

## 12. Item 2: Lismore Park tree removal

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MO TE PURONGO

The purpose of this report is to consider a request to remove 21 trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Lismore Park, Wānaka

### RECOMMENDATION | NGA TUTOHUNGA

That Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board :

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Note** that this request has been considered in accordance with the QLDC Tree Policy 2022, including replacing any removed tree with at least two new trees; and
3. **Recommend** that Council approve the request from Bike Wānaka to remove approximately 21 QLDC owned trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Lismore Park, Wānaka

Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Authorized by:
		
Tim Errington QLDC Parks Arborist 11/11/2022	Briana Pringle Parks and Open Spaces Planning Manager 14/11/2022	Ken Bailey GM Community Services 14/11/2022

### CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

1. Council has received a request from Bike Wānaka to remove approximately 21 QLDC owned trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Lismore Park, Wānaka
2. This application has been processed in accordance with the recently adopted QLDC Tree Policy 2022 (Tree Policy). The application has been assessed against the policy and subsequently is supported by the Councils Arboricultural Officer and Acting-Parks Manager.
3. This application does not include Protected Trees under QLDC's District Plan, trees listed for potential protection in the Proposed District Plan, or Notable Trees from the NZ Tree Register.

### ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATARITANGA ME NGA TOHUTOHU

4. Council has recently updated the QLDC Tree Policy, and it was adopted at the August 2022 Full Council meeting.

5. The following relevant tree removal policy guidelines were considered when assessing the application:

*4.1. Trees in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound, as determined by a Council or technician arborist, may be removed as part of routine*

*maintenance and renewal programmes, or sooner, if urgent action is required for public safety or to avoid damage to property.*

*4.4 Trees that are posing an unacceptable safety risk to the public and cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions will be removed as per the tree replacement Policy 1.13.*

*4.10 Healthy and structurally sound trees may be removed to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases. This includes the removal of pest trees where they are deemed a threat to indigenous flora and fauna*

*and non-pest species.*

*4.11 Wilding noxious or pest trees may be strategically removed where they are determined to be a threat as a pest species or cause a nuisance in a particular location, to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases.*

*This includes the removal or poisoning of pest trees. Requirements for replacement planting will be determined by any amenity values the trees provided.*

*4.13 QLDC will not remove trees for the following reasons:*

- *To minimise obstruction of views*
- *To minimise obstruction of commercial or advertising signage*
- *To reduce leaf or fruit litter and other debris*
- *To reduce shading*
- *For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.17*
- *When the risk posed by the tree meets the requirements of the Tree Risk Management Procedure*

6. Bike Wānaka has received funding to rebuild and improve the existing bike park in Lismore Park. They plan to revamp the trails and jumps so that they are accessible and enjoyable for everyone, especially children and beginner bikers (ATTACHMENT A).

7. To achieve this vision and re-build a safe bike park a number of conifer trees have been identified for removal. The removal is required to rebuild the bike trails to NZ trail Standards, ensuring that they are safe and appropriate for all members of the community to enjoy.

8. This application is for the removal of 21 established Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziesii*) and Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) from the conifer plantation located in the South-Eastern portion of Lismore Park (ATTACHMENT B).

9. Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine trees are classified as noxious wilding conifers. The subject trees have been assessed by an independent consulting arborist and there are 9 further trees which have been identified as unacceptable in terms of risk as they are either dead or in severe decline (ATTACHMENT C). These 9 trees will be removed and are in addition to the 21 trees requested to be removed by Bike Wānaka. The removal of the 9 trees has been approved by Council's Arboricultural Officer under policy 4.4 (above).

10. A total of 30 trees will be removed, thinning out the existing stand of conifers (ATTACHEMENT D), the removal presents an opportunity to carry out succession planting within the stand and Lismore Park.

11. Replacement planting will be two for one in accordance with the 2022 QLDC Tree Policy and species selection and location will be completed under advice from the Council's arborist. This is in accordance with policy:

*1.13 A minimum of two new trees will be planted for every tree removed, with the projected canopy cover replacing what is lost within 20 years. This means more than two trees may be required.*

12. 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.

13. Option 1 Approve the tree removal application at Lismore Park, Wānaka

*Advantages:*

14. A number of Wilding Conifers will be removed at Lismore Park and replaced two for one with more appropriate tree species, predominantly natives, removing an invasive pest and improving biodiversity.

