

Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
3 March 2022

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 5

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara: Climate Action Plan Update

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

The purpose of this report is to inform on Climate Action Plan (CAP) priorities and progress.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee:

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

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14/02/2022

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CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 1 In November 2019, the Government passed the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act. The purpose of the Act is to provide a framework in which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to the international effort to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The emissions reduction goal in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is aligned to the Act.
- 2 On 27 June 2019, the same day as the draft version of the CAP was approved for public feedback, QLDC declared a climate and ecological emergency. Following public consultation and subsequent changes to the plan, the CAP was adopted by Council on 12 March 2020. It will help to guide local action as the district rises to and meets the challenges of the climate change emergency. QLDC has embarked on a journey of major organisational systems and behaviour shift.
- 3 The overarching goals for the CAP are:
 - To achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 across the whole district and;
 - to be resilient to the local impact of climate change across the whole district.
- 4 The CAP is intended to provide an overview of QLDC's actions over three years. It will be reviewed annually and will look forward across a three-year horizon. The CAP is structured according to five key outcomes, supported by 73 actions.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

2022-2025 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- 5 QLDC has committed to reviewing the Climate Action Plan each year in line with the Annual Plan cycle. The CAP will always look forward three years.
- 6 Over the last ten months the new plan has been co-designed with the Climate Reference Group, community stakeholders, partners, experts, and staff. A key change is that the plan has become the Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP), to reflect that QLDC declared a climate and ecological emergency back in 2019.

7 Summary of plan development:

TIMELINE	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	SUMMARY
April 2021	Long Term Plan Submissions	Of the 504 submissions on the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Long Term Plan, 240 provided feedback and recommendations on climate action, showing an appetite for Council to take more action.
	Review process kicked off	The Climate Reference Group provided recommendations on the outcomes and structure of the plan. A key recommendation was to create a sixth outcome for biodiversity.
June 2021	QLDC internal climate action hui	Staff shared ideas for accelerating climate action both within the organisation and across the district.
July 2021	Blue-sky workshop with QLDC Councillors and Wanaka Community Board	Elected members shared their enthusiasm to see more climate action in the district. A topic of particular interest was the development of communities that allowed for live, work and play within neighbourhoods.
	Climate Reference Group	Strong sentiments came through around both education for local communities and on the role of QLDC in advocacy to Central Government.
	Regenerative Recovery Advisory Group	Suggestions included a focus on collaboration and cooperation between organisations, community groups and QLDC, and to look at a 100-year horizon. The group also presented their final report in July ¹ , following a year of work in support of the district's recovery programme. Report recommendations were fed into climate action planning.
August 2021	Community stakeholder Hui	Climate Action Team assisted the Climate Reference Group in organising a stakeholder Hui for local advocates and experts to provide input and ideas. The most popular topics were around transport mode shift and biodiversity.
	QLDC staff suggestions	Numerous staff provided detailed input into the plan. Feedback was varied, ranging from technical infrastructure or planning suggestions to embedding climate action into culture and decision making.

¹ <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/rosjz4s5/regenerative-recovery-advisory-group-final-report.pdf>

**Whakatipu
Conservation
Collective**

Discussion focused on exploring actions in the new biodiversity outcome could look like.

WAO Summit

WAO Summit attendees voted on their priorities for the Climate Action Plan. ‘Regenerating our natural environment’ and ‘designing neighbourhoods where we can live, work, learn and play without getting in the car’ came out top.

October
2021



Queenstown Primary School's Enviro Group learning about the Greenhouse Effect in their tunnel house.



Climate action kōrero at the 2021 WAO Summit

**Enviroschools
Climate 101s**

The Climate Action Team collaborated with Enviroschools to provide Climate 101 sessions and feed tamariki ideas into the Climate Action Plan. The feedback focused on transport, food, energy and waste. Transport was a particular interest, with the students keen to see more active travel options for them.

November
–
December
2021

**Suggestions refined
and prioritised**

All community and stakeholder input was collated into a list of 600 suggestions. Suggestions were prioritised, combined, cut and refined to a list of 134 actions.

The Climate Reference Group identified 68 of these actions as priority actions and provided recommendations on the plan outcomes. A key recommendation was for the plan to be renamed the Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Climate Action Team then further developed and refined the prioritised actions with action owners and partners.

December
2021 –
January
2022

**Stakeholder
feedback received**

The plan was circulated with key stakeholders and feedback sought. 30 stakeholders responded with comments. A summary has been provided below.

