity
15	Adam		Strongly oppose	It's beautiful as it is. The council has proven themselves unable to complete projects on time or to the standards we expect so why let them ruin this amazing place when it's fine as it is?		Noted current trees provide amenity
16	Steven A Rowden		Strongly oppose	Firstly as a Civil Engineer of 30 years, please realize that our forefathers, who were much more practical that what we seem to be now planted those trees for a reason. Hill Stability! The township wanted to grow, and people wanted to build to the foot of these mountains and up the mountains with housing. Removing these trees will make the hill unstable as we have seen with the hideous cut that Skyline was allowed to do at Bobs Peak. Your idea of planting new trees that you like and approve of, will not grow quick enough, it will take 20 years for Beech and exotics to stabilize that hill. And in the mean time all houses below those pine trees will become susceptible to mud, stone and debris slides, every time we receive a high intensity rain event. My house is directly below these trees, I will keep a copy of this message, that way when it comes to litigation, I can show that the QLDC were informed of these outcome, so that QLDC can be legally and financially held responsible for these decision when this enviable happens. This will open up litigation against the QLDC Council that will make the leaky building litigation look like a drop in the bucket. This also does not take into account the fact that everyone on the hill has the right under law to a peaceful existence, that will not be possible for years, when all those people, all have to put up with constant chainsawing noise, large trucks running up and down our local streets, revving engines up the hill and then engine braking down the hill, to remove the logs and slash for years, so as the council will be able to remove that bulk of those trees and slash (if they remove the slash at all).		Noted trees were planted for stability. Noted removing the trees may cause instability . Noted that selected trees will not stabilise the hill . Noted concern about the noise from harvesting operations. Noted concern for the cost of the project. Noted current trees provide amenity. Noted concern for the use of chemicals and their residuals .
				Peopel on the hill directly above town have already put up with chainsaws for 3 years cutting the trees down under Skyline. You also do not have funding for this, you are hoping the the Federal Government will fund this, which they most likely won't, and this will cost tens of millions of dollars, all of which you will want and need to charge the Rate payers, whilst you do not even have a correctly working Sewer plant, at present and grid locked roads that need attention. How about we concentrate on on what a council is suppose to provide, like clean water, maybe time for those filters? A pipes and a sewer plant that does not spew untreated or semi treated Sewerage into our lakes and rivers. Building new bridges and the flow on roads at Shootover River, Arthurs Point, and Kawarau River, so as the community that lives here, and people that will come that will be filling the 15,000 to 20,000 homes you are fast tracking at present around the area, can actually move around. The continuous 13-16% rate rises that have been happening for that last 3 years are unsustainable for the community, yet your council wants to waste money on vanity projects like this. You continue to want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg with Queenstown. No matter how or what you feel, people come to Queenstown for how it looks, the pines and walks under those pines are part of that. You will destroy the look of the town, in the same way Skyline has been allowed to destroy the look of Bobs peak with a huge un-forested, un-grassed scare on that hill that they have been allowed to create.		

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
				Also realize that the residues of all those deforestation chemicals you use to kill these trees, also wash into the lake and into our drinking water supplies.		
17	David Davies		Oppose	I don't understand QLDC's obsession with eradicating wilding pines, yes I agree with limiting the area of growth but they are part of the iconic Queenstown landscape. The debacle where the gondola hillside now resembles an ugly quarry as you drive into town gives me no confidence in QLDC's ability to replant and not have it looking similarly ugly for the next 10years plus. How about replanting the gondola hillside first so I have some confidence that you can finish a project even if that requires holding the Gondola operators responsible, especially after the prior debacle of forestry debri in town after a rain event.	Surely there are more important projects to spend your long suffering ratepayers money on than chopping down trees that convert CO2 into oxygen?	Question support for eradicating wildings. Question ability to replant the area.
18	Mel Bowles		Strongly support	I have personally witnessed the spread of the wilding conifers over 20+ years which has interrupted the views along the hiking trail and from around the basket of dreams. I am concerned about the fire risk in its current state. I want to see improved hiking and biking trails in the area. Being so accessible to town it is a great recreation area that doesn't require driving a car to gain access.		Noted the spread of wilding conifers on the Reserve over the last 20 years. Noted concern for fire risk. Support for improved hiking and biking trails close to town
19	Rebecca Orpin		Oppose	I very much support the taking out of the wilding pine. But I oppose the use of exotic trees in the replanting plan. I think it unnecessary to include exotic trees in the replanting plan. The use of mountain and red beech, Kōwhai, tōtara, ribbonwood, pittosporum, cabbage tree, even flax will grow quickly enough. After 4-5 years you won't be able to see over them. It is an opportunity to regenerate the forest as it was and be part of an eco-sourced biodiversity forest belt that (could) extend from Bobs cove area to Arrowtown with all the other native plantings done by the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, Mana Tahuna, Tapu o Tane and Treescape done at Slope hill, Lake Hayes, Whitechapel, Coronet Peak and Mount Dewar. I oppose the idea that including exotic trees will increase ecological diversity. Nothing more is required in a native forest.. native forest can better support native fauna. I would argue, the bigger exotic faster growing trees are being included more for aesthetic value and property values rather than anything else.		Support removing wilding seed source Noted oppose replanting with exotics. Support planting with natives. Support improved biodiversity in the area with natives only.
20	Kim	none	Strongly oppose	Just leave the trees be. It's just SO stupid to think that replanting the area is going to make it better. For a start, it destabilizes the land. Secondly, it will not look nicer, in fact it will ruin the look of the area. It makes me so angry that stupid people come up with stupid ideas which are a complete waste of time, energy and money. Sadly, I have little faith that anyone will listen to people like myself who disagree with the plan.	Just don't do it, for goodness sake. Leave the trees as they are.	Noted oppose tree removal. Noted current trees provide amenity.
21	ANGUS ROBERTSON	Aurora Energy Limited	Strongly support	The proposal will assist with minimising fire risk and vegetation management around Aurora's existing infrastructure within the reserve. This infrastructure is clearly acknowledged in the plan and includes provisions for consultation with Aurora as a potentially affected party prior to works being undertaken.	The removal of the forestry and wilding pines will likely lower Aurora's ongoing vegetation clearance costs in this area and result in a positive benefit for ratepayers.	Noted vegetation management is required around Auroras infrastructure to minimise fire risk.
22	Peter Manthey	Ratepayer the most important entity	Strongly oppose	This is such a hypocritical action after QLDC has sold a huge parcel of public land to a private developer and given them approval to destroy the amenity of the area by developing housing in a clandestine way. I'm sure the developer will get whatever they want in the negotiation with the Council who control the approval on density and height. And would've rolled over to get the highest price they could for the land of the negative affect on the amenity and visual impact and creating even more congestion on the overly clogged roads that currently exist. This Council has no idea of how they're destroying this once beautiful city of Queenstown , or maybe we're being too kind and they do Their only answer to the problems that currently exist is to create more development . They don't care and have no answers they have created and destroying once unique lifestyle that can never recaptured .	Let's hope the federal government step in and throw them all on a heap where they should be and get someone who really knows how to run and perform on behalf of the ratepayers	Noted current trees provide amenity.

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
23	Chris Grose		Support	I fully support the removal of all wilding pine and other invasive/pest/problem plants. However I think that a fully native forest should be the goal. Only native plantings to regenerate to a native bush asset.	I think a long term plan to predator proof fence the entire QT hill, including the area around gorge road would be a massive project to boost native biodiversity in the area, but could be easily self-funded through tourist visits to the park.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support for planting natives.
24	Geoff Bell		Support	Queenstown is a long haul destination and people come here because they're under the impression that the environment is "100% Pure". We all know that it's not (especially the water Glyn), but I'm supportive of native planing all over Queenstown Hill. Some high performance manuka would also be a massive selling point. https://manukafarming.co.nz	Glyn needs to step down.	Support planting with natives.
25	Catkin Bartlett		Strongly support	It is heartbreaking to see the wilding conifers taking over QT Hill. This is a great piece of work which right by the town and accessible for everyone to understand and learn- walkers, school children, visitors. A great opportunity to showcase biodiversity regeneration.	Please conserve the tracks for walking. We mountain bikers have plenty of other tracks and the walkers need to feel safe and also prevent erosion of the tracks. Also the priority needs to be on biodiversity restoration.	Support improved biodiversity in the area. Noted that wilding conifers are taking over Queenstown Hill. Suggestion to prioritise the walking tracks.
26	Grant Hardy		Strongly support			
27	darryn melrose		Strongly support	Wilding pines are a significant issue that we have to overcome	The main walking track to the basket of dreams is severly cut up and must be a hazard in wet or icy conditions - hoping that the Council takes steps to improve this track at it's upper level, especially for the high volume of tourists who access it.	Noted that wilding conifers are a significant issue. Support for track maintenance
28	Phil WILSON		Strongly support	The wilding pines are a pest that should be eradicated. They present a danger to homes in the St Lukes Lane and St Peters Place areas and continually spread seedlings on residential properties as well as the farmland behind.	wage war on wilding pines!!!	Support removing wilding seed source
29	Phil Jones		Strongly oppose	Whilst I agree with the control and removal of wilding pines I believe that the Bob's Peak / Gondola area is more deserving of attention as it is currently an eye sore as a result of partial felling for the new gondola. I also believe that QLDC need to control expenditure for the next while as ratepayers are facing significant infrastructure costs, and this plan is of lesser importance than other work.		Suggestion to prioritise Ben Lomond wilding removal. Concern about the cost of the project

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
30	Daniel Sweeney		Support	I mainly support this plan, which thoroughly addresses the main issue of the site, which is the wilding pine infestation. However some elements of the plan I would question. I'm outlining my comments here, as box 8 has limited characters... 1. What is the reasoning behind planting non native species on this site? If its purely for a visual canopy, there are some relatively fast growing native species which can achieve this. Non-native species is what we have been battling on this site, so replanting with non natives just doesn't make sense to me. They provide no ecological benefit to our insect, lizard or bird populations, which many local groups are trying their best to support. 2. The pest management plan could be expanded upon to include working with key partners such as the local Queenstown Hill trapping group, the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary, in order to develop a robust pest management plan for possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats. Cats would require their own strategy at this site, being sensitive to possible domestic cats or strays, however I believe there is a "release site" on Queenstown Hill where many stray cats are abandoned, despite this being an illegal activity. Proper cat management and enforcement should be implemented to stop this from continuing. 3. Biodiversity - has a full ecological assessment been undertaken for Queenstown Hill? I know that a population of Cryptic Skink (At Risk) exist here, which would need to be protected during any works. Native planting near to their habitat would improve the chances for this population to expand and thrive. For more information you could contact Southern Lakes Sanctuary / Sam Purdie.	This box is limited so I have included comments in the previous box.	Support for planting native species only. Suggest that pest management is expanded to include partners such as local Queenstown Hill trapping group, the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary. Suggest robust pest management plan for possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats. Suggest a full ecological assessment been undertaken for Queenstown Hill.
31	Grant Hylton Hensman	individual	Strongly support	The loss of recreational opportunities from this reserve is inevitable and almost total if nothing is done to remove the wilding species. Every year good money is spent on a hopeless battle to limit their spread, which left unchecked becomes the wider district . We cannot afford to do that in perpetuity which means ultimately the reserve is an exotic forest with all the losses that brings, along with consequential further spread. This is an opportunity to change that fate and restore a more useful asset for future generations that won't cost significantly to maintain. The back drop to Queenstown will be a improved multi variety , non invasive ,recreation area that can host many activities if this plan is approved. The alternative is an expanding exotic forest , that supports little biodiversity is a fire hazard with much reduced recreational opportunities. No sun and no views with out continuous costly maintenance. We have the privilege to do something bold that will be an asset, improvement to future generations, I urge you to leave that legacy and make that far sited decision.	The wilding pine battle through WCG was instigated by previous QLDC councillors	Noted that recreational opportunism will be lost if wildings aren't removed. Noted that large amounts have been spent on removing wilding spread from the mature trees. Noted the backdrop to Queenstown and recreational actives will be improved if trees are removed. Noted conifer trees are a fire risk .
32	Annabelle O'Meara	Coordinator, Queenstown 2000 Time Walk Project.	Support	The Statement of Proposal document acknowledges the Time Walk's value. This is significant and reassuring. This submission is to respectfully highlight for the panel the facts and intent around the Time Walk's creation 26 years ago, namely: •The desire to commemorate the turn of the millennium by establishing a free recreational amenity for Wakatipu locals and visitors that would be durable and multifaceted, i.e. imaginative, inspirational and informative. •To breathe new life into an underutilised walking trail that would reflect the philosophy and aspirations of the Queenstown 2000 committee and by extension, the people of Queenstown. •Around $40,000 was raised through national funding organisations and local businesses. Over the next year, the skills, enthusiasm, creative thinking and generosity of artisans, specialist advisors, corporates and a small, dedicated team of self-styled labourers took the plans off the page and worked their magic on Queenstown Hill. A robust walking trail was created – but importantly, an interactive outdoor classroom and art gallery was also created. In short, the Time Walk is a taonga, made up of many parts. It is those precious elements – many of them handmade - that prompt those of us involved with its creation from Day 1 and who still care deeply about it, to make this plea: Respect the Time Walk and preserve it for future generations.	While it is encouraging to read there is a proposal to "work around" the Time Walk, the purpose this sion This submission is to respectfully highlight for the panel the facts and intent around. This submission is to respectfully highlight for the panel the facts and intent around the Time Walk's creation 26 years ago, namely:	Noted the importance of the time walk. Noted the time walk was created 26 years ago to commemorate the millennium. Noted the Time Walk is a taonga, made up of many parts imaginative, inspirational and informative.