15. Council will be fulfilling its obligation with regard to ensuring public safety.

16. Reduction in seed source of wilding pest tree species.

17 Only a selection of trees in the stand within Lismore Park are to be removed, leaving the green belt for the community to enjoy.

18. The tree removal will not affect the wind loading of the other trees in the stand as assessed by the arborist.

*Disadvantages:*

19. A loss of carbon reduction in the interim although long term the carbon reduction will be doubled.

20. Temporary minor loss of visual amenity.

21. Option 2 Decline the tree removal application at Lismore Park, Wānaka

*Advantages:*

22. No immediate reduction in the carbon sink associated with established trees.

*Disadvantages:*

23. The trees would be an ongoing seed source of wilding pest tree species and the nine identified risk trees which are either dead or in severe decline would be programmed for removal.

24. Missed opportunity to improve local biodiversity by planting suitable replacement trees.

25. The biking community will not be able to use the funding secured to upgrade the asset to a safe standard.

26. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because wilding conifers will be removed, and the board will be acting in accordance with the Tree Policy 2022.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS | HATEPE MATAPAKI

27. 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 (trees).

28. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter the residents/ratepayers of the Wānaka community, visitors to Lismore Park and the bike park and residents of Plantation Road.

#### MAORI CONSULTATION | IWI RUNANGA

29. No specific consultation has been undertaken with Maori.

#### RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGA RARU TUPONO ME NGA WHAKAMAURUTANGA

30. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low inherent risk rating.

31. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing the risk to be retained at its current level.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGA RITENGA A-PUTEA

32. There will be no financial impact to the Annual or Long Term Plans. The removals, clean up and revegetation is to be funded by Bike Wānaka

#### COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGA WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGA TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

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

- 'Deafening Dawn Chorus' Vision Beyond 2050: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/vision-beyond-2050/>
- QLDC Tree Policy 2022
- QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan 2022
- Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019
- Parks and Open Space Strategy 2021
- Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019

34. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.

35. This matter is not included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan and there is no expenditure required.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KAWANATAKA A-KAIKA

36. 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;

37. 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 | NGA TAPIRIHANGA**

Number	Title of Attachment
A	Bike Wānaka Proposal
B	Aerial Map of tree removals
C	Arboricultural Survey and report
D	View of conifer trees in varying stages of decline (thinning foliage density)

- Attachment B - Aerial Map of tree removals





**Attachment B:** View of Conifers in Lismore Park

# LISMORE BIKE PARK

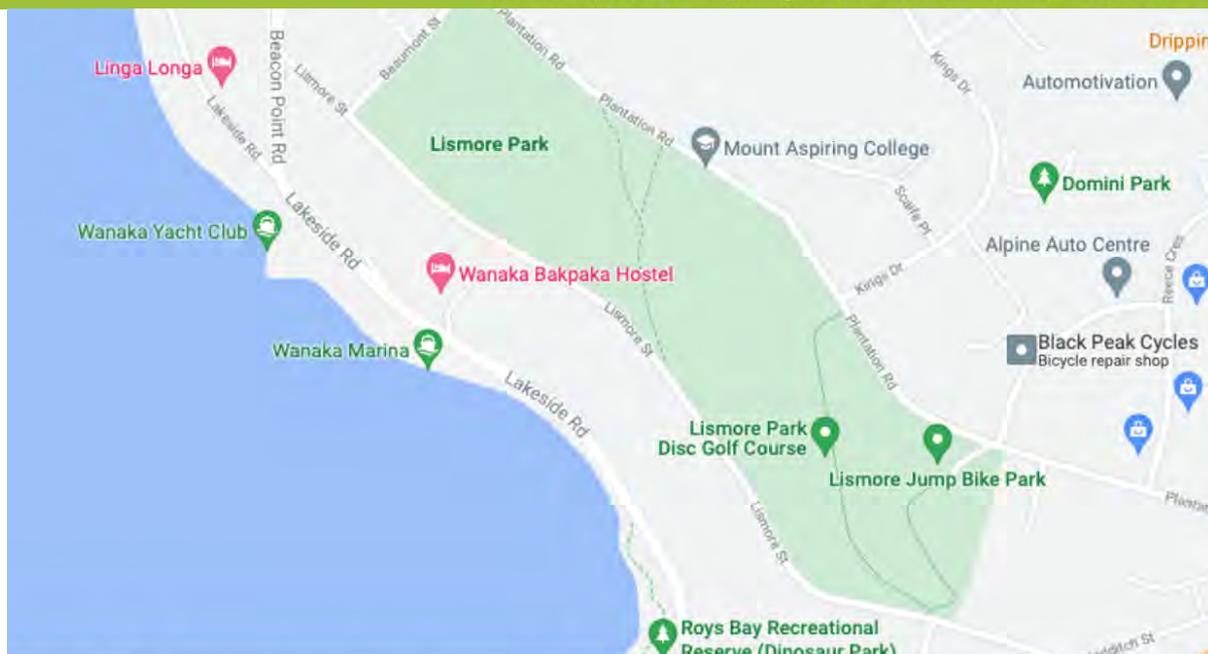
THE FOUNDING COMPONENT OF A VISION  
FOR AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY SPACE



