

**Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board**

22 June 2023

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

**Department: Community Services**

**Title | Taitara :** Notice of Intent to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve in Wānaka

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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The purpose of this report is to recommend that a Notice of Intent is published advising that a Reserve Management Plan for the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve is to be prepared in accordance with s41(5) of the Reserves Act 1977.

**Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka**

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That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report and;
2. **Recommend to Council** to exercise the Minister's consent (under delegation from the Minister of Conservation), that a Notice of Intent is published advising that a Reserve Management Plan for the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve is to be prepared, in accordance with s41(5) of the Reserves Act 1977.

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Briana Pringle  
**Title:** Parks and Open Spaces Project  
Manager  
**30 May 2023**

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Kenneth Bailey  
**Title:** Community Services General Manager  
**1 June 2023**

### Context | Horopaki

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1. Mount Iron is an iconic local landmark in the Upper Clutha. Approximately 2km from the town centre, it offers panoramic views of Wānaka and surrounds from the summit, and it has high recreation, natural and scenic values. It has one of the most popular walking tracks in the Upper Clutha with over 150,000 visitors heading up the Mount Iron slopes each year.
2. In December 2021, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) reached an agreement to acquire land from Allenby Farms Limited on part of Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron in Wānaka. The acquisition was finalised in May 2023 and the land is now classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.
3. The Mount Iron Recreation Reserve comprises two parcels totalling 94.028 hectares in area and is identified on the plans in ATTACHMENT A.
4. The Department of Conservation (DOC) administers 52.8 hectares of Scenic Reserve on Mount Iron immediately adjacent to the recently purchased QLDC land. QLDC is working with DOC to become the administering body of the Scenic and Recreation Reserve parcels. This process has begun and it is estimated will take 2-3 years to complete. QLDC and DOC are seeking to enter into a *management agreement* arrangement for the site during the transfer.

### Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

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5. The Mount Iron Reserve is within walking distance from the Wānaka Town Centre and is readily accessible from neighbouring suburbs. It is a great asset for both the residents and visitors of Wānaka, both of which are expected to increase significantly over the next 30 years.
6. Section 41 of the Reserves Act requires that all Recreation Reserves have a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) prepared.
7. A RMP sets out how Council intends to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of a reserve. It details all the rules and regulations to act as a guide for Council officers in making both day-to-day decisions, as well as long-term decisions about how reserves and open spaces under its control are to be used, managed or developed. The community's wishes on how the reserve is to be managed are provided through extensive consultation.
8. The Reserves Act process for developing RMPs requires that the Council first declares its intention to prepare a management plan, and this must be notified and suggestions called for to inform the development of the draft plan. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board has delegation to recommend to full Council as the administering body to exercise the Minister's delegation.
9. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.

10. Option 1 Notify the intent to prepare a RMP for Mount Iron.

*Advantages:*

- The drafting of a Mount Iron RMP will ensure that a clear and consistent plan is developed for managing this high-profile reserve and its future development.
- The public will be made aware of the Council's intent to prepare a review of the RMP and will have the opportunity to have input into the draft.
- Council will be acting in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.
- The draft RMP, when it is notified, will seek to be representative of the public's views.

*Disadvantages:*

- No clear and consistent plan will be developed for managing the Mount Iron Reserve and its future development.
- There will be no public input into a draft RMP.
- The Council would be acting contrary to the Reserve Act 1977.

11. Option 2 Do not notify the intent to prepare a RMP for Mount Iron.

*Advantages:*

- No Council time or resources required.

*Disadvantages:*

- Council will not be acting in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.
- Council will not meet the community's expectation that a review of the current RMP will be undertaken.

29. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter to ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the Mount Iron Reserve for the community, visitors and future generations.

[Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki](#)

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**Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka**

12. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it involves a high level of community interest and engagement alongside the Upper Clutha community to evolve the Mount Iron future management.

13. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter the districts residents/ratepayers of the Wānaka and Upper Clutha community, visitors to Wānaka and particularly users of the reserve, which include persons undertaking informal recreation.
14. The Council has undertaken high level consultation with Iwi as Treaty Partners, DOC and community groups associated and who have an interest in the reserve.
15. Further consultation will be undertaken once the Notice of Intent (NOI) has been approved by Council. This will involve engagement with wider stakeholders and interested parties.

#### **Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka**

16. Council Officers have informed Aukaha and Te Ao Marama of the purchase of the of Mount Iron and will continue to work alongside Aukaha and Te Ao Marama when drafting the RMP.

#### **Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka**

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17. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 ineffective management of community assets within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high inherent risk rating.
18. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing the risk to be avoided. This shall be achieved by acquiring a rich and diverse open space for the community which is an objective in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021.

#### **Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea**

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19. Preparing the RMP is planned for within existing operational budgets.
20. There is currently \$300,000 in the 2023/24 QLDC Long Term Plan to complete signage and support the implementation of the RMP.

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

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21. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
  - The Reserves Act 1977
  - Significance and Engagement Policy, 2021
  - Parks and Open Space Strategy 2021
  - Proposed and Operative District Plan
22. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the Reserves Act 1977, which require RMPs to be in place for recreation reserves.
23. Funding for the development of RMPs is included in the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan.

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

24. 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. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

25. The recommended option:

- 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 | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Mount Iron Reserve Map
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