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
33	Ed Astin		Oppose	I whole heartedly support the removal of the invasive exotic species from Queenstown Hill, not just the conifer species but also the deciduous pest species and gorse and Broom. I also support the planting and restoration of native species which will be critical to restore the native biodiversity of the reserve. However I question the use of supposed non invasive exotic species as part of the restoration. Given adequate conditions, native vegetation will establish just as quickly as many exotics and possibly quicker in the case of Manuka and kanuka. I would also argue that trees such as eucalyptus, poplar and ash are not non invasive. There is plenty of evidence around central otago that this is not in fact the case and the specific choice of these species would be a mistake. I feel that if you are calling this a restoration, exotic species have no place as part of that, it should be purely native species. It feels like the purpose of the exotic species is not to establish a faster canopy, but to create autumn colour when it should be to create a reserve that reestablishes the indigenous vegetation of the Queenstown area that has been compromised by the spread of exotic species and overenthusiastic burning.		Support removing wilding seed source. Support removing broom and gorse. Support the planting of native species. Do not support the planting of exotic species.
34	Richard Bowman		Strongly support	Wilding conifers pose one of the most serious environmental and economic problems in the Whakatipu Bason and surrounding lands. This arises from the spread of unwanted exotic weed trees from areas where they have been planted or allowed to invade. Queenstown Hill is one such high risk seed source which if removed will contribute toward reducing the continuing spread across vast areas of the highly vulnerable subalpine grassland high country. This provides the iconic back drop to Queenstown's tourism industry as well as a major indigenous biodiversity resource. The draft Forestry Plan provides an effective, long term, best practice approach to removing the high-risk seed sources from Queenstown Hill. Failure to implement a plan of this sort now will result in continued spread of wilding conifers both on Queenstown Hill and on the surrounding lands exponentially increasing the long term environmental and economic costs to the District and New Zealand.	While the proposed Forestry Plan for Queenstown Hill will face many challenges both in its introduction it will also provide a critically important model for addressing similar wilding conifer issues elsewhere in New Zealand.	Support removing wilding seed source. Noted that Queenstown Hill is a take off site for wilding seed. Noted important model for addressing similar wilding conifer issues elsewhere in New Zealand.
35	Eddie Gapper		Strongly support	The current treescape is visually unappealing and creates a dead zone at ground level, with little other vegetation and biodiversity.		Support removing wilding seed source.
36	Chris Radford		Strongly support	I support the removal of invasive pines and replanting with indigenous species to increase biodiversity, and especially indigenous bird life; all of which will provide a far more interesting time trail (and other trail) walks. A well developed planting plane will also allow for more views out from recreational areas on the Hill		Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity
37	Phil & Nina jones	n/a	Strongly support	we have no winter sun due to the trees being so tall we have no winter sun at all due to the height of the pines so having winter sun would be fantastic. Also if some of the timber could be sold it would be a great source of revenue for the council and it would be great to see the pines replaced by our own natives	sooner the bettering would volunteer to help with the replanting	Support removal of trees to increase winter sun. Suggest that timber is sold for revenue. Support native planting.
38	Stephen McDonough	Self	Strongly support	Fully support the understanding Wilding pines are a problem and this plan will restore the hill back to a natural landscape in keeping with the surrounding Vista.		Support to restore to a natural landscape

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
39	Anna Harding-Shaw	Whakatipu Wildlife Trust	Support	Whakatipu Wildlife Trust supports the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan 2025 as it relates to the removal of invasive wilding pines and the reforestation of the Queenstown Hill Reserve with native species. Improved ecological values will provide better native wildlife habitat and benefit the overall biodiversity of the Reserve and the Queenstown region. We understand the desire to rapidly create canopy cover and reduce visual disturbance by using non-invasive exotics, however we encourage the use of native plants as first preference. Where exotics must be used, preference should be given to exotic species that are beneficial to native wildlife as habitat or food sources. The value of exotic plant species to native wildlife should be prioritised over aesthetics. Native replanting plans should also utilise plant species that provide food and habitat to our local native wildlife. We recommend that appropriate experts are consulted as to what replanting species are suitable for the native birds, invertebrates and lizards present on site and in the Whakatipu Basin. Community predator trapping occurs in the Reserve along the walking trails, particularly targeting possums. We respectfully request that we are notified regarding any logging activities that may affect the traps present on site, so they can be moved to avoid damage. We also request that access for trapping be maintained where possible, taking into consideration site health and safety requirements. Forewarning will allow us to adjust our trapping operations around forestry activities. We recommend consulting with local conservation groups such as Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary around an ongoing possum control plan for the site to protect new plantings	Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this plan.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity Support the planting of native species. Support exotics which are beneficial to native wildlife. Noted that trapping occurs within the reserve, need to be notified in advance of operations. Suggest consulting with local conservation groups.
40	Erich Stadler		Strongly support	I'd like to see native forest restoration.		Support the planting of native species.
41	Ben Silcock		Support	Submission: Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 Kia ora, Love the plan. Wildings gotta go. Native bush coming back? Yes please. Fire risk down? Sign me up. But before we all pat ourselves on the back, a few things from someone who actually lives on the hill, rides it, and walks dogs there on the daily: The MTB Trails Are Old Enough to Vote Yes, some of them cross private land. No, that hasn't been a problem. These trails have been here longer than most of the homeowners. They're well-ridden, well-loved, and well-behaved. Let's not pretend we can fence off a culture with a few signs. Recognise them, work with the community, and don't bulldoze a good thing. Don't Touch the Highview Terrace Exit (You Know the One). That exit by the big tree onto Highview Terrace? It's sacred. It flows. It works. Riders use it every day. Losing it would be a mess—literally, because people will just cut new lines. Keep it, name it, love it. Dogs Need Freedom Too There's nowhere decent on Queenstown Hill to let your dog run off-leash without breaking the rules. That's nuts. Give us a proper off-leash bush area. Somewhere dogs and walkers can explore without feeling like fugitives. It's a hill. There's space. Don't Skyline Us with the Tree Mess When you take down the trees, please actually take them down. Don't leave a post-apocalyptic wasteland of logs and slash. Mulch it. Remove it. Do whatever it takes to avoid another Skyline situation. What About All That Water? Big hill. Lots of rain. No trees = more runoff. What's the plan to stop the place turning into a muddy slip 'n slide? Genuinely curious. Detail would be appreciated. This plan could be awesome. Just don't forget the people who've been using and looking after Queenstown Hill long before the management plan showed up. Rider, dog walker, local		Suggest protecting the mountain bike trails if felling trees. Support removing wilding seed source. Dog comments out of scope. Support for removing slash. Noted the increased runoff after tree have been removed. Suggest more detail on the water management.
42	Will Taylor		Support	The trees put shade on our property.		Noted that current trees shade urban areas

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43	Steve Carry		Neutral	I wish to provide feedback on the draft management plan for the Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve. While I understand, respect and support the intention behind proposed ecological restoration and long-term management of the reserve, I would like to raise concerns about the implications for existing recreational mountain biking (MTB) use. My position is neutral/support overall, but I believe further consideration is required regarding how the plan accounts for current MTB activity and the legal obligations under the Reserves Act 1977. Recreational Use of the Reserve – MTB Context Currently, Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve is a popular area for informal mountain biking, with significant levels of usage clearly visible on publicly available mapping data such as the Trailforks Global Heatmap. While these MTB trails are not formally sanctioned, they represent consistent and meaningful recreational use by the public — aligning with the reserve's legal purpose. Under Section 17(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977, the reserve is held: "for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities of the public, and for the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public..." This existing MTB use therefore aligns with the intent and purpose of a Recreation Reserve, regardless of its informal status and "unsanctioned trails". Impact of Proposed Tree Removal on MTB use The draft plan proposes the removal of all invasive trees on the reserve, which will, by design or by consequence, eliminate all existing MTB trail access. As there are no proposals for formalised replacement trails or mitigation measures, this effectively terminates a well-used recreational activity, which may conflict with the reserve's purpose under Section 17. Moreover, such a significant change in reserve use and accessibility triggers obligations under Section 41(3) of the Act, which requires the administering body to: "have regard to the use of the reserve and the interests of the persons using the reserve."	Neutral Position – With a Call for Balanced Outcomes While I support efforts to manage the reserve sustainably and acknowledge the importance of native regeneration and pest plant species seed source eradication, I respectfully urge the Council to: •Formally recognise the extent of recreational MTB use, and include it in assessments of current use patterns; •Assess whether the draft plan aligns with Section 17 of the Reserves Act in maintaining the recreational character of the reserve; •Consider alternative options, such as: oRetention of some most used and established MTB trails/corridors to support continued MTB access, oAcknowledgment and development of sanctioned MTB routes through the area post-harvest, oEngagement with local MTB groups to formalise trail networks and manage impacts on a select few of the current trails. Conclusion This submission is made in good faith to help ensure the Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve continues to meet its statutory purpose as a public recreation space. The Qt Hill MTB network, although not on the official trail map, is known and recognised worldwide by tourists, locals and professional athletes as some of the best MTB riding in the district and the country. I believe that with balanced consideration and community input, it is possible to achieve both ecological restoration goals and continued recreational MTB use, in a sustainable and inclusive way, implemented in the management plan. Thank you for the opportunity to submit. Feel free to get in contact regarding this submission.	Noted the plan has implications for the existing bike trails Noted position neutral but support overall. Suggest further information is required on how the plan considers the mountain bike trails Suggest further details for replacement mountain bike trails within the reserve Suggest formally recognising the extent of recreational MTB use, and include it in assessments of current use patterns; Assess whether the draft plan aligns with Section 17 of the Reserves Act in maintaining the recreational character of the reserve; Consider alternative options, such as: Retention of some most used and established MTB trails/corridors to support continued MTB access, Acknowledgment and development of sanctioned MTB routes through the area post-harvest, Engagement with local MTB groups to formalise trail networks and manage impacts on a select few of the current trails.
44	Raymond Keys		Strongly support	I live on Queenstown Hill, and in mid winter the sun pops over the trees at 12:15pm, before disappearing behind Bowen Peak three short hours later.	Natives and exotics would vastly improve the appearance of the hill	Noted that current trees shade urban areas. Support for native and exotics
45	Benjamin Teele		Strongly support	Wilding conifers have been well documented to have the range of negative impacts outlined in the draft management plan. Queenstown Hill is no different and provides a massive source of seed rain that will continue to affect surrounding areas and degradation of the landscape. Their removal should be a top priority to ensure biodiversity values are not further impacted. The proposal to replace these trees with a range of species is to be commended. While there will be some short-term visual impacts, medium to long term outcomes will be significantly better for Queenstown and the surrounding hinterland. This is a chance for the community to establish a future forest that enriches the lives of those who live and work in the area. In terms of the proposed replacement species list, there needs to be several amendments. For exotic species, the potential of creating a future weed problem needs to be considered. During the removal of wilding conifers in Arrowtown a list of suitable exotic colour was drawn up in the strategy based on industry best practice. Reference should be made to the report "A global compendium of weeds – Third Editon 2017. R.P Randall", which outlines potential invasiveness of a range of woody species. Species of note that should be removed from the list includes all Acer. For example the weediness potential of Acer platanoides has been rated as extreme. Acer has been documented to be heavily invasive in Otago and is on a number of 'weed' lists around the country. All species of Acer have wind dispersed samara seed that will be carried on wind currents into surrounding back country and offers no biodiversity benefits. Species within Pinaceae have also been documented to become highly invasive. Liriodendron tulipifera has a moderate rating for invasiveness. Picea risk varies depending on species. Both species of Populus have high risk ratings and can produce abundant pollen which can be allergenic.		Noted short term visual impacts but medium long term outcomes will be significantly better. Suggestions to be made to the proposed species list: Removed all Acer from the list For example the weediness potential of Acer platanoides has been rated as extreme. Acer has been documented to be heavily invasive in Otago and is on a number of 'weed' lists around the country. All species of Acer have wind dispersed samara seed that will be carried on wind currents into surrounding back country and offers no biodiversity benefits. Species within Pinaceae have also been documented to become highly invasive. Liriodendron tulipifera has a moderate rating for invasiveness. Picea risk varies depending on species. Both species of Populus have high risk ratings and can produce abundant pollen which can be allergenic. Noted that modern fruit trees are predominately grafted and require extended care with short lifespans. Noted if fruit trees are desired, consider older cultivars that have been grown from scion wood sourced from around the basin.

