

QLDC Council  
1 September 2022

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [9]

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Queenstown Lakes District Council Submission

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

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- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity submission to Council.
- 2 This report seeks Council's retrospective approval of the submission contents. The submission was made to the Ministry for the Environment on 27 July 2022.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity submission (Attachment A).

Prepared by:



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11/08/2022

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Meaghan Miller  
General Manager, Corporate  
Services

11/08/2022

## CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

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- 3 The Ministry for the Environment consulted on its National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) recently, with submissions closing on 27 July 2022.
- 4 The purpose of the NPS-IB is to provide detailed direction for maintaining and protecting indigenous biodiversity from adverse effects on private land, beyond what is outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 5 The objectives of the NPS-IB are to protect, maintain, and restore indigenous biodiversity in a way that:
  - recognises tangata whenua as kaitiaki, and people and communities as stewards, of indigenous biodiversity; and
  - provides for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities, now and into the future.
- 6 The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) sent a written submission to the Ministry for the Environment (Attachment A).

## ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

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- 7 QLDC is supportive of the development of the NPS-IB and agrees with the need for national direction to protect indigenous biodiversity. QLDC supports Te Rito o te Harakeke as a fundamental concept to the NPS-IB that refers to the need to maintain the integrity of indigenous biodiversity.
- 8 The submission focuses on recommendations to improve the implementation and workability of the NPS-IB, particularly around the following key points:
  - It is important that the need to protect biodiversity is tempered with the need to enable development, and that there are processes and procedures in place that allow different agendas and priorities to be weighed and assessed.
  - There is no direction in the NPS-IB in relation to the ongoing resource management reform process. It is unclear on the hierarchy between the work programmes and how the NPS-IB will be integrated into the proposed National Planning Framework, that will provide the overarching direction to the Regional Spatial Strategies and the Natural and Built Environment Act plans.
  - The NPS-IB needs to acknowledge the important role that Central Government has in coordinating and implementing the NPS-IB through the Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation and Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research).
  - Given the urgency outlined in Te Mana o te Taiao, further consideration on the timing proposed in the NPS-IB is needed.

9 Councillors have had the opportunity to view and comment on the submission in draft form prior to it being lodged. As the submission deadline did not align with a Council meeting, the purpose of this report is to ensure the submission is formally sanctioned by full Council and to give transparency to our community.

10 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:

11 **Option 1:** retrospectively approve the contents of the submission at Attachment 1.

*Advantages:*

- It ensures that Council's position is presented effectively to the Ministry for the Environment.

*Disadvantages:*

- There are no known disadvantages to this option.

12 **Option 2:** to request the withdrawal of the submission from the Ministry for the Environment's process.

*Advantages:*

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

*Disadvantages:*

- No aspect of QLDC's position will be represented in the consultation process.

13 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter to ensure that QLDC participates effectively in the consultation process.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

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

14 This matter is of low significance, as determined by 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.

15 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

16 The submission on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity was drafted in partnership with the Climate Reference Group (which includes Kāi Tahu representatives) and feedback from the group members was incorporated.

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

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- 17 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.
- 18 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

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- 19 There are no financial implications as a result of the decision Council is being asked to make in this report.

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

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- 20 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 and Biodiversity Plan
- The QLDC Emissions Reduction Roadmap
- The QLDC Sequestration Study
- The QLDC Annual Plan
- The QLDC Ten Year Plan 2021-31

- 21 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the Council documents named above.

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

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- 22 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. 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

- would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council.

**LINKS |**

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A	<a href="#">National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity</a>
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