

QLDC Council
3 February 2022

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take : 4

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Queenstown Lakes District Council Submissions

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the submissions made to various government agencies on open consultations relevant to the Queenstown Lakes District Council and the Queenstown Lakes District.
- 2 This report seeks Council's retrospective approval of the submissions' content.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill submission (Link A).
3. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Emissions Reduction Plan submission (Link B).
4. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill submission (Link C).
5. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the New Zealand Waste Strategy submission (Link D).
6. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters submission (Link E).
7. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Immigration Inquiry submission (Link F).

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20/01/2022

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CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 QLDC has responded to several government plans, policies, Bills, and inquiries from mid-November until late December 2021 through Council submissions.
- 4 These consultations were:
 - The Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill – 16 November 2021 (Link A).
 - The Emissions Reduction Plan – 26 November 2021 (Link B).
 - The Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill – 9 December 2021 (Link C).
 - The New Zealand Waste Strategy – 10 December 2021 (Link D).
 - Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters – 20 December 2021 (Link E).
 - The Immigration Inquiry – 24 December 2021 (Link F).
- 5 Summaries of the consultations and Council submissions are outlined below and attached in full.
- 6 Councillors have had opportunity to view and comment on the attached submissions in draft form prior to them be lodged. Feedback was incorporated into all submissions where it was given.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

- 7 The Ministry for the Environment consulted on its Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill for New Zealand recently, with submissions closing on 16 November 2021.
- 8 The Government has introduced a Bill that proposes amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 to bring forward and strengthen the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020. This Bill seeks to rapidly accelerate the supply of housing in urban areas where demand for housing is high.
- 9 The Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill defines some new processes (for example, Medium Density Residential Standards and Integrated Strategic Planning Processes) to enable swift densification of housing among Tier 1 territorial authorities. The Queenstown Lakes District is a Tier 2 Council that could be included in the new processes if defined as having an acute housing need.

QLDC Response

- 10 The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) was supportive of the intention of the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (the Bill) to increase the supply of housing.
- 11 QLDC recently entered into a formal partnership with government to develop an holistic Spatial Plan for the district. This has involved the development of a detailed plan to grow well (Whaiora) through to 2050. A key commitment within the partnership is to develop a Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- 12 QLDC considered the Bill inconsistent with a transition toward whole of system spatial planning and causes significant complexities for councils that are mid-way through District Plan review processes.
- 13 The submission included a number of key concerns with the Bill, including challenges in housing affordability, disincentivising intensification by precluding minimum lot sizes and encouraging ad hoc approaches and a lack of requirement for critical infrastructure. These factors could have negative impacts on transport mode shift and infrastructure planning. The submission also covered technical issues relating to QLDC specifically.
- 14 The submission outlined a key recommendation that the use of regulations to include Tier 2 Councils should be removed from the Bill.
- 15 The Bill received royal assent on 20 December 2021. Some changes included removing the need to have two processes through the District Plan notification and an intensification planning instrument. Other areas such as the judgement of the Minister as to whether a Tier 2 Council will be included with an acute housing need has not been addressed.

Emissions Reduction Plan

- 16 The Ministry for the Environment consulted on its first draft of the Emissions Reduction Plan for New Zealand recently, with submissions closing on 26 November 2021.
- 17 The Emissions Reduction Plan aims to:
 - Outline the issues and impacts of climate change in New Zealand and explain how New Zealand needs to adapt and lower emissions to meet the net-zero target.
 - Address how an equitable transition might be achieved, working with Tiriti partners.
 - Understand the current tools and systems in New Zealand and how these can be utilised or changed to support emissions reduction and identify how key sectors in New Zealand can change to meet emissions targets.

QLDC Response

- 18 The QLDC submission outlined support for the plan but had some key concerns, including for example, that the Plan did not respond to the recommendations in the Climate Change Commission's Report, *Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa* and lacks detail.
- 19 QLDC has a current Climate Action Plan and is in the process of reviewing this for the next three-year period.
- 20 Points in the submission specific to the Queenstown-Lakes District include;
- Effective spatial planning, intensification and improved urban form will be essential for emissions reduction in the district.
 - Significant energy network challenges will need to be overcome to decarbonise extensively.
 - The role of the visitor economy and tourism policy in reducing emissions needs to be represented in the document.
- 21 The Emissions Reduction Plan is the first draft of the final plan due to be released in May 2022 in line with the 2022 Budget.

Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

- 22 The New Zealand Parliament Select Committee consulted on its Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill recently, with submissions closing on 9 December 2021.
- 23 This bill provides for a new structure and new accountability arrangements for the publicly funded health system, in order to protect, promote, and improve the health of all New Zealanders.

QLDC Response

- 24 The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is supportive of the development of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill to redesign the current public health system of District Health Boards. In the development of this Bill, QLDC has several points of clarification and recommendations to ensure the reform meets the needs of local communities.
- 25 This submission outlines key points and recommendations including:
- Community consultation, engagement, and participation should be further developed and defined for clarity and certainty that all voices of Aotearoa are considered.
 - Localities and locality plans should be developed for the current needs and communities in partnership with local communities in order to best understand their needs rather than defaulting to the boundaries of the current district health boards.