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				Even if only one sex of each species is planted, trees will persist through extensive root coppicing, and poplars planted in the late 1800s are now becoming significant hazards due to hollowing of stems. Modern fruit trees are predominately grafted and hybridised varieties which require extended care with short lifespans. If fruit trees are desired, consider older cultivars that have been grown from scion wood sourced from around the basin. If autumnal colour is a consideration, replace invasive species on list with predominately Quercus species. This genus has a wide ecological range and are easily grown from seed in a commercial nursery. They also produce abundant autumnal colour, and different species lose their leaves at different periods during the autumn. They produce acorns, which typically require mammal dispersal agents which are lacking in New Zealand. Therefore potential invasiveness risk is considerably lower. Eucalyptus species are both potentially invasive where rabbit browse is suppressed and have a high fire risk. They also significantly affect the surrounding root zone through moisture extraction, leading to less competition by other species. For the native species list, Podocarpus totara (not found in region) should be removed and amended with Podocarpus laetus which is local to the area. This is more drought and freezing tolerant. Additional species should include red beech (Fuscospora fusca), which favours lower more fertile slopes and is found at Bob's Cove.		Noted If autumnal colour is a consideration, replace invasive species on list with predominately Quercus species. Noted Eucalyptus species are both potentially invasive where rabbit browse is suppressed and have a high fire risk. They also significantly affect the surrounding root zone through moisture extraction, leading to less competition by other species. Noted native species list, Podocarpus totara (not found in region) removed and amended with Podocarpus laetus which is local to the area. Noted include red beech (Fuscospora fusca), which favours lower more fertile slopes and is found at Bob's Cove.
				Silver beech (Lophozonia menziesii) can also be considered in the coldest wetter areas. Any beech planting should be dominated by the two NZ genera. Beech through mycorrhizal associations will limit competition from most other NZ species, so keep other species in discrete separate areas. Hoheria species should be confined to the local endemic – Hoheria glabrata. This favours damp gully edges and will be outcompeted in other areas. Pseudopanax ferox could be included in colder/exposed areas. Shrubland species should predominately be small-leaved Coprosma and Olearia. Matagouri favours disturbance and will be rapidly outcompeted by both native and exotic unless areas are continually cleared by fire or heavy grazing. Ozothanmnus, Eptecophylla, Melicope, and Melicytus are all niche or slow growing species that can be difficult to propagate and survive post-planting. Tussock planting should only be considered where soils are shallow enough or exposed enough that woody species will fail to colonise. Prehuman Queenstown Hill would have been forest dominated except on rocky exposed terrain. Any in-situ tussock populations have the ability to naturally recolonise these areas if seed source is close enough and pressure is removed.		Noted Silver beech (Lophozonia menziesii) can also be considered in the coldest wetter areas. Any beech planting should be dominated by the two NZ genera. Beech through mycorrhizal associations will limit competition from most other NZ species, so keep other species in discrete separate areas. Noted Hoheria species should be confined to the local endemic – Hoheria glabrata. This favours damp gully edges and will be outcompeted in other areas. Noted Pseudopanax ferox could be included in colder/exposed areas. Noted Shrubland species should predominately be small-leaved Coprosma and Olearia. Noted Matagouri favours disturbance and will be rapidly outcompeted by both native and exotic unless areas are continually cleared by fire or heavy grazing. Noted Ozothanmnus, Eptecophylla, Melicope, and Melicytus are all niche or slow growing species that can be difficult to propagate and survive post-planting. Noted Tussock planting should only be considered where soils are shallow enough or exposed enough that woody species will fail to colonise.

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46	Callum wood		Neutral	I support the overall direction of the draft management plan for Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve, particularly its emphasis on long-term ecological restoration and sustainable land management. However, I am concerned that the plan does not adequately acknowledge or plan for the existing and highly valued mountain biking (MTB) use of the reserve. Queenstown Hill has been used for many years by locals, visitors, and athletes for recreational mountain biking. While these trails may not be formally sanctioned, data from platforms such as Trailforks' Global Heatmap clearly show high levels of MTB activity. This use aligns with the reserve's purpose under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977, which supports public recreation and enjoyment. The proposed removal of exotic forestry will eliminate all current MTB trail access, yet the draft plan makes no provision for either retaining or reinstating MTB opportunities. This risks ending a long-standing and popular recreational use, which seems inconsistent with both the intent of the Reserves Act and the requirement under Section 41(3) to consider current patterns of public use. I respectfully encourage QLDC to: •Recognise the existing role of mountain biking as a key component of the reserve's recreational character; •Identify and retain access to critical MTB corridors or routes where feasible within the plan; •Partner with local MTB organisations to develop a formal, sustainable trail network following tree removal; •Ensure the final management plan achieves a balanced outcome that protects ecological values while maintaining diverse recreational access — including for mountain biking.		Concern that the plan does not adequately acknowledge the existing mountain biking. Noted that the proposed removal of exotic forestry will eliminate all current MTB trail access. Noted the plan makes no provision for either retaining or reinstating MTB opportunities. Suggest QLDC Recognise the existing role of mountain biking as a key component of the reserve's recreational character; Suggest QLDC Identify and retain access to critical MTB corridors or routes where feasible within the plan; Suggest QLDCPartner with local MTB organisations to develop a formal, sustainable trail network following tree removal; Suggest that QLDC ensure the final management plan achieves a balanced outcome that protects ecological values while maintaining diverse recreational access — including for mountain biking.
				Queenstown Hill is a rare and valued recreation area in close proximity to the town centre. The MTB network, though informal, is well-regarded for its quality, technical challenge, and accessibility. With thoughtful planning and community collaboration, I believe QLDC has an opportunity to create a management framework that protects both the natural environment and the social and recreational value of this special place. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.		
47	K Netzler		Strongly support	Its working very well on other areas in the basin and will support the biodiversity of this site too. Our natural environment will be lost if we don't act on this soon.		Support improved biodiversity
48	Rebekah Hensman	xtravel	Strongly support	I fully support the proposed Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan, particularly its focus on the urgent removal of wilding conifers to protect the integrity of this iconic landscape. Queenstown Hill is more than a popular walking track—it's a cherished vantage point, a cultural landmark, and a natural taonga that deserves thoughtful stewardship. The unchecked spread of wilding pines threatens not only the ecological balance of the hill itself but also the surrounding Wakatipu Basin, where these invasive trees can quickly overrun native vegetation and alter the landscape for generations. This plan represents a critical step in halting that spread, and I commend QLDC for prioritising the long-term health of the area over short-term convenience. Restoring the area with a diverse mix of native and carefully selected non-invasive exotics will help rebuild resilience in the ecosystem while maintaining the visual beauty and accessibility of the area for locals and visitors alike. I urge QLDC to commit to rigorous monitoring of replanting success and to communicate progress transparently with the community. By investing in this transformation now, we not only protect Queenstown Hill but also take meaningful action to prevent further encroachment of wildings across our wider region.		Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest rigorous monitoring of replanting success and to communicate progress transparently with the community.
49	Malcolm I'Anson		Strongly support	The plan is comprehensive and convincing. It will end a foreign blight on Queenstown and promote native species.	Don't give high priority to biking trails; they are a costly menace both to the environment and the people using them.	Support removing wilding seed source.
50	Nico Negri		Strongly support	Wilding pines are an invasive tree species that are rapidly spreading and should be replaced with native NZ trees.		Support removing wilding seed source.

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51	Tony Adamson		Support		I think it is important that a belt of trees is maintained above the housing line . The trees are an essential part of the look of Queenstown .The planting of Tōtara , Beach trees , and other tall growing trees should be restricted to behind the housing line . We are very keen to NOT have the tall trees planted in that reserve as it will have significant impact on the beautiful vista that we enjoy. The taller trees	Suggest leaving a belt of trees above the urban boundary. Noted do not plant tall trees Infront of properties which may affect views in the future
52	Tom McPhail		Strongly support	Wilding conifers have a well documented range off negative effects as outlined in the Draft Plan. This Queenstown Hill project would remove a large wilding seed source in the area, and the replanting of other suitable species would be beneficial for biodiversity values.	Because of the lack of native plants left in the lower parts of the Whakatipu basin, my preference Is for native plants. However if some exotic species are to be used great care must be taken so as not to cause a future weed problem.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity
53	Barb Simpson and Neill Simpson		Strongly support	SUBMISSION ON DRAFT TE TAPANUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN Neill and Barb Simpson resident and trustees of Whakatipu Reforestation Trust - private individuals We understand that all feedback will be treated as public information We are pleased that Council are addressing the issue of wilding tree spread in the District and are now looking at Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond. Because until these significant areas of Douglas fir are removed there will be the continuing problem of spread to adjoining areas including the Remarkables and across the lake as well as the continuing cost of removal of spread before they seed. It is heartening to see what is happening on the Coronet forest site, on Mt Dewar at Arrowtown and on a number of private properties in the basin with the replanting with native trees and shrubs. This will all add to the Biodiversity Plan and a “Deafening Dawn Chorus”. We agree with the Key objective – to eradicate and replant however we cannot see how it can be replanted as a production forest and also be a permanent mixed species forest.		Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity. Question page 4 - key objective - how the Reserve can be replanted as a production forest and also a permanent mixed species forest. Suggest trialling an adopt a plot program allowing locals to plant an area and look after areas;. Noted natives will come back if there is a seed source near by Suggested groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn
				In some areas of replanting (particularly the lower areas) it may be worth trialling something similar to the WCG Adopt a Plot allowing locals to plant an area and look after it. These could be native or exotic. Clearing the pines above Sunshine Bay demonstrates that natives will come back quite quickly with the help of birds, if there is a seed source nearby. This is more likely to happen on Ben Lomond that Queenstown Hill. Groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn that would considerably enhance to visual aspect of these lower slopes. There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir and although the probable original cover on these south facing slopes was probably mountain beech with totara and other species mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats, could be trialled. Personally we consider the cleared slopes below Skyline with their rocky bluffs and gullies are far more interesting than the monotonous dark green of the existing Douglas fir forest. Add silver birch and buddleja to the weed tree species. Overall we agree with the Draft Plan and look forward to seeing it implemented (or at least started). In the long term we can imagine many lovely walks through native forest and more open glades, perhaps grassy, under the deciduous trees, so perhaps more park-like. When we first walked up Queenstown Hill (1981), it was possible to see down into town most of the way up except for a large patch of Douglas fir below the Basket-of-dreams. Douglas fir was just starting to spread up in to the grassland and native shrubland.		

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54	Neill Simpson		Strongly support	SUBMISSION ON DRAFT TE TAPANUI QUEENSTOWN HILL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN Neill and Barb Simpson resident and trustees of Whakatipu Reforestation Trust - private individuals We understand that all feedback will be treated as public information We are pleased that Council are addressing the issue of wilding tree spread in the District and are now looking at Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond. Because until these significant areas of Douglas fir are removed there will be the continuing problem of spread to adjoining areas including the Remarkables and across the lake as well as the continuing cost of removal of spread before they seed. It is heartening to see what is happening on the Coronet forest site, on Mt Dewar at Arrowtown and on a number of private properties in the basin with the replanting with native trees and shrubs. This will all add to the Biodiversity Plan and a "Deafening Dawn Chorus". We agree with the Key objective – to eradicate and replant however we cannot see how it can be replanted as a production forest and also be a permanent mixed species forest.		Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity. Question how the Reserve can be replanted as a production forest and also a permanent mixed species forest. Suggest trialling an adopt a plot program allowing locals to plant an area and look after areas;. Noted natives will come back if there is a seed source near by Suggested groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn
				In some areas of replanting (particularly the lower areas) it may be worth trialling something similar to the WCG Adopt a Plot allowing locals to plant an area and look after it. These could be native or exotic. Clearing the pines above Sunshine Bay demonstrates that natives will come back quite quickly with the help of birds, if there is a seed source nearby. This is more likely to happen on Ben Lomond that Queenstown Hill. Groups of exotic, deciduous trees would add patches of colour during autumn that would considerably enhance to visual aspect of these lower slopes. There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir and although the probable original cover on these south facing slopes was probably mountain beech with totara and other species mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats, could be trialled. Personally we consider the cleared slopes below Skyline with their rocky bluffs and gullies are far more interesting than the monotonous dark green of the existing Douglas fir forest. Add silver birch and buddleja to the weed tree species. Overall we agree with the Draft Plan and look forward to seeing it implemented (or at least started). In the long term we can imagine many lovely walks through native forest and more open glades, perhaps grassy, under the deciduous trees, so perhaps more park-like. When we first walked up Queenstown Hill (1981), it was possible to see down into town most of the way up except for a large patch of Douglas fir below the Basket-of-dreams. Douglas fir was just starting to spread up in to the grassland and native shrubland.		
55	Weiwei Miao	Goldenlake Shore Limited	Strongly oppose	I strongly oppose the proposal to remove these trees. Many of them have been growing on Queenstown Hill for decades, if not over a hundred years. Their roots are deeply integrated into the local ecosystem, and large-scale deforestation of such mature forests could lead to severe and unpredictable consequences, including soil erosion, landslides, and potentially serious impacts on the residential areas below. A similar incident already occurred at Skyline a couple of years ago, and such disasters could happen again—possibly with even greater severity. I propose that anyone who supports this decision must be required to sign a liability agreement, stating that they are personally willing to bear the responsibility for any environmental or economic consequences that may result from the tree removal. Only by doing so can we ensure that this decision is made with full accountability. I oppose any actions taken without responsibility for potential outcomes.	I strongly oppose the proposal to remove these trees. Many of them have been growing on Queenstown Hill for decades, if not over a hundred years. Their roots are deeply integrated into the local ecosystem, and large-scale deforestation of such mature fore	Noted oppose the removal of the trees as deforestation could lead to sever unpredictable consequences including soil erosion, landslides, and potentially serious impacts on the residential areas below.
56	James Knapp	Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Strongly support	We strongly support the proposed plan for it's reductive effect on wildfire risk. In particular, we support the managed removal of conifers, provisions for firebreaks and revegetation with lower-flammability indigenous species.	We are happy to continue to work with QLDC on the implementation of the plan, if it is adopted.	Noted support for the removal of conifers to reduce wildfire risk. Noted support provisions for firebreaks and low flammability vegetation
57	Graeme Watson		Strongly support	I fully support the removal of Wilding pines on Queenstown Hill because of spread of Wilding in the Whakatipu basin and the fire risk to Queenstown residents.	The biodiversity threat from Wilding pines in the Whakatipu basin is huge so the need to get rid of big seed sources is urgent.	Support removing wilding seed source.
58	Taryn McDonald		Strongly support	It will be great to see the wilding pines go for the reasons described in the plan - biodiversity, soil quality, seed spread, landscape, and wildfire hazard. I like the staged approach and that thought is going into assessing tree cover and site conditions, stages of harvesting and replacement with new trees.	Would be great if only natives were planted. But fully trust QLDC will make great effort to work with consultants to make informed decisions about planting emphasising a mix of quick growth for erosion protection and then infill. Good luck! Rooting for	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity. Support the staged approach to removal. Support planting natives only