JULY 2022

**bike**  
— wānaka —

Prepared by :  
Russ Paver, Ewan Mackie



# Lismore Park

Lismore Park is an underutilised QLDC reserve in the heart of Wānaka. The opportunity here is immense and the vision is to transform this into an outstanding community space, with outdoor recreation, health & wellbeing at the core. This would be a place where families, friends, people of all ages, interests and abilities come together in a shared space. With multi stakeholder collaboration we can create a legacy community asset to be enjoyed by generations to come.

This grand vision was initiated by Bike Wānaka's desire to rebuild and improve the existing bike park, which has become tired and only attractive to top level bikers. We want to revamp the trails & jumps so that they are accessible and enjoyable for everyone, especially children and beginner bikers. After initial stakeholder engagement we realised that the opportunity was greater than just biking, and that Lismore could be rejuvenated into a whole of community recreational space.

Bike Wānaka want to create a place where everyone can enjoy biking in a fun, safe and progressive environment. And we see this as being an integral part of a community space where people meet, enjoy active lifestyles and recreate in nature through a range of activities. We would lead and implement the biking component of this community adventure forest, and for that we are seeking funding partners to complete stage 1 in Spring of 2022, as part of a multi phase development of the bike park.

# Lismore Bike Park

Currently



The area is overgrown, unmaintained and has become a local spot for loitering. The one trail that still functions well is suitable for elite level bikers only.

The terrain within the area of the bike park is ideal for transformation into a network of trails that are suitable to all ages and levels of bikers.

# Issues & Opportunities



Currently biking lacks accessibility to the people of Wānaka, especially for learning & progression in a controlled environment. We have a range of bike trails but they are for advanced/intermediate riders and do not offer skill development in a safe and fun environment. Young people especially, enjoy spaces where they recreate and socialise in a single place. The skatepark is a fine example of the popularity of this kind of facility. Other towns are creating sort of community space and Wānaka is found to be lacking.

Sticky forest is not an area that can be developed to meet this need due to non public ownership and an uncertain future. We have several excellent Cross Country trails, such as Hikuwai & Deans Bank but these are for more experienced bikers and only meet the need of cross country enthusiasts.

The proposed improvements to Lismore bike park would fix these issues for the Wānaka community, create a hub for biking in the area and a serious asset to the town for decades to come. A central bike park where people from all ages & ability levels can sharpen their skills, meet fellow riders and get outdoors in a safe, fun and progressive environment, the benefits of this area will be seen for generations to come.



# A Community Biking Hub

Lismore User Groups

The Lismore bike park will be an area for everyone. Biking is hugely popular in Wānaka and is one of the biggest growth activities in New Zealand. The majority of households own bikes with every age group participating, from under 5's on balance bikes, youths seeking fun & progression, to over 50's wanting to work on their e-bike trail skills. We want to provide a community hub for every user, but especially focused on youth.

**UNDER 5** - Learning to ride balance bikes and pedal bikes, accompanied by parents.

**Tracks** - Sealed balance bike track progressing to pump track. Scooters and balance bikes.

**Needs** - Short Loops not long trails, shade, safety, parent participation & heaps of fun.

**YOUTHS** - Learning to ride bikes & improving skills. Self taught and coached. Aged from 5+, often in bike clubs and school programmes. Looking to come together & ride with friends.

**Tracks** - Pump track, Skills area, progressive trails & jumps,

**Needs** - A safe and progressive area to improve their core skills which they can then take out on the wider trail network.. Features such as berms, small jumps, drops. Somewhere for coaches, & parents to watch.

