

Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
17 June 2021

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

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

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

- 2 That the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee:
 1. **Note** the contents of this report.

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31/05/2020



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CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 The CAP is intended to provide an overview of QLDC's actions over the next 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

RESPONSE TO LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSIONS

- 7 Climate change was a significant theme that emerged during the consultation process for the Ten Year Plan. Of the 504 submissions received, 240 were related (at least in part) to the climate response and the vast majority sought a higher level of action from QLDC.
- 8 In response to this, additional resources have been provided to the climate action team, with an additional \$200k added to the operational budget and an additional team member being provided in Year 1 rather than Year 2.

KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS

Outcome one: The community looks to QLDC for leadership and action

- 9 The Organisational Travel Plan is complete.
- 10 Planning is underway to form a staff Climate Action Committee, which will help to drive organisational culture change and action.
- 11 Planning is also underway for organisation-wide sustainability training, which will have a particular focus on climate action and waste minimisation.

- 12 QLDC has been working with ORC on the first Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. The report is being presented to ORC's Data and Information Committee on 9 June.
- 13 QLDC has undertaken two GHG inventories for the district (2017 and 2019). Moving forward, using just the regional inventory for measurement is being considered.
- 14 QLDC is now underway with its first Corporate GHG Report, which will provide the organisational footprint for 2018/19.
- 15 Climate action has been emphasised in submissions in the last quarter:
 - Climate Change Commission: QLDC and the Climate Reference Group jointly submitted on the Draft Advice. The submission identified three key challenges:
 1. Spatial Planning - effective spatial planning and improved urban form will be essential for emissions reduction in the district.
 2. Electrification – significant energy network challenges in this district will need to be overcome to decarbonise extensively.
 3. Tourism - the role of the visitor economy and tourism policy in reducing emissions is absent from the advice.
 - Regional Land Transport Plan: emphasised need to recognise transport as a strategic lever in mitigation as opposed to purely a reactive PT solution.
 - ORC LTP: there is a need for systems thinking, better PT and AT, improved adaptation and natural hazards planning.
 - MBIE Freedom camping: called on MBIE to use a review of the freedom camping act to drive better behaviours and promote low emissions camper vans

Outcome two: Queenstown Lakes has a low-carbon transport system

- 16 There are currently seven active travel routes in design.
- 17 The aviation emissions profile is now complete and included in the ORC Greenhouse Gas Profile.

Outcome three: Built environment and infrastructure is climate-responsive

- 18 The Subdivision Code of practice stage 3 review commenced in February. The review has a particular focus on climate change and is expected to deliver positive outcomes for both mitigation and adaptation.
- 19 The Moata Carbon Portal trial is progressing well, with a subset of infrastructure projects and business cases using the tool for carbon accounting. The portal was developed by Mott Macdonald and the trial is led by LGNZ.
- 20 An educational campaign has been developed in relation to space-heating, with a focus on providing information and tools to help households with increasing power bills.

21 On 31st May work commenced on Luggate Memorial Centre, the country's first community facility built to Passive House standards. The appointed contactor, Breen Construction, has a strong presence in the Upper Clutha and has a special focus on environmental sustainability.

Outcome four: Communities are climate-conscious and resilient

22 QLDC has prepared a briefing document on its approach to Climate Change Adaptation. It explains how the strategic commitment to Resilience/ Aumangea (Vision 2050, TYP, Spatial Plan, Infrastructure Strategy) underpins the approach to Climate Adaptation planning. In addition to this strategic commitment to adaptation, several important projects are underway within the district to manage and reduce the risk of climate change related hazards to their surrounding communities. These projects include:

- Glenorchy Natural hazards adaptation project
- Mt Iron Wildfire Risk Reduction Project
- Gorge Road Natural Hazards

23 Detailed commentary can be found in the Risk Update report.

24 A mechanism for involving youth views in climate action planning is being formed in partnership with Enviroschools. This is with the initial aim of feeding ideas into the 2022-25 CAP development.

Outcome five: Our economy and natural environment thrive together

25 The Destination Management Plan is progressing well, with initial planning and stakeholder engagement underway. Place-based design groups will be convened in the next month.

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

26 Review of the 2019-22 CAP and engagement on the development of the 2022-25 CAP.

27 Undertaking QLDC's 18/19 Corporate GHG report.

28 Implementation of the Organisation Travel Plan.

29 Initial draft of Destination Management Plan.

ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RESCHEDULED

30 The three actions in outcome five relating to biodiversity will need to be rescheduled due to funding availability. It is hoped that through the review of the CAP, QLDC's role in biodiversity will receive the resourcing required.

31 The Outcome One actions 'Ensure climate change considerations are integral to all Council Reports and decision making' and 'ensure climate change considerations and carbon

accounting assessments are integral to all new Business Cases’ will get underway in July when budget is available.

32 District Adaptation Plan – Given that the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will not be released until 2022 and the Climate Change Adaptation Action (CCAP) the following year in 2023, the timeframes for adopting a District Adaptation Plan will be rescheduled. A staged approach to evaluating the various Adaptation frameworks will be pursued which will involve assessing the merits of the frameworks that are being applied for various natural hazard projects that are currently in progress (e.g. Glenorchy, Gorge Road). To help collate and organise this work a new Risk (“Ineffective planning to support Climate Change Adaptation”) will be recommended for adoption into the QLDC Organisation Risk Register.

2022-2025 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

33 The CAP will be reviewed each year in line with the Annual Plan cycle. The CAP will always look forward three years.

34 Internal and external stakeholders will be engaged throughout the development of the draft before consultation and adoption in line with the Annual Plan. The Climate Reference Group is a key stakeholder group in reviewing and agreeing priority action areas for the plan. The Climate Reference Group has agreed recommendations at a high level and will be moving into detailed review in July. Organisation is underway for internal and external workshops in late June. Engagement is underway and planned with Councillors, iwi, staff, school students, key external community groups and Community Associations.

35 Key engagement activities:

Apr	Recommendations provided by the CRG regarding the overall structure of plan.
May	Community feedback received through Ten Year Plan submissions. Internal engagement and planning for activities in Jun.
Jun	Hui with key staff and hui with external stakeholders. Councillor and Wānaka Community Board workshop. School workshops. Engagement with key stakeholder groups.
Jul -	Climate Reference Group.
Aug	Draft plan.
Sep -	Finalise draft with stakeholders.
Dec	Councillor workshop.
2021	Consult and adopt in line with Annual Plan.

CLIMATE REFERENCE GROUP

36 There have been some changes to membership of the CRG:

- Barrie Wills has joined the group in the Biodiversity Expert role.

- Alec Tang has moved on from Auckland Council to take up a position as Sustainability Director at Kāinga Ora. The Chair and staff agreed that Alec's contributions are so valuable to the group that he should remain a member, tweaking his role from 'Climate Change in Local Government Expert' to 'Climate Change in Government Expert'. Any conflicts of interest are expected to be minor.
- With Dr Carly Green resigning from the group due to increased work commitments, a long list of suggestions for the vacant role of Upper Clutha Community Leader has been received. A short list will be presented to the Chief Executive for consideration and a recommendation made for Councillor approval.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 37 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.
- 38 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.
- 39 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

- 40 This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK00019 Ineffective planning for climate change affects within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). This risk has been assessed as having a very high inherent risk rating.
- 41 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 continued governance of the CAP by the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 42 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

- 43 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

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

45 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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