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59	Diane Hart		Strongly oppose	Queenstown Hill is one of the few remaining parts of Queenstown that enhances our fast disappearing appearance of an alpine environment. Queenstown Hill as it is now is an important contribution to a greenbelt that is fast being eroded by constant developments and construction. Please do not destroy our once charming little village.	There are far more vitally important issues particularly regarding infrastructure that need to be addressed rather than using our ratepayers money for that which is not necessary	Noted that Queenstown Hill has an alpine appearance and is an important contribution to a greenbelt that is fast being eroded by constant developments and construction.
60	Athol Dixon		Strongly oppose	We wish to maintain the green belt and retain an alpine village environment.		Noted want to maintain alpine appearance and greenbelt
61	Paula Watson		Strongly support	Fully support the removal of Wilding Trees on Queenstown Hill . They are a fire hazard and a seed source for wilding pines. I live on Queenstown Hill and use the Track most days.	The loss of biodiversity on the Hill over the years is terrible.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support for reducing the fire hazard
62	William Taylor		Strongly support			
63	Roderick Allan	FPH	Strongly support	Support the intent of the plan with regard to improved vegetation managenent.	Will there be a confirm access walking path from zone mz6 at Silver Creek connecting with the existing path up to the Basket of Dreams. This will improve access and reduce vehicle use to access the current entrance points for many residents or users.	Suggestion to access walking path from zone mz6 at Silver Creek connecting with the existing path up to the Basket of Dreams
64	TIM PEARE		Neutral	don,t remove the mountain bike trails enhance them just remove Douglas fur not clear fell everything similar to skyline		Suggest protecting the mountain bike trails. Suggest only removing the Douglas fir species
65	Andrew James Blackford		Neutral	The forestry plan sets the right vision for the future of Queenstown Hill. However it lacks specific controls to ensure perverse and unintended outcomes don't eventuate. It also doesn't go far enough to protect recreational use of the reserve. Removal of wildings must be coupled/shackled to approved funding for native/exotic restoration, rock fall mitigation etc. Typically wilding removal has been undertaken in the district without any plan in place for remediation. The worst result, is the tree's are cut down and then a period of time elapses before planting occurs (due to budget restraints). Morningstar Reserve in Arthurs Point and the Shotover River margins in Arthurs Point are example of this, while successful in terms of wilding removal - there has been no revegetation some 3 years after the trees were removed. This has resulted in an unsightly mess of slash, a reserve no longer that useable for recreation as it was previously and unfortunately, reinfestation by a different species of wilding. The draft plan also doesn't align with community feedback and the subsequent summary released on the Ben Lomond & Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plans - that acknowledge Mtb use of the reserve and a community desire to formalise the tracks that exist. Therefore greater protection in the forestry plan should be provided to maintaining these trails and protecting them from damage during harvesting.		Suggested that the plan lacks specific controls to ensure perverse and unintended outcomes don't eventuate. Noted It also doesn't go far enough to protect recreational use of the reserve. Suggested that the removal of wildings should proceed in conjunction with approved funding for native/exotic vegetation restoration and rockfall mitigation measure. Suggested that the plan acknowledge Mountain bike use in the reserve. Suggest plan should maintain and protecting trails from damage during harvesting.
66	Will Grant		Oppose	The reasons for my opposition to the QT hill deforestation plan is that this small isolated forest is an integral part of Queenstown beauty and appeal as an alpine town. This small forest is a tiny dot of trees now surrounded by the town. I supports a large amount of native birds from the NZ falcon to the Tui's and Bellbirds that we see flock to their homes at night. These trees also do a great job of holding the hills together, this small area of tree actually adds to the areas biodiversity. I think everyone in Queenstown saw the results of the clear felling of our trees on the Skyline hill and subsequent landslides into the town caused by the erosion and slash. We would all love to see some quality native trees planted here, trees like the pinus radiata could be culled out but the conifers do well here and look great. Shown on the Skyline (and lower Coronet Peak areas), there as no been no effort to replant in natives, and the mess of slash left behind makes it impossible to walk through and looks terrible. This has just made room for more invasive species like Broom.	Keep Queenstown beautiful and unique.	Noted the Reserve provides beauty and appeal as an alpine town. Noted that the Reserve supports native birds Noted trees provide stability to the Reserve Support for native planting
67	Kristin Tisdall		Strongly support	I believe that windings pine are a threat to biodiversity in nz and would like to see them removed from queenstown Hill.	It would be great if there were options for recreational improvements in the plan as well, including walking and mountain biking tracks.	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggested options for recreational improvements

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
68	H Sedgwick		Strongly oppose			
69	Jack Cocks	Mt Nicholas Station	Strongly support	I've read the Queenstown Hill draft forestry management plan. I fully support the plan and believe it will be very beneficial to the region. I am a local high-country farmer, farming merino sheep and beef cattle. With my wife we farm Mt Nicholas station on the western shores of Lake Wakatipu and are significant QLDC ratepayers. I am a member of the Wakatipu Wilding Control Group executive committee. I have a B.Com.Ag from Lincoln University and a MS.Ag.Econ. from the University of Illinois. Prior to farming I was a partner in a Dunedin based international agribusiness and science consultancy. Wilding conifers are an incredibly damaging and invasive weed found throughout New Zealand, with a particular presence in the Wakatipu. They have the potential to quickly invade large areas of our region, damaging biodiversity, productive farmland, landscapes, and cultural values. The calculated benefits to costs ratio nationally from controlling wilding conifers is 34:1 (Sapere, 2022). For Otago the benefits to costs have been calculated at 96:1. Where could the country and the region obtain a better return? The argument for controlling wildings is significant and pressing. As mentioned, there is a significant financial return available from controlling wilding conifers. Due to the extensive control work that has been done in New Zealand there are established and successful control methods available and the wilding seed (or cone) has a known spread distance and survival duration. As a farmer who deals with weed control on a regular basis this knowledge is incredibly powerful – it feels like we have a headstart on the weed – we know exactly how to kill it, how it spreads, and how long the seed lasts. There are very few weeds we have this knowledge of.	In summary, congratulations for putting forward this plan. It may appear bold and will involve some short-term negative effects on the landscape. However, long-term it will be hugely beneficial to the cultural, economic, and environmental future of the	Support removing wilding seed source. Noted short term negative effects on Landscape.
				There has been significant effort and money invested into controlling wildings since the establishment of the WCG in 2016. I've been told that every year of delayed control adds 30 percent to the future cost of control. There is no time to waste.		
70	Greg Thompson		Strongly support	Due to the elevated heights of Queenstown Hill and the extensively grazed high country pastures downwind of the prevailing wind it poses a major risk to further spread.	Would hope the Queenstown Station are also invited to be part of this work to remove wildings from their section of the hill that fronts Queenstown Bay	Support removing wilding seed source. Support Queenstown Hill Station removing their trees
71	Deb Vaughan		Support	There is a vital need for establishment of native plants once the wilding conifers have been removed from Queenstown Hill as outlined extensively in the Queenstown Hill draft plan. This is excellent and I fully support this.	Further down QT hill when walking through the shortcut walkways in the built up housing areas walking down to CBD areas, I have thought how great it would be to have fruit trees apricots, apples to eat on way & ONLY natives as currently many non natives.	Support planting natives

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72	Carolyn Hill		Strongly oppose	I am opposed to the proposed removal of pine trees on Queenstown Hill for several key environmental and practical reasons: 1.Carbon Sequestration Pine trees are among the most efficient species for capturing and storing carbon. Removing them would significantly reduce the hill's current capacity to offset emissions, and it will take decades—likely 20 years or more—for native plantings to provide a similar level of carbon capture. 2.Maintenance and Cost of Native Regeneration Establishing a native forest is not a passive process. It requires long-term commitment, funding, and intensive maintenance. Seedlings will need regular care and protection from pests and weather. Who will be responsible for this work, and how will it be funded? Given other environmental priorities, this may not be the best use of limited resources. 3.Replacement Species and Usability The proposed replanting with native species like Matagouri, tussock, and other scrub may create a landscape that is less accessible and less appealing for recreational users. Historically, much of this region was covered in dense, thorny scrub, which early settlers actively cleared. Returning to that landscape may not align with how the hill is used and enjoyed today. 4.Landscape Impact and Erosion Risk Clear-felling the existing trees will leave a highly visible scar on the landscape, particularly on such a prominent slope. The bare ground left behind will be prone to erosion—especially on Queenstown Hill's exposed and weather-affected faces—potentially leading to sediment runoff and degradation of surrounding ecosystems. (Think Skyline fiasco).	All the social media comments on the QLDC posts seems to be overwhelming opposed. Please listen to the feedback you have got and don't just do it anyway - having ticked a box called 'public consultation' which you then ignore.	Noted pine trees are among the most efficient species for capturing and storing carbon. Noted removing the trees will reduce the current capacity to offset emissions. Noted maintaining a native forest requires long-term commitment, funding, and intensive maintenance. Noted concern for how the project will be funded. Noted proposed native planting list may create a landscape that is less accessible and appealing for recreational users. Noted clear-felling the existing trees will leave a highly visible scar on the landscape. Noted after the harvest the land may prone to erosion—leading to sediment runoff and degradation of surrounding ecosystems.
				5.Wildlife Disruption The current pine forest supports birdlife, providing shelter, sap, and seed sources. Removal would displace these species and reduce habitat diversity unless significant planning and mitigation are undertaken. (Do we plan to blame the cats when we take away bird habitat). 6.Pest Control Requirements Successful native regeneration will almost certainly require a full eradication of goats and other browsing pests. This is a large undertaking with high costs and uncertain results. In summary, the removal of pines may create more problems than it solves. If the goal is to improve the environment, we need to ensure any changes truly reduce emissions, enhance biodiversity, and serve the community in the long term. Replacing mature carbon sinks with slow-growing natives, at significant cost and risk, deserves more scrutiny—not just aesthetic preferences or ideology.		
73	Phillip Newsome		Strongly oppose	While I fully understand this is an introduced species, the planting out of this area has in my opinion enhanced the look of that section of hill side . The so called leadership in this region should focus on addressing the myriad of infrastructure challenges our communities are and will continue to face until growth can be better planned for. We are fast destroying what makes this area and region an iconic destination to visit,		Noted current planting enhances the area.

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74	Simon Williams		Neutral	I am in support of increasing bio diversity especially through native reforestation. There are however a fair few alarm bells ringing for me on this. Knowing our council and the way it works, the timing of this stinks, and it feels so obvious about what the actual reason for this is. My understanding is that the proposed gondola over Queenstown Hill is a fully privately funded affair. Yet here we are, now saying ratepayers are going to clear the land to make way for that Gondola. Right now, we have much bigger issues to solve than clearing trees for a private enterprise, have we learnt nothing from Lakeview? We need to fix the sewage and roading infrastructure. This needs to be priority. In short, I don't believe this is being done for the good of biodiversity, it's yet another rates funded private enterprise which we as ratepayers will see no tangible benefits to our community. You have a lot of trust to build back, and this from my perspective just erodes the trust even further.		Support increasing biodiversity through native reforestation. Concern that the tree clearance is for the proposed gondola over Queenstown Hill.
75	Jake John Allen		Strongly oppose	Something that doesn't need to be completed given QLDC current finance position		Noted concern for how the project will be funded.
76	Dennis Behan		Strongly support	These trees are not native and are adversely affecting our native environment. The only way we are ever going to get on top of the issue is to remove the seed source and Queenstown Hill is a large contributor to the wildings around the basin and need to be removed.	I am hugely supportive of removing invasive pine trees, keep up the great work!	Support removing wilding seed source.
77	Zoe Gapper		Strongly support	It's better to have visible tree stumps then for wilding pines to be able to spread their seed everywhere and make it more difficult to get rid of them.	Being explained well to the public will help gain more support. We could use chatGBT to make a quick animation to explain that if we are patient with the process that ultimately the area will look better with regenerated fauna. This is the long game.	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggestion use GPT chat to create an animation to explain that if we are patient the area will eventually look better with regenerated fauna. Noted this is a long term project.
78	Ella Wilson		Strongly support	I strongly support the draft forestry plan for the following reasons: Get rid of wilding pines which are spreading at an alarming rate. Let sunlight get through to areas currently shaded by the wilding pines. Restore the original aesthetic quality of views using native trees.		Support removing wilding seed source.
79	Peter De La Mare		Strongly support	I like the fact that removing wilding pines is the main priority, and replacing them with native species as much as possible.	The balance between replanting with native species, and replanting exotics for forestry seems OK. Would macrocarpa be suitable as forest tree - or are they spreaders? I thought the existing sycamore and rowan trees look OK to keep?	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest replanting with macrocarpa