**PASSIONATE MOUNTAIN BIKERS** Youths and adults who love biking. They currently have to drive to Queenstown, Cardrona or Glendhu to get their fix and do so regularly.

**Tracks** - Pump track, Skills area, progressive trails & jumps, freestyle area

**Needs** - A hub for the biking community, somewhere that they can enjoy riding with their friends/family/children/partners. After school or after work, a facility to recreate and enjoy.



# Proposal

Bike Wānaka plans to rejuvenate Lismore bike park area and turn it into a vital asset for the town, aimed towards bikers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

The bike park will provide trails progressing from beginner/little kid Grade 1 trails upwards and focusing on safety & progression. Features will include bermed turns, rollers and progressive jumps. An asphalted pump track would provide somewhere for younger riders to learn, have heaps of fun and ride their bikes in a safe environment. Alongside the trails & pump track, a freestyle area with a mulch jump and an airbag will provide a safe way for developing bikers who especially enjoy jumps.

We plan to do the build once and do it properly the first time, using world class trail builders and installing a sprinkler system to reduce re-build and maintenance costs down the line. Future maintenance costs have been budgeted for and will be covered by Bike Wānaka.

We have support & design input from local youth groups & institutions such as WORD, Kahu Youth, Wānaka Kids Club and Mount Aspiring College, who see this proposal as having enormous benefit to the young people of Wānaka.

# Proposal

Draft proposal, subject to change.



- Pink Line - Current XL dirt jumps.
- Red Line - Grade 6 jump line. 15ft+ gap jumps, wooden drops & features
- Orange Line - Grade 5 jump line. 5 - 15ft gap jumps, medium sized drops.
- Dark Blue Line - Grade 4 bike trail. Berms and rollable jumps
- Light Blue line - Grade 3 bike trail. Berms and rollable jumps
- Green line - Beginner & kids trail. Roller features, easy turns and fun fun fun!
- Purple areas - Freestyle area of wooden ramps, mulch jump, airbag and drops.
- Yellow area - Pump track
- Beige Area - Seating, BBQ, Toilets & Bins
- Grey Line - Rock N Rolla Track rebuild and extended. White line - Push up track.



# Proposal

## STAGE 1

Build 6 progressive trails starting with beginner/little kids trail and working up. Also build a "Learn to Ride" pump trail, suitable for young children. This would see all of the existing tired, old jumps removed and the terrain repurposed into a series of fun & safe trails, catering to all levels. Install sprinkler system. This stage alone will deliver an incredible community asset.

COST - Estimated \$100K.

## STAGE 2

Build world class asphalt pump track. Asphalt the Learn to Ride pump trail. Build freestyle area with dirt, mulch & airbag jumps.

COST - Estimated \$200K.

## STAGE 3

Improve and extend "Rock'n'Rolla" trail, improve climbing trail create XC loop.

COST - Estimated \$50K.

## MAINTENANCE

On going maintenance of the bikepark will be overseen by Bike Wanaka, the funds will be raised through our yearly membership fees and events

COST - Estimated \$10K per year.

Additional facilities, such as toilets, bbqs etc. would be aligned with wider adventure forest plan and sit outside the direct scope of Bike Wānaka.



We have secured \$21,000 funding support from QLDC in addition to \$40,000 seed funding from Bike Wānaka. We seek the remaining \$39,000 to carry out stage 1 in Spring 2022.



# Cromwell Bike Park

## Reference

Cromwell bikepark was built in 2016 boasting an international standard BMX track, 3 dirt jump lines, a tar sealed pump track and another tar sealed "learn to ride" track. The bikepark has become a social hub for the community, where kids of all ages come to learn to ride bikes, progress their jump skills or train for BMX races. The Cromwell BMX Club hosts regular races, training sessions and national level races on the facility, providing a much needed sense of community and establishing an important connection to the outdoors and exercise for the youth of Cromwell and one less thing for parents to worry about knowing their children are in a safe environment.

The cost to build this facility was \$250,000 - \$300,000 with funds being raised by the Cromwell BMX club, the council and private donors. The build was done to a World class standard by Elevate Trails.





