

**QLDC Council**  
**12 March 2020****Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take :7****Department: Corporate Services****Title | Taitara Submission on report – Transforming the resource management system****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO**

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The purpose of this report is to present the initial submission on the issues and options paper “Transforming the resource management system: opportunities for change”, and seek the Council’s feedback and retrospective approval of its content. This submission was made to the Ministry for the Environment on 5 February 2020 and there will be further opportunities to provide input as the process continues.

**RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

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That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the submission.

Prepared by:

Name: Marie Day  
Title: Acting Policy and  
Performance Manager

27/02/2020

Reviewed and Authorised by:

Name: Tony Avery  
Title: General Manager  
Planning and Development

27/02/2020

## CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

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- 1 The Government has established a Resource Management Review Panel ('the Panel') to undertake a comprehensive review of the Resource Management Act and other significant legislation comprising the resource management system. The review aims "to improve environmental outcomes and enable better and timely urban and other development within environmental limits".
- 2 In November 2019, the Panel released an issues and options paper for consultation – "Transforming the resource management system: opportunities for change". This paper identifies the main issues to be addressed in the reform process and offers possible ways in which they might be addressed. Final submissions on this paper were due to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) by 5 February 2020.
- 3 This paper identifies a number of possible options for reform. These are indicative of the sorts of reform measures that are being considered, rather than the full range of possible options or fully developed proposals. Submissions on this paper will be considered by the Panel, and then a final report, including preferred options, will be made to the Ministry for the Environment at the end of May 2020. Further opportunities for detailed comment and feedback are anticipated.
- 4 Due to the timing of the submission response period over the 2019-2020 summer holiday season, there was insufficient time to seek Councillor feedback prior to the submission due date. This submission was approved and submitted by the Chief Executive.
- 5 The review panel invited the Chief Executive to meet with them to discuss the opportunities available to promote an integrated planning model through new legislation. The interview focused on the Council's and the CE's experience with long term spatial planning. The review panel had read the attached submission prior to this meeting.

## ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

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- 6 Officers prepared the submission to ensure that Queenstown Lakes District's unique circumstances and environment as a high growth area are properly considered in the development of a new resource management system.
- 7 The key points made in the submission are:
  - **Reducing complexity:** QLDC agrees that the current system is excessively complex, which creates uncertainty for users. The plan development and consents system both require simplification to increase clarity, ease of understanding and accessibility for the community.
  - **Outcomes-based approach:** QLDC fully supports the focus on an outcomes-based system rather than an effects-based approach as this will provide clarity and certainty for all parties.

- **System resilience:** QLDC strongly believes the system should have a suitable degree of flexibility, specifically at a local level to build resilience across a wide range of rapidly evolving factors.
- **Policy implications and strategic alignment:** QLDC strongly agrees that the system should be strategically aligned and integrated with other key policies and legislation, to ensure the pursuit of common outcomes across related work programmes.
- **Purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991:** QLDC agrees it is necessary to review *Part 2: Purpose and principles* of the RMA 1991 also to focus more on outcomes and less on effects. Wellbeing should be amplified throughout this process.
- **Plan review and consenting process:** QLDC strongly believes the repetitive multi-phased process for plan reviews and consent decisions needs to be changed. QLDC experiences extreme disadvantages within this multi-phased decision process.
- **Monitoring and enforcement activity:** QLDC agrees that a more rigorous approach to monitoring and enforcement is required and welcomes a detailed review.
- **Spatial plan integration:** QLDC supports the requirement for proactive strategic planning and supports the introduction of spatial planning that holds legislative weight. A clear relationship and greater alignment between spatial plans and structure plans within district plans, and within a district will follow.
- Further central government support is required for both local and regional councils in the implementation of a new, consistent and effective resource management system.

8 Option 1: to agree the contents of the attached submission retrospectively.

*Advantages*

- 9 The submission will remain in the MfE review process and QLDC will have partaken in the submissions process.

*Disadvantages*

- 10 There are no clear disadvantages to this option.

11 Option 2: to request the withdrawal of the attached submission from the MfE process.

*Advantages*

- 12 The submission will be withdrawn from the MfE process and any inaccurate representations of QLDC's position will not be considered.

*Disadvantages*

- 13 QLDC will need to seek other opportunities to participate in the process, as it will not have submitted on this occasion.

- 14 This report recommends Option 1 if the submission is broadly reflective of the Council’s position. If there are additional points to be made, it is recommended that these points are collated and imparted at the soonest opportunity to MfE under separate correspondence.
- 15 Option 2 is only recommended in the event that the direction taken by the submission is incorrect and fails to capture the position of the Council.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:**

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**> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA**

- 16 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy because potential changes to the resource management system are not within the direct control of QLDC. However, this issues and options paper deals with a matter of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community.
- 17 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District community, land owners, developers, infrastructure providers and persons involved in planning matters.

**> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA**

- 18 Iwi has not been consulted during the drafting of the attached submission.

**RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA**

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- 19 This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation risk category. It is associated with RISK00038 within the QLDC Risk Register: Lack of Alignment - Strategies and policies. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating.
- 20 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 seeking changes to the resource management system, in particular addressing those issues that directly affect QLDC and the Queenstown Lakes District community.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA**

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- 21 There are no financial implications.

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

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- 22 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
  - The outcomes and principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, in particular - Thriving people and Opportunities for all.
  - Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Proposed District Plan

- 2018-2028 Ten Year Plan
- 2019-2020 Annual Plan
- Master Plans
- Asset Management Plan
- 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

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

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23 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by contributing to the development of a more effective resource management system.
- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly 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 | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA**

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A	SUBMISSION: Transforming the resource management system: Opportunities for change – issues and options paper
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