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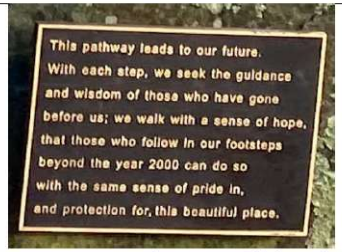
80	Suzanne Rose on behalf of Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG)	Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG)	Strongly support	Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc (WCG) Submission to QLDC Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Management Plan 2025 - 4 July 2025 1Background 1.1WCG was formed by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) in 2009 as a community-led group. 1.2WCG has 469,512 hectares under surveillance in six management units, of which 241,699 hectares of wilding infestations require persistent management in the form of either initial control to remove seed sources or maintenance to contain and reduce the spread. 1.3Queenstown Hill Reserve falls under the WCG Whakatipu Management Unit (MU). 1.4To date, over $27 million has been invested in Whakatipu Wilding Control 1.5Queenstown is surrounded by Otago's most severe Wilding Conifer infestation, stretching from Wilson Bay to Queenstown Hill and Arthurs Point. This widespread infestation poses a significant threat to the Whakatipu environment, with particularly harmful effects on its immediate fringes of Queenstown Hill and the Ben Lomond	 *Aerial View of track leading up to the Basket of Dreams, Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill*	Noted the wildings on Queenstown Hill effect the surrounding environment. Noted the WCG's substantial effort to establishing containment lines around the wilding trees on Queenstown Hill. Support permanent mixed species forest Noted continue wilding clearance work on Queenstown Hill is not sustainable, solution is to remove the seed source. Noted the wildfire risk on the Reserve. Page 4 Key Objective – question the use of the term 'production forest' – suggest amendment
				2The negative impacts of wilding conifer species include: 2.1degradation of high value Outstanding Natural Landscapes 2.2the damaging effects of a fast-spreading monoculture on conservation and biodiversity values - (loss of native flora & fauna in ecosystems including species extinction - some unique to Central Otago) 2.3the smothering of historic, cultural, and recreational sites and trails which includes effects on access, views and sunlight. 2.4the effect on tourism values ie. the loss of vast natural vistas, the contrasts between natural light, blue lake and golden tussockland, topographic variation and the detail of rugged gullies – all of which make Queenstown awe-inspiring and unique. 2.5the significant reduction of water yields affecting creeks, wetlands and rivers and in turn outdoor recreation, biodiversity, irrigation and hydro- electric generation. 2.6limiting economic land uses (while increasing the cost and complexity of pasture development as a result of wilding spread) 2.7 an ever-increasing wild-fire hazard in urban and mountainous terrain	 *Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill, closed canopy with little light & no diversity, the reserve today and the rest of the hill tomorrow without action.*	
				3The damage from wilding conifer spread is now well-documented 3.1The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Report "Space Invaders" "Farmers are losing grazing land to wilding conifers, homeowners are losing houses (following conifer-fuelled wildfires), conservators are losing habitat, and water yield in some catchments is being reduced" 3.2Cost Benefit Analysis Reports: The National benefit-to-cost ratio is 34-1 (prepared in 2022 for MPI on behalf of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme). The Otago benefit-to-cost ratio shows a massive 96-1, leaving no room for doubt about the seriousness of the wilding issue. (Prepared in 2023 for the Otago Regional Council). 3.3QLDC was the leader of and continues to be ahead of the rest of the country in recognising the threat that wilding pines pose, it is also unique in that it has had rules in place since 2006, prohibiting the planting of wilding species, (unless the NES-CF prevails), due to the negative effects on the environment.	 Sign at entrance to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Time Walk	

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				4Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Management Plan 2025 feedback: 4.1WCG support the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Draft Forestry Plan 2025 and the transition into a permanent mixed species forest along the edge of Queenstown. This major wilding conifer infestation currently acts as a wind-blown seed source where seed continually rains onto neighbouring areas which have been cleared multiple times on adjacent land and throughout the wider landscape. This level of repeat work is not sustainable. 4.2Landowners who have and continue to invest heavily in wilding control are becoming less tolerant with neighbouring landowners who are exacerbaters of the problem. 4.3Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill is identified as a high priority site for wilding control in the WCG Strategy as it is a high elevation, windy take off point. 4.4The adjoining landowner, Queenstown Hill Station, have expressed their support for removal. They have been consistently dealing with the spread from this wilding forest over many years and have expressed they do not wish to continue investing in maintenance when there is a better solution, which is to remove the seed source. Even after removal, there will be residual seed in the ground for a number of years which will require maintenance, the sooner the seed source is removed, the sooner the Station can expect to see maintenance costs start to fall.	 *Plaque on the Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Timewalk*	
				4.5The wildfire risk within and surrounding this reserve is well recognised and is included in the latest FENZ Otago Fire Plan as a "Special Risk Zone" where "Fires in these areas in moderate or higher fire conditions will be very intense and will threaten lives, properties and environmental values." It is no surprise that this special risk zone nearly matches the mapping of wilding spread in Queenstown. 4.6The Reserve could instead become again a high-value biodiversity site which the community takes pride in and which makes the most of the site strengths including close proximity to town; outstanding natural landscape views and sunshine which have been lost; the existing timewalk, the track leading up to the basket of dreams sculpture; the connection to iwi; the remaining native seed sources; the streams feeding into the Matakauri wetlands. 4.7Does the following sentence contain a typo? 'The Reserve will be replanted as a production forest, with the new cover forming a permanent mixed species forest.." Should it instead read "The Reserve will not be replanted as a production forest..." 4.8A disadvantage of Option 3 - if the plan was not adopted, is this option would not meet objectives in the Otago Regional, Pest Management Plan and the wilding pine threat would not be mitigated, leaving the problem unresolved for another generation, with removal costs escalating and the seed source continuing to infest areas already heavily invested in by WCG, landowners, the community and the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and it's partners. 4.9If the Plan is adopted, WCG urge Council to prioritise and continue with the momentum of identified next steps, including developing the Outline Plan, Harvest Plan, Environmental Plan, Trail Masterplan and pest control plan.		
				In summary, WCG support Option 1- Proposal to Adopt the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025. If this option is adopted by this Council, it will create a lasting legacy that future generations benefit from. As they look back, they won't be asking, as we do now – "Why didn't they do something when it was achieveable and cost effective". If this project is left to future generations, then it very well may be unachievable and too cost prohibitive. This is an opportunity to embrace an achievable vision and help create a lasting legacy that our present and future community can all be proud of.	https://pce.parliament.nz/publications/letter-to-minister-oconnor-about-the-future-of-the-national-wilding-conifer-control-programme/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r_6G7ZAoU2q2-d7TCpugp5J7PCVlX1Bh/view https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uZFyoF_hIMGQlm755GWLGdBDFZRRUDsQ/view	
81	Rob Hopkins		Strongly support	I strongly oppose retaining the existing pines in Queenstown hill.		Support removing wilding seed source.
82	Scott Bartley		Strongly support	The restoration of original forestation and vegetation should be a priority around the basin. Biodiversity should be encouraged. As it stands, walking through the the pine forest is a dark, dead, uninviting environment. Restoring the land to it's original state can only benefit all activities in the area, including improving the views and overall experience while walking the trail that runs through it.	I fully support the wilding pine control programme, in fact, I would like to see it expanded and expedited.	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity in the area

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83	Alice Behan		Strongly support	I strongly support felling the wilding conifer forest on Queenstown Hill. This plan represents a bold and forward thinking move for QLDC, proving their commitment to protecting and enhancing Queenstown's biodiversity assets and tourism appeal. I work for DOC as a project administrator for the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, but this is a personal submission. Removing this seed source will have a significant impact on wilding spread around the district. Seeds can travel many kilometres in the wind, so there will be long term, positive impacts from this removal including the eventual reduction of ongoing wilding control costs. I regularly walk and run the Time Walk Trail. I am very excited about the prospect of walking this trail in the future when I will be surrounded by native and/or non-spreading exotics rather than wilding conifers. The existing vegetation gives a "dead" feel to the trail - it is dark, everything feels grey and silent under the canopy. Restoring biodiversity to the area will bring back birdlife and give colour and vibrancy to the trail. I also support any efforts to reduce wildfire risk to the community. As the Council will be well aware, a wildfire in a conifer forest could have devastating consequences for the surrounding neighbourhoods and communities. Any steps taken to reduce this risk is positive. The removal of the Coronet Forest and the start of the associated replanting programme has been very successful and shows these projects can be well run by QLDC and supported by the community. The removal of the Queenstown Hill forest is an exciting next step and I look forward to one day in the future where there are no wilding forests above Queenstown.		Support removing wilding seed source. Noted a positive impact of tree removal is the reduction of future wilding control costs. Support reducing wildfire risk
84	kelvin middleton	Queenstown Hill Farm	Strongly support	I agree that the invasive trees that are destroying the natural biodiversity with in the reserve need to be removed. There is no time like the present. The wilding trees are a constant seed source that is affecting private land so consideration needs to taken into account. The government have recently passed a new legislation requiring all trees to be removed from a lager distance to power lines. To aide transport removal of the logs so that least effect occurs to house owners in the 'commange' areas, let alone the already restricted roading network, then the QLDC should investigate other avenues ie Queenstown Hill as an exit option. Possibly the best option is a new track line that follows the powerlines towards the Silver Creek development. If the QLDC were future proofing then they would also investigate this option for roading in the future for the town. I also believe a clear definition of boundaries needs to occur so that the private land isn't incorporated into the reserve that has now happened. Currently there is excessive use of private land for walkways and bike trails. bA fence would reduce the confusion. Major concern is the replanting as I also believe that if not fenced of the reserve will be infested with goats as that is already the case. Therefore large amount of money spent on planting natives etc will be wasted.	The removal of trees would allow the landscape to return to what it originally was. It has been negatively imopacted by the spread of Wilding Trees. Its the time to show what a natural landscape can be rather than the alpine outlook people think is nrmala	Support removing wilding seed source. Support improved biodiversity in the area. Noted that the alpine look is not the natural landscape Suggested consider investigating harvesting access options on neighbouring properties. Consider future roading to town within the reserve Suggestion a clear definition of boundaries so the public understand where private land parcels. Fencing may be required. Concern about pests such as goats damaging new native vegetation
85	Sarah Broad		Strongly support	Wilding tree species must be removed from Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill. They are invasive introduced species which inhibit / prevent our indigenous biodiversity. I urge the Council to focus on the elimination of existing wilding conifers. 'Control' becomes a mission in perpetuity, whereas elimination and eradication are more effective in the medium to long term. Seed source trees should be a particular priority, to ensure gains can be secured. I also encourage the Council to work with the owners of private land with wilding tree species, to encourage them to agree to the removal of wilding trees, again prioritising seed source trees.	Any short-term inconvenience to recreational access should not impede the removal of wilding trees and pest animals, nor the restoration of the reserve. The longer term benefits of an ecologically sustainable approach will be inter-generational..	Support removing wilding seed source. Suggest working with neighbouring landowners to remove seed sources on their properties

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86	Alison Broad		Strongly support	Wilding plant species are an increasing threat to the biodiversity and landscape values of New Zealand in general, and the southern half of the South Island in particular. I strongly support the proposed approach by QLDC, to remove wilding conifers from Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve. It will enable ecological restoration of the reserve. It will prevent the spread of invasive wilding trees across the iconic landscapes of the Whakatipu and beyond. It is a very welcome, if overdue, initiative to address a significant environmental and landscape issues. I believe, however, that the focus should be on eradication and elimination, rather than 'control'. Our family has been long-time advocates and supporters of wilding conifer removal, especially Douglas fir, from the Queenstown Hill and Ben Lomond reserves. We have been hand-pulling Douglas fir seedlings for decades, but sadly have watched these trees take over more and more of our landscapes and trails, Without a significant workplan the problem becomes larger-scale with every passing year. I strongly urge the QLDC to take this opportunity to undertake this forestry plan as a significant and effective response to address this problem.	The many benefits of eradication of wilding conifers from the reserve are compelling, especially biodiversity, landscape, ecological, and water values. I urge the adoption of this plan.	Support removing wilding seed source.
87	Will McBeth		Strongly support	I strongly support the clearance of Wilding conifers from Queenstown hill and see it as a critical step that the Queenstown lakes need to take in order to make actual effective changes to the pressures from Wilding conifer spread. The costs of Wilding conifer control are large but are tiny in comparison to the cost of what would be lost if we cannot keep up the fight. Removal of this significant Wilding conifer seed source will go a long way toward protection of the district and help give relief to affected neighbors		Support removing wilding seed source.
88	Marian Krogh	Protect Our Winters NZ	Support	It's a well thought out plan, using expert advice to help. It's great that there are plans to incorporate more recreational trails in the future for walking, running, or biking. POW's members are outdoor enthusiasts. Accessible trails, close to where people live are really important to our members. There needs to be planning included so that residents and visitors will be easily able to take the bus, walk or bike to the reserve also, not just within it. It shouldn't be planned so that the only access is by private car. We support the use of the area for climbing, and recommend the Queenstown climbing club be consulted, and likewise the mountain bike club for their thoughts on the best way to develop mountain bike trails in the future.	It's not clear why there has been some exotic species chosen. It's been 'carefully selected' but why? Why is it not possible for there to be 100% native plants? From POW's point of view it is essential that all re-planting be done within 4 years.	Supportthe inclusion of future recreational trails for walking, running, or biking. Support climbing as a recreational activity in the Reserve Recommended consulting with Climbing club and Mountain Bike club on future trail and access development.
89	Sue Rose		Strongly support	For nearly 30 years, I've been alarmed to watch the growing infestations of wilding pines around Queenstown, displacing native species and advancing further and further into our unique environment. The restoration of this reserve is a fantastic, realistic vision to build on other wilding pine council initiatives over the years. It will be a nationally significant project for our community to take pride in.		Support removing wilding seed source.