# Wynyard Bike Park

Reference

You don't have to look far to see what a positive impact a World class facility like the proposed bike park can have on a town, just check out our neighbours over the hill. Wynyard Bike Park or "Mini Dream" in Queenstown, has proven to be an amazing asset to the community and wildly popular for both first time mountain bikers looking to work on their skills, all the way through to elite riders. The development of young bikers has been huge and the social benefits for this community enormous.

This facility was funded by the Queenstown Mountain Bike Club, through memberships, fund raising events and support from the council, the cost to build this facility was ~\$95,000 and it was built to a high standard by Elevate Trails. Above you can see small rollable features on the left hand side, progressing to larger gap jumps and wooden features on the right.



# Velosolutions

## Reference

These World Class tar-sealed pumptracks can be found in 250 locations all over the World and NZ boasts 7 of them, providing a facility for all age groups and multiple user groups. The beauty of a tar sealed pumptrack is its ability to cater to all user groups, from Kids on balance bikes, skateboarders, scooter riders, bmx bikes and mountain bikes.

- Auckland
- Cambridge
- Coromandel
- Mangawei Heads
- Takaka
- Wellington
- Whangarei





Bike Wanaka is a registered not-for-profit with a history of reliably delivering community projects in recent years. More info can be found [here](#). This project has backing from Queenstown Lakes District Council, Mount Aspiring College and the Wānaka community.

We are looking for support to help turn this concept into a reality. Every bit of support is appreciated, so please get in touch if you would like to help improve the Wānaka community and be a part of the creation of a legacy biking asset, which in turn would be part of the wider vision for Lismore.

Thanks for your time.

Bike Wānaka

**Contact:**

president@bikewanaka.org.nz  
Ewan Mackie  
02102935560

Get out and ride your bike.  
[www.bikewanaka.org.nz](http://www.bikewanaka.org.nz)

Tree Risk Management



## Lismore Park dirt jumps Arboricultural survey

Prepared for QLDC

Prepared by Tree risk Management

### Overview

Tree risk management undertook an Arboricultural survey at Lismore park bike jumps at the request of QLDC. The survey took part within the area of the jumps indicated by 2x Polygon's marked on QLDC ArcGIS provided by QLDC largely consisting of Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine. The survey included dead or severely declining trees within these Poly's and recorded GPS position of the tree's health, height, crown spread radius, tree species, age and DBH using QLDC ArcGIS platform. The survey period was October 31st 2022. Tree Risk Management liaised with Bike Wanaka club president for an overview of the proposed plan of the jump park renovation and requested a walk through of all tree's planned to be removed, these were then recorded as "marked for removal" as part of the survey. Some tree points consist of multiple tree's. Trees within the jump park area were also assessed for a potential change in wind loading if the marked trees were to be removed. These trees were assessed for a change in wind loading and the risk of failure within normal weather conditions and only if the neighboring marked trees were to be removed. Bike Wanaka also walked through an area proposed for mitigation planting.

### Summary

- The total number of tree points surveyed was **15**.
- Total number of tree's currently deemed unacceptable, **9**.
- Total trees requested to be removed by Bike Wanaka, **21**.

Tree points marked with "unacceptable" risk rating are deemed to be in severe decline or standing dead and marked in Red on the attached aerial image. Tree's requested for removal by Bike Wanaka are marked Blue on the aerial image. Some tree points are made up of multiple trees grown in a group, these were marked in the survey by multiple tree's listed under 1x GPS point. Tree's were also assessed for a change in wind loading if the proposed neighboring trees were to be removed. Due to the current spacing within the stand, environmental considerations and visual tree characteristics on the day of assessment, failures were generally deemed to be unlikely within normal weather conditions due to change in wind loading.

treeriskmanagement@gmail.com

0279529661

Tree Risk Management



#### Mitigation Planting

Mitigation planting area was advised by Bike Wanaka, and generally follows the reserve bordering Plantation road. The area is encircled by a polygon on GIs with a tree point labeled "Mitigation planting". Replanting was to follow the QLDC tree policy of 2x trees planted for 1x tree removed, species to be decided.