8 Summary of stakeholder feedback:

- + Appreciation for the openness of the engagement process and the opportunity to input into plan.
- + Many general positive comments.
- + Inclusion of biodiversity very well received.
- + Many organisations committed their support and desire to partner on delivery of the plan.
- + Several good suggestions for improvements.
- More ambition and urgency wanted.
- Strong feedback that the transport section needs to be more aspirational. Many comments around electric vehicle uptake and investment in Public Transport.
- Many comments on containing growth/ urban development e.g. “no more subdivisions”.
- Some critical feedback on “planning to plan” and lack of action on aircraft emissions.

9 Stakeholder comments were considered and incorporated into the plan. The Climate Reference Group then provided further feedback and recommendations which have been considered in an updated version. The plan is intended for public engagement and feedback in March, alongside the Annual Plan.

KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS ON THE CURRENT CAP

- 10 A new staff member has been appointed for the role of Climate Action Plan Coordinator. This additional resourcing boost will support the delivery of the current 2019-2022 Climate Action Plan programme.
- 11 QLDC's first Corporate Greenhouse Gas Report has been completed.
- 12 [WAO's Climate Action Initiative](#) is well underway with supporting schools and businesses to calculate and reduce their emissions. It is funded by QLDC, Lake Wanaka Tourism and Destination Queenstown.
- 13 QLDC has committed to being a principle sponsor of the 2022 NZ Plant Conservation Network conference which will have a focus on native restoration and regeneration.
- 14 Climate action considerations have been addressed in the stage three review of QLDC's Subdivision Code of Practice.
- 15 The Destination Management Plan is entering into final draft stage, following extensive collaboration and community co-design. A digital draft will be released for feedback publicly in April.

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- 16 Finalisation and Council adoption of the 2022-25 Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 17 Undertake procurement for the project to embed climate action and biodiversity into business cases and decision making.
- 18 Complete and/or close-out projects in the current Climate Action Plan.

CLIMATE REFERENCE GROUP

- 19 Climate Reference Group membership (unchanged since last update):

Bridget Legnavsky: Chair
Alec Tang: Climate Action in Government Expert
Barrie Wills: Biodiversity Expert
Councillor Esther Whitehead
Councillor Niki Gladding
Councillor Quentin Smith: Infrastructure Committee Chair
Dr Jim Salinger: Climate Change Expert
Dr Lyn Carter: nominated by Aukaha on behalf of runaka
Tony Pfeiffer: Upper Clutha Community Leader
Gail Thompson: nominated by Te Ao Marama on behalf of runaka
Otago Regional Councillor Alexa Forbes
Vacant: Wakatipu Community Leader

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 20 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it is consistent with existing strategy, and does not impact on the objectives set out in the Financial Strategy, Ten Year Plan or Annual Plan. Although the matter is of importance to the district and is of community interest, it is of low significance due to its alignment with the CAP.
- 21 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, particularly individuals who take an interest in climate change.
- 22 As the significance of this matter is low and only for noting, no consultation with the community or local iwi is required.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 23 This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK00019 Ineffective mitigation response to the declared climate and ecological emergency and RISK00059 Ineffective planning to support Climate Change Adaptation within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). These risks has been assessed as having a very high inherent risk rating.
- 24 The Climate Action Plan work programme will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. The effectiveness of these controls and mitigations shall be supported by the continued governance of the CAP by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 25 There are no budget, cost or resource implications to consider at this time.

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

- 26 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The Climate Action Plan is aligned to the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, particularly Zero Carbon Communities, Disaster-Defying Resilience and Deafening Dawn Chorus.
- Related policies, strategies and bylaws (including Management plans) are:
 - 2018-48 Infrastructure Strategy
 - 2018 Three Waters Asset Management Plan
 - 2018 Transportation Activity Management Plan
 - 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
- The QLDC Disability Policy was considered in the development of the CAP

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

- 27 This matter is included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan

- “QLDC is currently developing its first generation Climate Change Strategy – this strategy intends to broadly line up with the recent LGNZ Climate Change Programme – New Zealand’s commitment to the Paris Agreement. There are two streams to this strategy, the first being emissions reduction. Identifying projects that reduce Councils [sic] and the Community’s emissions i.e. public transport, energy efficiency on large items such as swimming pools and pumping costs for three waters. Other initiatives currently underway include measuring the emissions base line for Council, i.e. what do we emit today, this will allow us to measure and report our future performance. The second stream is about resilience and climate change, i.e. exploration of vulnerabilities and mitigation of the effects. If the future will be characterised by stormy and warmer weather, what is our exposure to that as a district? It is about identifying what aspects of a changing climate will most need to be responded to and what are our responses i.e. the district’s natural hazards are flooding and storms,

warming temperatures and wind erosion. Identifying and actively pursuing ways to improve the district's resilience". (6.1 Demanding Natural Environment, p. 32)

ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	Climate Action Plan 2019-22
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