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90	Peter Willisman		Strongly support	1.Restoration of Queenstown Hill. Amid the discussions and plans for Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan the main focus should be on the recognition and promotion of a restored “Hill”. To remove the untidy wildings has all the potential to highlight Queenstown Hill as an iconic geological feature. Housing will inevitably creep up to the Hill’s boundaries. A definitive sharp relief of native trees and shrubs topped out by restored tussock land will be unique to Queenstown and standout as uniquely different to the Remarkables. 2. Council and Community positively affirm the Hill Plan Council and staff are often seen as negative enforcers of rules and permissions . Removing Wildings and replacing with native trees is a positive decision carefully thought through and undoubtedly debated. Council is vested with the potential to make a daring decision to mark out a significant Hill. This project is a significant example for Council, through the staff, to open the Hill to more than the present “a walk up through the trees” . The Hill, as a Queenstown feature with offering multiple recreational opportunities gifts future residents and visitors with significant choices. 3.Fire danger. The inevitable result of leaving the wildings will be safety fire breaks through the present forest. Control tracks will leave an ugly forest. 4.Wilding spread from the S.W. winds scatter seed over the basin. Climate change is accelerating seed germination and rapid growth to wildings. 5.Widening the recreational use of the Hill. The present use is basically limited to walkers and the keener bikies, rock climbers. Restored natives offer a unique appreciation of diversity.		Suggest that the main focus should be the recognition and promotion of a restored Reserve with the potential to highlight Queenstown Hill as an iconic geological feature. Support removing wilding seed source. Support reducing wildfire risk Support for widening the recreational use of the Reserve (new recreational opportunities) . Suggest working with neighbouring landowners to remove seed sources on their properties Suggest remove the trees in one operation rather than staging the removal
				6.Wildings and the Panarama of Queenstown Hill Station. While ownership of the station is in private hands the removal and future control of wildings has important ramifications both to the present and future visual iconic view of the Hill. The present increasing spread of wildings on the Hill pours a heavy flow of seed over the Station. Cash in now on the goodwill and cooperation of the Middleton’s and clear the wildings asap. 7.Staged Development. WCG along with the present Station owners fight, along with WCG, a non winnable battle attempting , and presently going backwards by pouring finance into a poor strategy. Remove the forest in one rather than in bigger blocks and the battle can be quickly won.		
91	Helen McPhaill		Strongly support	Key Objective. (Page 4) - The wilding tree species need to be removed from Queenstown Hill. The reasons are clearly given in the Key Objective of the plan. I would prefer first bullet point to read "Eliminate existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation." The Key Objective currently uses the words ."Control existing wilding..." Existing Vegetation. (Page 12) - The existing wilding vegetation does not support our indigenous flora or fauna. It out competes our native species. Merely controlling existing wilding conifers means there could still be seed source trees. The invading sycamore, rowan, hawthorn, broom and other weed trees (barberry, holly, buddleia etc) will hinder the establishment of new plantings The-existing trees undermines the millions of dollars already spent in controlling wilding trees. Landscape. (Page 15) - "Leaving the existing lower risk wilding species in place..." runs a high risk of them becoming rampant once the larger conifers have been removed and thus will out- compete any new planted species when it happens. Ideally planting would be at the time, but in reality this might not occur for 12 months. It would be more economic and certain to clear all vegetation while staff and machinery are on site. I strongly support re-grassing of the slopes as soon as possible after felling of the wildings and weeds. MZ1 (Page 17) -0 Leave other (non-wilding) vegetation stancling until resource is available to clear it. Restoration to achieve a native species-dominated canopy can be undertaken at a later date. Presumably "non wilding" includes sycamore, hawthorne et al. See my comment above under landscape.	;.. Patch planting across the site or planUng in clusters with other non-invasive exotic tree species such as elm, oak and as!? may also be desirable to provide a more diverse aesthetic for MZ4 than the monoculture appearance provided by the current conifer- dominated forest. I support the last bullet point that community groups may assist with maintaining sites. It is a nice idea but volunteers are already spread thin with so many other worthy projects such as trapping, planting, wildings in other areas that it may not be able to be relied on. MZS – Agree MZ6 - Support most of this, especially the restoration of "the upper half above the power line corridor to create a subalpine grassland ... " But disagree with the sequoia dominated exotic forest. See my comments in MZ4 above. Pest Animal Management. – Agree Fire Hazard Mitigation. Agree - Grassland is a lower intensity and heat fire Recreational Experience - It will alter the experience of the trail which is now walking up through a dark, silent, almost spooky forest with few vistas. After a few years of eyesore from the results of harvest/ tree removal, the trail will once again be the jewel in the Queenstown walking trails crown. Views all around will be immediate, and eventually birds and native plants will dominate. We only need to look at the grassy slope under the Skyline gondola to realize how quickly nature will cover a vegetation void. Please don't let the new Recreation reserve be dominated by Mountain bike tracks. They dominate many other areas in the Queenstown Basin. Impact on neighbouring properties The shading from the current D Fir trees is real, and to replant with sequoia would be repeating a problem	Page 5 – suggest - replace first bullet point with Eliminate existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation Page 12 – Noted that the existing vegetation does not support indigenous flora and fauna. Page 15 – Support removing all wilding species at the same time. Strongly support regressing the reserve as soon as possible after the felling of trees. Page 17 - Support removing all wilding species at the same time. Concerned that clearance and follow up maintenance or work will be constrained by future budges, Suggest add timeframe for the Maintence period (3 to 5 years) as stated in other management zones. Support MZ2 & MZ3 Page 21 – MZ4 – noted that some native species grow just as fast as exotic species. Suggested amendment Examples are beech, ribbonwood, & manuka. Disagree with the planting of Sequoia as in 80 years time the Sequoia will tower over the forest.

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
				I also note with some concern the second last bullet point in MZ1 that the weed clearance and follow up work will be influenced by the annual budget. Another reason to remove all weed species at the same time. ►Ongoing maintenance after the initial clearance, which would comprise regular monitoring and follow-up treatments (e.g., spot spmymg or manual removal) will help prevent regrowth.There is no time frame given for this. Follow up will need to be undertaken for 3 to 5 years as noted in other parts of this document. I strongly agree with the hardy fast growing species listed bullet point 7 MZ2 - Agree MZ3 – Agree MZ4 Agree to first 8 bullet points Bullet Point 9 J,:,•A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be unde1taken (Appendix 3: Restoration Species list). Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in tum will minimise the "window of vulnerability" for erosion and land instability. I understand the rational for this paragraph, but some native species grow much more quickly than often acknowledged. Examples are beech, ribbonwood, & manuka. 5-> Restoring this zone wit!, a sequoia-dominated exotic forest will ensure that much of this aesthetic is retained. A sequoia dominated exotic forest would seem to be a strange thing to add to the plantings. I disagree with this specie planted here. It will be an anomaly amongst the shapes of the native beech, ribbonwoods and other exotics listed in the next bullet point. In 80 years time there will be the spires of sequoia towering over the other forest. This will cast a very long shade zone over plantings beside and below and hinder other plants with their acidic litter on the ground. They are not a natural home for our insects, reptiles and birds.	privacy. Privacy can be addressed by fencing, or a tall hedge which will not affect other neighbours. Appendix 3 1. Native trees species. -Suggest change Podocarpus totara to Podocarpus laetus. Leptospermum Mscoparium to L scoparium Leptospermum (manuka) is highly flammable and is not recommended near dwellings or services. Hoheria glabrata is the local one, not H lyallii. Add Fuscospora fusca to the list. It will grow well in the places where sycamore and similar trees are currently growing- good soil pockets. 2. Grey shrublands. - Hoheria and Melicope simplex are listed here. They are more of the tree species above. 3. Non invasive species - Please remove Eucalyptus. They can spread readily (see in the Kawarau bridge revegetation area, and Bob's Cove) but worst of all they are very flammable trees. They do not provide autumn colour. Abies species listed are evergreen so they will add nothing to the colour mix and have the potential to spread. Acer (maples) including Sycamore give lovely autumn colours but do spread. Populus species should not be planted there even if they are sterile. The "cotton" affects people with allergies; the trees grow very large and tend to have large branches suddenly breaking off. They multiply readily through suckering/ root runners. Sequoia do not belong there among native pockets, and other exotics planted for amenity reasons. Their height alone means they will not look part of the landscape. They are a beautiful specimen tree, not part of a mixed forest. Fraxinus species (ash) are not listed but mentioned in the text. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this plan and I am looking forward to the day the last weed tree has been removed, and Queenstown Hill is once again a haven for all	Noted that volunteers are already thinly spread with so many project in the district. Support - MZ5 Page 24 - MZ6 disagree with Sequioa Support Pest management and fire mitigation Concern about the Reserve being dominated by Bike tracks in the future. Noted that current trees shade urban areas, Noted sequoia would add to this issue Suggest privacy could be addressed by fencing or planting a tall hedge. Suggested Native tree changes – Podocarpus totara to Podocarpus laetus. Leptospermum Mscoparium to L scoparium Leptospermum (manuka) is highly flammable and is not recommended near dwellings or services. Hoheria glabrata is the local one, not H lyallii. Add Fuscospora fusca to the list. Suggested add grey shrubland species Hoheria and Melicope simplex to tree species list Suggested changes to non invasive species – Suggest remove eucalyptus due to its invasive potential Noted Abies are evergreen will not add colour, have potential to spread. Acer (maples) including Sycamore give lovely autumn colours but spread. void planting popular species that produce cotton, as it can trigger allergies Suggest remove sequoia due to height Noted Fraxinus species (ash) are not listed but mentioned
92	Sararose Brown	Whakatipu Reforestation Trust	Strongly support	We agree with the key objective as seen in the Statement of Proposal (Page 7) ➢ QLDC will fell and eradicate all wilding tree species on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. The Reserve will not be replanted as a production forest, with the new cover forming a permanent mixed species forest. (We note a difference in the wording in the key objective as seen in the Draft Management Plan - Page 4 'will be replanted as a production forest'). 8. We are pleased that QLDC are now looking to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill as a further step to eradicate wilding conifers in the district. Given the location, we see this as a strategic area for native regeneration and an opportunity to increase the biodiversity of native flora and fauna in this area. At 109 hectares the reserve is of a size to sustain native birds, especially larger species such as kereru, if the food and nesting opportunities are provided. We see this as a tremendous opportunity to provide a significant island of habitat as a stepping stone for birds to return in higher numbers to the basin as a whole. As a large wilderness area on the boundary of town, this would be a positive step towards achieving a "deafening dawn chorus' for residents as outlined in the new Climate and Biodiversity Plan. The inclusion of exotic trees in this plan does not limit this opportunity as long as the species and mix strikes the right balance. Specific comments on Management Zones MZ1 21.7 Ha, MZ2 7 Ha, MZ3 7.6 Ha, MZ5 2.2 Ha: Predominantly native, Total = 38.5 Ha		Page 4 - Suggest updating key objective to reflect the statement of proposal – 'will not be replanted as a production forest'. Noted opportunity to provide significant island habitat to native birds. Noted that the inclusion of exotic trees does not limit biodiversity as long as the species and mix strike the right balance. Noted support for zones that include natives species (MZ1, MZ2, MZ3, MZ5), WRT could contribute toward appropriate native plant lists Suggest change MZ4 and MZ6 – many natives achieve canopy cover quicker than acknowledged.

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
				➢ This zone will be planted with hardy fast-growing low flammable native trees and shrubs that can establish quickly (such as pittosporum, broadleaf, coprosma, carmichaelia, wineberry, five finger, tutu). An intensive programme of planting over many years will eventually convert the dominant canopy cover in these areas to native species, and the result will provide a fringe along the lower slopes of the site that is contiguous with the dominant vegetation type in the gullies WRT are happy to contribute toward appropriate native plant lists for management zones if desired at a later date when more specific planning is underway. MZ4: 47.1 Ha and MZ 6 19.7Ha: Exotic/Native Mix = 66.8 Hectares ➢ Planting exotics will ensure that canopy cover is achieved more quickly, which in turn will minimise the "window of vulnerability" for erosion and land instability. In terms of land instability, we would make the comment that many natives achieve canopy cover quicker than acknowledged and planting of a fast growing native under story amongst taller growing natives can achieve land stability quickly while allowing for taller canopy to be established in time. ➢ Restoring this zone with a sequoia-dominated exotic forest will ensure that much of this aesthetic is retained. We would query the value in retaining the existing conifer dominant aesthetic at all. When looking ahead 100 years, sequoia will tower over all other species and reduce the survival of native understory plantings. We feel other non-invasive exotics would be a better mix. E.g Quercus and Fraxinus species planted in swathes to provide autumn colour and a park-like setting surrounded by the green of native regeneration. Page 28 Other Considerations: Pest Management (Pg 27) ➢ There is a significant feral goat population at the site and these goats have adapted to human presence. It would only take a small number of goats to decimate an area of planted seedlings and so the importance of goat control cannot be understated.		Query the value of retaining the existing conifer aesthetic by planting Sequoia. Suggest Quercus and Fraxinus species planted in swathes to provide autumn colour Page 28 – Strongly support a pest program. Support improved biodiversity Noted original cover on these south facing slopes was probably predominantly mountain beech, with totara, kowhai and possibly even southern rata (which would provide patches of colour and nectar). Suggest that planting patches of manuka is trialled in the Reserve. Suggest planting natives only. •Consider suggested changes: Suggest removal of eucalyptus due to flammability, tendency to spread. •Sequoia - as stated above, we would suggest removing this species. •Suggest removal/limitation on Acer/Abies/Poplar •Suggest the non-invasive deciduous exotics on the list are preferable. •Species which have been proven to be successful in Arrowtown Wilding Strategy(2018) would be most beneficial. Suggest Weed Species List includes silver birch, buddleia, hawthorn, rowan, cotoneaster, sycamore
				We strongly agree with this point and have observed decimation of native plantings by goats adjacent to housing as well as deer venturing surprisingly close. Biodiversity (Pg 28): ➢ The plan will enhance biodiversity within the Reserve. By replacing wilding conifers with native and carefully selected non-invasive species, the Reserve will see improved flora and fauna diversity, contributing to the overall ecological health of the area. We strongly agree with this point as being the key opportunity of this plan. Appendix 3: Restoration Species List and Exotic Species List: Due to this being a high level plan, we acknowledge there is likely much more detail to come on plant species and the % of exotics to natives as more specific management planning ensues. The original cover on these south facing slopes was probably predominantly mountain beech, with totara, kowhai and possibly even southern rata (which would provide patches of colour and nectar). Other species as stated in the plan are mainly confined to gullies and rocky sites. There were extensive patches of manuka on Ben Lomond before they were overtaken by the Douglas Fir. Patches of manuka (which is not generally browsed by goats), could be trialled on Queenstown Hill.		
				From the detail provided: • MZs 1,2,3,5 comprises around 38 Ha of areas to be planted in native • MZs 4 and 6 comprise 66.8 Ha of exotic/native mixed forest with 'sequoia dominated exotic forest' stated as a possibility. ➢ WRT can appreciate the desired benefit of groups of exotic, deciduous trees that would add swathes of colour during autumn to enhance the visual aspect of the lower slopes. However it is suggested that 'on the whole' planting on Te Tapunui Queenstown hill is indigenous native revegetation with appropriate species to provide habitat for native flora and fauna. The replanting of Te Tapunui gives a singular opportunity to create an island of biodiversity close to town and in a location, which will add to the other significant islands of native vegetation currently being created at the likes of Mt Dewar, Coronet Forest, Arrowtown hills/Arrow River and across the WRT Keystone sites. Exotic Species List: •Suggest removal of eucalyptus due to flammability, tendency to spread. •Sequoia - as stated above, we would suggest removing this species. •Suggest removal/limitation on Acer/Abies/Poplar •Suggest the non-invasive deciduous exotics on the list are preferable. •Species which have been proven to be successful in Arrowtown Wilding Strategy(2018) would be most beneficial.		