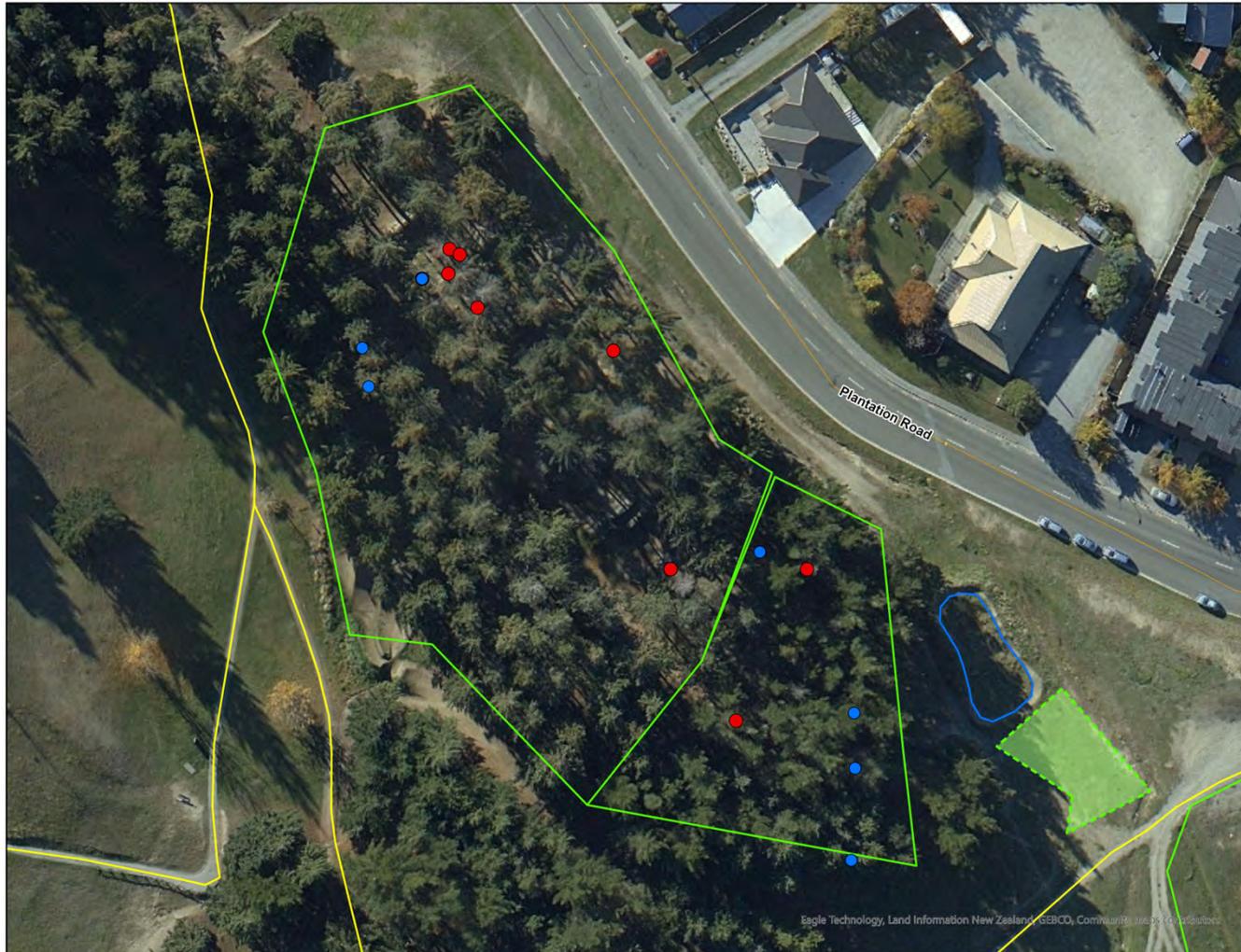
#### Notes

- Only trees that are dead or in severe decline were marked with a risk rating of "unacceptable" on the survey platform. These were discreetly marked with a small orange paint dot at the base of the tree.
- Generally speaking, several other tree's within the stand surveyed are showing signs of decline with average vigor present at the time of survey, it would be advisable these were monitored periodically.
- No exact plan or "Jump line" had been flagged for construction at time of survey.
- Only tree's within the proximity (localised stand) of the jumps were assessed. Area marked by 2x Polygon on GIS.
- Approximately 10% of the localised stand to be removed around the jumps. These removals are sparsely scattered throughout the tree's around the current jumps and include some "unacceptable risk" tree's.

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### Lismore Park Tree Works



#### Legend

- Marked for removal
- Risk unacceptable
- Trees\_Poly
  - ▭ Area to be planted
  - ▭ Planted/Natural area
- Tracks
  - Track / Path
  - Pump Track

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