- A stronger focus from health services should be placed on mental health and wellbeing in the Queenstown Lakes District.
- Broader impacts on health in communities such as climate change and poverty needs to be further developed to ensure resilience, innovation, and equitability.

26 The Bill is currently with the Pae Ora Legislation Committee with Submissions having closed before it goes to a Second Reading in Parliament.

New Zealand Waste Strategy

27 The Ministry for the Environment consulted on its New Zealand Waste Strategy recently, with submissions closing on 10 December 2021. The strategy outlines the required legislation to better regulate product and material management within the New Zealand economy.

28 The QLDC submission focussed on zero waste and wellbeing with a number of technical points.

QLDC Response

29 QLDC supports the need for a Waste Strategy grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi that supports an accelerated shift to a circular economy. A Strategy that influences widespread, systems focused change is much needed to safeguard the living systems that the planet and people depend on. Immediate focus is needed to implement long-term waste prevention solutions that design out waste and establish zero waste as a precursor to achieving circularity.

Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters

30 The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment consulted on Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters recently, with submissions closing on 20 December 2021.

31 The Government is considering regulatory safeguards to ensure that consumers and communities receive efficient and affordable three waters services that meet their needs both now and into the future. Key areas for consideration include:

- Economic regulation to regulate problems that can occur when businesses have a lot of market power. This could involve requiring information disclosure and price and quality requirements.
- Consumer protection to incorporate the role of consumers and community voice in three waters regulatory design, to ensure it is responsive and accountable. This could involve requiring minimum service levels, protections for vulnerable consumers, or a consumer disputes resolution scheme.

QLDC Response

- 32 QLDC supports the need for safe drinking water, environmental protection, efficient service provisions and improved Māori participation in decision-making about three waters.
- 33 QLDC has previously raised significant concerns about the nature and programme of reform, strongly and actively opposing the mandating of the proposed entity-based model for water-services delivery. QLDC continues to stand by this position.
- 34 This submission outlines key points and recommendations including:
- Te Tiriti and te ao Māori are fundamental to three waters services
 - Three waters requires a unique regulatory regime that encourages resilience.
 - Inclusion of private providers in economic regulation requires a nuanced approach and careful consideration.
 - Consumer protections are necessary.
 - Considering regional context is necessary.
- 35 The Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters is currently under consideration with the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

Immigration Inquiry

- 36 The Productivity Commission consulted on its Immigration Inquiry recently, with submissions closing on 24 December 2021.
- 37 The Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into what immigration policy settings would best facilitate New Zealand's long-term economic growth and promote the wellbeing of New Zealanders.
- 38 Preliminary recommendations on immigration settings were released for consultation by the Productivity Commission.

QLDC Response

- 39 The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) supports work by the Productivity Commission in its inquiry into immigration. QLDC has several points of emphasis and recommendation to ensure immigration reflects the needs of both Aotearoa New Zealand and its local communities. The submission emphasises that effective, tailored Migration Policy is essential to retaining Queenstown Lakes District's role in the national tourism economy and changes to immigration policy settings can help to improve tourism productivity and address future skills needs.

RESOLUTION OPTIONS |

- 40 The options for each submission are the same.
- 41 Option 1: to retrospectively agree the contents of the relevant attached submissions as outlined in the recommendations.
- Advantages:*
- 42 The submission will remain in the relevant agencies' processes and QLDC will have participated effectively.
- Disadvantages:*
- 43 There are no clear disadvantages to this option.
- 44 Option 2: to request the withdrawal of the relevant attached submissions from the agencies' process.
- Advantages:*
- 45 The submission will be withdrawn from the agencies' process and any inaccurate representations of QLDC's position will not be considered.
- Disadvantages:*
- 46 No aspect of QLDC's position will be represented in the process.
- 47 This report recommends **Option 1** for each submission (if representative of the Council's position) to ensure that QLDC participates effectively in the relevant consultation processes.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 48 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This advice deals with a matter of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups, and sectors in the community.
- 49 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents and ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District communities.

> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

- 50 The submission on the Emissions Reduction Plan was shared with the Climate Reference Group (which includes Kai Tahu representatives) and feedback from the group members was incorporated.

51 A draft of the submission on the Immigration Inquiry was shared with members of the Business Response group.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

52 This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation. It is associated with RISK00038 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low inherent risk rating.

53 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by monitoring future changes in legislation based on the advice to government, in particular addressing those issues that directly affect QLDC and the Queenstown Lakes District community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

54 There are no financial implications.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

55 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The outcomes and principles of the Vision Beyond 2050
- The QLDC Spatial Plan
- The QLDC District Plan
- The QLDC Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2018
- The QLDC Climate Action Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

56 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.

57 The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Infrastructure Strategy;
- 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.

LINKS |

A	<u>QLDC Submission to the Ministry for the Environment's Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill</u>
B	<u>QLDC Submission to the Ministry for the Environment's Emissions Reduction Plan</u>
C	<u>QLDC Submission to the Select Committee on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill</u>
D	<u>QLDC Submission to the Ministry for the Environment's New Zealand Waste Strategy</u>
E	<u>QLDC Submission to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection for Three Waters</u>
F	<u>QLDC Submission to the Productivity Commission's Immigration Inquiry</u>