	Survey Response					Officer comment
	Your name	Organisation	Please indicate your overall position on the	Please explain the reason for your position on the draft Forestry Plan below.	Please share any other comments you have here.	
				Weed Species List •Suggest this includes silver birch, buddleia, hawthorn, rowan, cotoneaster, sycamore Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this draft plan, which we agree with overall. The implementation of this plan could be another significant step to show the “ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership” that has clearly been demonstrated by QLDC at Coronet Forest. We look forward to seeing the wonderful results for both the community and the local environment.		

Statement of Proposal

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve
Forestry Management Plan 2025

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Introduction

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) has become progressively dominated by wilding conifers over the past 60+ years. These trees are acting as a seed source facilitating the spread of wilding conifers elsewhere in the Whakatipu basin.

A Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 (the draft forestry plan) has been prepared to replace the Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Forestry Plan 2006 as it applies to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

QLDC would like the community's feedback on the Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025. The draft forestry plan describes the harvest, wilding clearance and restoration methods for the Reserve. The methods and approaches are informed by vegetation surveys and forest measurement information.

Background

Why do we need a forestry plan?

QLDC is proposing to remove the trees from the reserve. QLDC will fell and eradicate all wilding tree species within the reserve and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. The draft forestry plan sets out how this is to be achieved.

The QLDC administered reserve is 109 hectares and is located on the southeast and southwest side of Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill. The reserve is largely covered with wilding conifer tree species. Without active management and intervention, wilding conifers will continue to spread, threatening the landscape and its ecological values, resulting in the loss of existing native biodiversity values within and beyond the Reserve.

The Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (ORPMP) seeks to progressively contain and reduce the geographic extent of wilding conifers within the Otago region. A National Wilding Conifer Control Programme has been developed and provides a collaborative funding model for addressing infestations. The Douglas fir on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) provide a significant seed source for the wider Whakatipu Basin.

The ORPMP and the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme note that indigenous ecosystems at particular risk from wilding conifer invasions include tussock grasslands and sub-alpine shrublands found on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill and in the mountains beyond.

The Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) was established to control wilding conifers in the Whakatipu Basin, protecting existing native biodiversity values and landscapes. The WCG support the removal of this significant wilding seed source on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

What are the impacts of the draft forestry plan for the Reserve and the Community?

The implementation of the draft forestry plan impacts the community and surrounding landscape, as outlined below:

Recreational Experience: The removal of wilding conifers will alter the experience of the Timewalk trail, which is valued by locals and visitors. The transition to a more open landscape will change the feel of the trails, especially during the first 5-10 years while vegetation is re-established. This is a common occurrence for trail networks within plantation forests. The long-term benefit will be an enduring trail in a permanent mixed species diverse forest.

Mountain Biking: While informal unauthorised mountain biking trails are present within the Reserve, they will be removed during the tree harvesting process. These trails, some of which cross public and private land, are not currently part of an official trail network. Council will work with the key stakeholders to develop a post-harvest trail masterplan for the reserve.

Visual Landscape Changes: The dense tree cover, familiar to the community, will be significantly altered. Some people may not support this change in landscape, particularly as we transition to the long-term goal of establishing a more ecologically resilient and diverse environment.

Impact on Neighboring Properties: Tree removal will have mixed effects on neighboring properties. While some landowners support the removal due to shading and invasive spread, others may be concerned about the increased visibility of their property or changes to privacy. Replanting with appropriate species aims to address these concerns. There will be effects from the harvesting activity on some properties such as noise and increased tree removal related vehicle movements.

Natural hazards: There are concerns about rockfall, stormwater, and slash movement during harvesting and while new vegetation establishes. Specific measures will be implemented during the operation will manage these risks, including erosion control and ongoing monitoring to ensure public safety.

Fire Hazard: The removal of wilding conifers will significantly reduce the fire hazard in the area. The proposed replanting with low-flammability vegetation will further decrease fire risks.

Biodiversity: The plan will enhance biodiversity within the Reserve. By replacing wilding conifers with native and carefully selected non-invasive species, the Reserve will see improved flora and fauna diversity, contributing to the overall ecological health of the area.

What does the draft forestry plan address?

The draft forestry plan details the proposed harvest methodology, wilding clearance, and restoration activities for the Reserve.

It is based on findings from vegetation surveys and forest measurement data, and provides an assessment of the current tree cover and site conditions,

The removal of the established Douglas fir forest will alter the landscape and may significantly impact the experience of current recreational activities at the site. The draft forestry plan, alongside the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan, plays a crucial role in communicating the future intentions of the Reserve and informs the community about how tree management will occur and what revegetation will look like.

This statement of proposal is prepared under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and contains:

- the reasons and options for the proposal
- a copy of the draft policy
- how you can have your say
- timetable for consultation.

The reasons for the proposal

The reasons for this proposal are:

- The QLDC Proposed District Plan Designation #374 authorises Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) to carry out forestry operations in the area known as Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Recreational Reserve. The designation specifies that Forestry Plan updates shall be subject to consultation with the community using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 before adoption by the Council.

- to seek community views on the draft plan.

- to encourage people to give feedback on the draft plan

- to let people know how they can give feedback.

The 29 May 2025 Council report contains more detailed information on these points: https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-meetings/29-may-2025-full-council-meeting

The Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025 and summary document can be found here: https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

Options

Council considers that the draft plan communicates the future intentions of the Reserve and informs the community about how tree management will occur and what revegetation will look like. However, the following options show how Council could proceed after it has undertaken the consultation process, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Option 1 – Adopt the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025.

Option 2 – Adopt an amended version of the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025.

Option 3 – Do not adopt the draft plan

Option 1 – Adopt the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025.

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Ensures there is a clear plan for the vegetation management on the Reserve. • Ensures that the community are informed and have been consulted on how tree management will occur and what revegetation will look like. • Meets objectives in the Otago Regional, Pest Management Plan. The wilding pine threat will be mitigated by removing the maturing seed source. • Meets policies and objectives in the Draft Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan. • Updating the management plan complies with the QLDC district plan designation #374 conditions.	• The plan may not be supported by all community members.

Option 2 – Adopt an amended version of the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025.

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Will effectively address or respond to issues not identified in the current version. • Ensures that the community are informed and have been consulted on how tree management will occur and what revegetation will look like. • Meets objectives in the Otago Regional, Pest Management Plan. The wilding pine threat will be mitigated by removing the maturing seed source. • Meets policies and objectives in the Draft Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan. • Updating the management plan complies with the QLDC district plan designation #374 conditions.	• The plan may not be supported by all community members.

Option 3 – Do not adopt the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan 2025

Advantages	Disadvantages
• No Council time or resource is required.	• The 2006 Forestry Plan is now outdated and no longer fit for purpose. There will be no clear direction on how the vegetation across the Reserve is managed. • Does not comply with QLDC District plan designation #374 conditions. • Will not meet the policies and objectives in the Draft Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben

	Lomond & Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan. • Council will not meet the objectives in the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan.

How you can have your say

Anyone can make a submission online at https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz. Submissions will be accepted from 9.00am on 5 June 2025 and must be received by 11.59pm on 6 July 2025.

All submissions should state:

- the submitter's name[1]
- the submitter's contact details
- whether or not the submitter would like to speak to Council about this matter.

Copies of this statement of proposal and draft policy may be obtained at no cost from either of the Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown, 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka, any Council library within the Queenstown Lakes District or the Council website at https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz. If you need help submitting, please contact Council at 03 441 0499, or call in to one of Council's offices. All written submissions made to Council will be acknowledged and made available to the public.

Council intends to hold a hearing around the 21 July 2025. This is when anyone who has made a submission and who has said they would like to speak to Council, can do so. This meeting will be open to the public. If you indicate you would like to be heard, Council staff will get in touch with you to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing either in person or via audio-visual link. If at the hearing you have any requirements, please let us know.

Timetable for consultation

The dates below outline the timetable for the consultation process. Any changes to these dates will be publicly advised on Council's Facebook page and website.

Date	Activity
29 May 2025	Council adopted the proposal for consultation

[1] Note: if you do not feel comfortable providing your name or contact details in a submission, please contact Council, who can facilitate an anonymous submission.

5 June 2025	Consultation period begins (9.00am)
6 July 2025	Consultation period ends (11.59pm)
21 July 2025	Oral submissions heard by Council (date to be confirmed after submission period ends) and deliberations.
4 September 2025	Adoption by Council

Information about the proposal

SUMMARY DOCUMENT –

Draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan

Key Objective:

QLDC will fell and eradicate all wilding tree species on Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve (the Reserve) and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland. The Reserve will not be replanted as a production forest, with the new cover forming a permanent mixed species forest.

The draft forestry plan has been developed to achieve the Key Objective through the following objectives, identified through current policies, regulations, and the aspirations of the local community:

- Control existing wilding conifers and eradicate successive wilding generation.
- Protect, restore and enhance existing biodiversity values.
- Protect and enhance the water quality in all water catchments within the reserves.
- Protect landscape and ecological values by implementing staged management zones.
- Revegetate harvested areas within two to four years following the completion of harvesting operations in each management zone.
- Ensure that QLDC meets its obligations under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme.
- Manage the risk of erosion and land instability.
- Manage the discharge of contaminants such as silt, sediment and debris to surface water bodies.

The QLDC Proposed District Plan Designation 374 (the designation) allows QLDC to carry out forestry operations in the area known as Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Recreational Reserve. The designation states that the Queenstown Hill Forestry plan must be updated before any operation can take place, and states that all updates of the Forestry Plan shall be subject to consultation with the community using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 before adoption by the Council.

Site description - Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve:

The Reserve is 109 hectares and is located on the southeast and southwest side of Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

Figure 1: Extent of site - Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve

The draft forestry plan contains details on:

- Forestry access
- Public Utility Infrastructure
- Recreation
- Topography
- Hydrology
- Landscape
- Existing vegetation and proposed future vegetation cover

Proposed Future Vegetation Cover (replanting)

The future vegetation cover proposed across the site (Figure 2-4) has been informed by:

- landform (location of gullies, bluffs and spurs),
- existing pockets of native vegetation that may be retained,
- feasibility of establishing different vegetation types in each area,
- site constraints including risk of invasive species from neighbouring areas,
- current policy
- community drivers

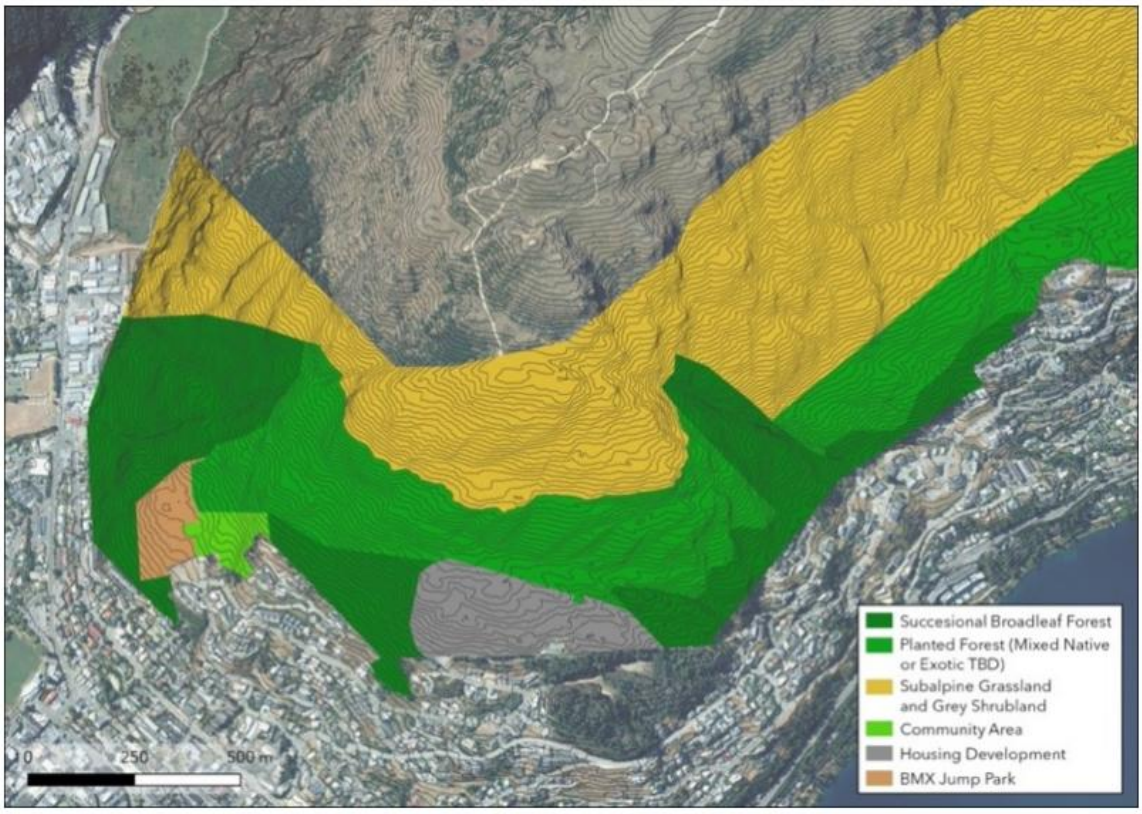

Figure 2: Proposed vegetation cover across the site

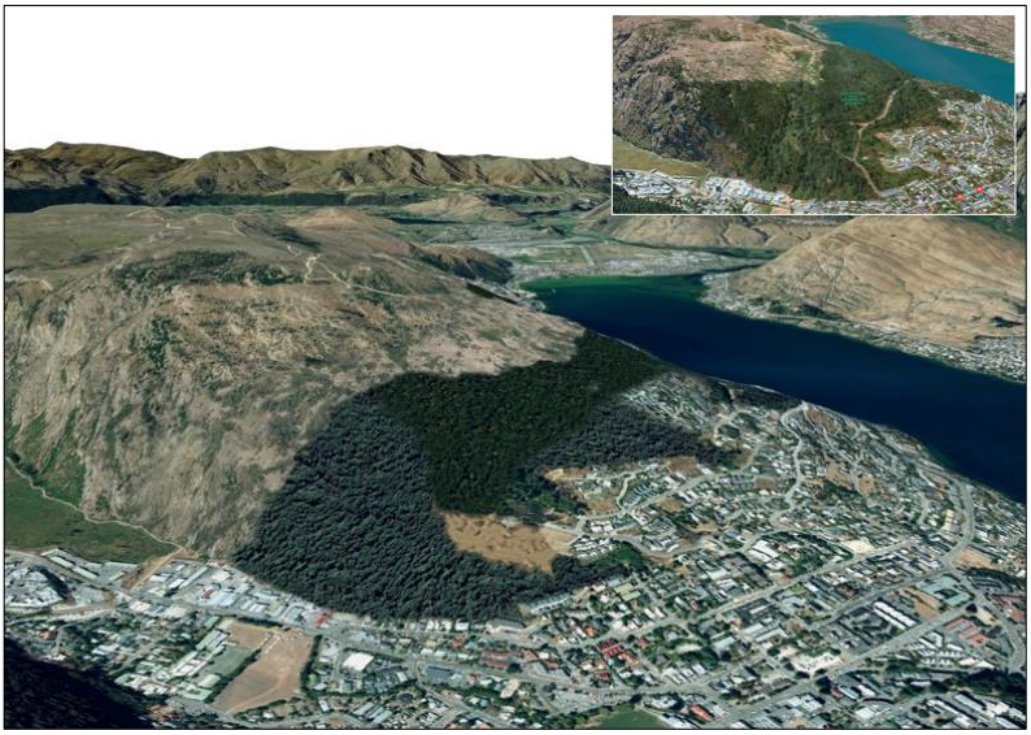

Figure 3: Proposed vision - 3D interpretation viewed from the west, and comparison with current vegetation cover (inset)

Figure 4: Proposed vision - 3D interpretation viewed from the southeast, and comparison with current vegetation cover (inset).

Forestry Site Assessment

A survey was conducted combining LiDAR data and ground-based forest surveying to estimate tree volumes and identify areas with the highest timber volumes.

Challenges such as slope, rock outcrops, access, and the presence of power lines will impact the feasibility of logging. Harvesting may not generate an economic return due to the site constraints.

Management Zones

The Reserve has been divided into six Management Zones based on the vegetation present, harvesting methodology and site restoration (see Figure 5).

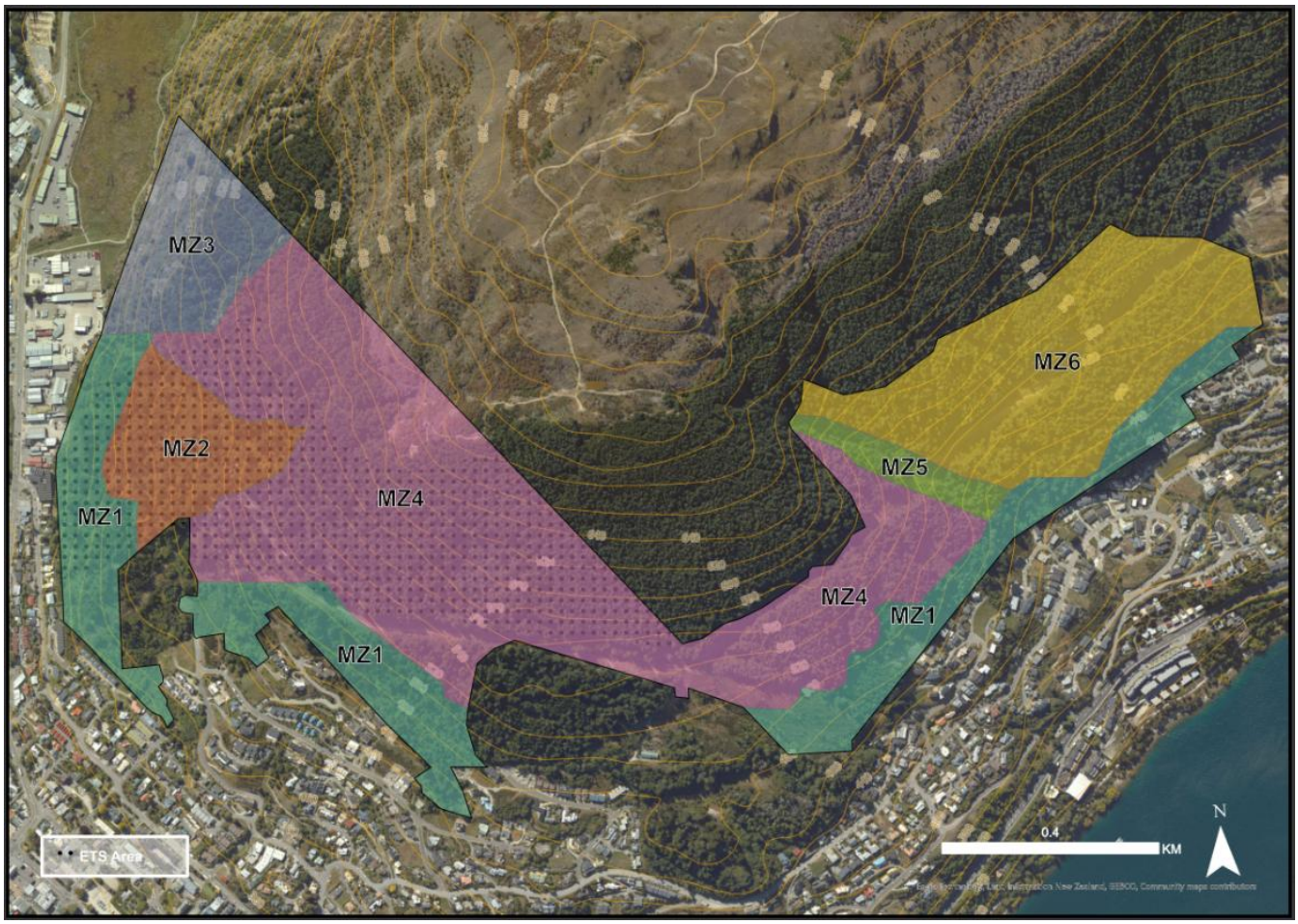

Figure 5: Proposed management zones

- **Management Zone 1 (MZ1)**

Key Action: Remove all wilding conifers using a ground based felling, while leaving non-invasive weeds as a temporary buffer between urban areas and the reserve.

Forest Yield: No commercial timber due to poor tree quality.

Revegetation: Replant with fast-growing, low-flammable native trees to quickly stabilize the area and reduce fire risk.

- **Management Zone 2 (MZ2)**

Key action: Selective removal of larger trees using herbicide or low-impact methods; young wildings felled to waste. These methods will minimise soil disturbance and protect existing native understory.

Forest yield: No commercial return expected.

Revegetation: Supplement native regeneration through targeted underplanting.

- **Management Zone 3 (MZ3)**

Key Action: The trees will be targeted using herbicide or fell to waste or low impact harvest extraction methods, the technique used will be dependent on the size of each tree being treated.

Forest yield: No commercial yield due to inaccessibility.

Revegetation: Over-sow with grasses and/or early native successional forest species where practicable and encourage natural succession.

- **Management Zone 4 (MZ4)**

Key Action: Clear fell the wilding tree species using ground based or hauler harvesting methods.

Forest yield: This zone contains merchantable timber, and a relatively high yield is expected.

Revegetation: A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be undertaken.

- **Management Zone 5 (MZ5)**

Key Action: To reduce disturbance to the native understory and lower the risk of soil erosion in this zone, mature larger trees targeted by herbicide, (drill and fill) or will be felled to waste.

Forest yield: No yield is expected

Revegetation: Underplanting with native species to support ecological restoration.

- **Management Zone 6 (MZ6)**

Key Action: Clear fell the wilding tree species using ground based or hauler harvesting methods.

Forest yield: Medium commercial timber yield expected.

Revegetation: A staged planting programme of native and exotic tree species will be undertaken.

Pest Animal Management

Effective restoration of the Reserve depends on intensive pest animal control, especially targeting feral goats, which pose a major threat to seedlings. While fencing is impractical for the entire area, smaller zones may be enclosed. A combination of methods, including professional shooting, is recommended, with coordination across neighbouring properties. Monitoring and adaptive strategies will be needed to address reinvasion and other herbivores like deer, pigs, and rabbits.

Fire Hazard Mitigation

The current wilding conifer-dominated forest poses a significant fire risk, particularly if wood volumes are left unchecked. A formal flammability assessment of the current vegetation cover compared to the proposed vegetation cover has not been undertaken as part of this report. However, it is noted that the proposed vegetation cover is likely to pose a lower fire risk for the following reasons (especially if the strategy is extended onto Queenstown Hill Station):

- Removal of uncontrolled flammable wilding conifer forest;
- Improvement of the soil water balance resulting from wilding conifer removal;
- Rapid removal of dense ground cover of pine needles in harvested areas;
- Large areas of forest replaced by sub-alpine grassland, which is also flammable but doesn't burn for as long;
- Replacement of uncontrolled weedy areas with native species-dominated vegetation, which is not deciduous and can, therefore, provide better-regulated sub storey conditions year-round; and
- Replacement of highly flammable conifers with a range of native species including broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis) which has lower fire susceptibility.
- Better access to, and utilisation of certain parts of the site, which allows for easier maintenance of material that may pose a fire risk and improved access for emergency services in the event of a fire.

Next steps:

The draft forestry plan gives the community an opportunity to provide input on the future of the vegetation in the Reserve.

An Outline Plan (as required by the designation) will be prepared and submitted to the QLDC regulatory authority for approval.

The Outline Plan will contain the operational detail including:

- A Harvest Plan which includes exact methodology, forestry roads and tracking within the site.
- An Environmental Management Plan – which includes:
    - detail on sediment control within the site during and after the operation is complete,
    - protection of water quality through the creation of buffers between harvesting activities and surface water bodies.

- A high level plan for redesign and establishment of recreational activities within the site, which. The draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan contains polices which support working with key stakeholders to develop and implement a Trail Masterplan.
- Detailed pest control plan

There are opportunities within the draft forestry plan to carry out staging of the harvest, removing the trees over a shorter or longer period. An option is coupe felling whereby smaller areas of trees are removed. There are advantages and disadvantages to delaying the program and the draft forestry plan allows this flexibility.

Attachment D: Schedule of Submitters

Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Forestry Management Plan
Hearing of Submissions & Deliberations Scheduled for Monday 21 July 2025 commencing at 10am

Provisional Schedule of Speakers and agenda

Time	Name	Organisation	Speaking preference
10.05am	Catkin Barlett (TBC)	Individual	In person
10.15am	Dennis Behan (may cancel)	Individual	Zoom
10.25am	Annabelle O'Meara	Coordinator, Queenstown 2000 Time Walk Project	Zoom
10.35am	Richard Bowman	Individual	In person
10.45am	Weiwei Miao	Goldenlake Shore Limited	In person
10.55am	Grant Hensman	Individual	In person
11.05am	Grant Hensman	Chair, Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG)	In person
11.15am	Helen McPhail	Individual	In person

11.25am	Morning Tea
12.00pm	Hearing Deliberations

The schedule is subject to change