

21.22.13 Queenstown Bay and Environs ONL

General Description of the Area

The Queenstown Bay Environs PA ONL encompasses the waters of Whakatipu Waimāori or Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Whakatipu) adjacent to Queenstown. The western limit of the area is defined by the ridgeline descending from Taumata-o-Hakitekura (Ben Lomond) along the western side of Sunshine Bay. The eastern limit coincides with the eastern side of Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course). The PA takes in much of the lake margin between Sunshine Bay and Two Mile Creek, Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course). The PA excludes the inner waters and lake edge (Queenstown Bay Beach) in Central Queenstown and the Frankton Arm.

Physical Attributes and Values

Geology and Geomorphology • Topography and Landforms • Climate and Soils • Hydrology • Vegetation • Ecology • Settlement • Development and Land Use • Archaeology and Heritage • Mana whenua

Important landforms and land types:

1. The glacier carved basin of the Whakatipu Valley, which split into two ice tongues when it met the Remarkables, with the terminal moraine deposited at its southern end (at Kingston) leading to the damming of the valley and creation of the lake.
2. The small peninsula landforms of Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course).
3. Range of lakeshore and fluvial processes and landforms that have modified the largely glacially-derived and dominated landscape. These landforms tend to be of small scale.

Important hydrological features:

4. Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu), notable for its largely undeveloped mountain context, scale (at 80 km in length, it is New Zealand's longest lake, and, at 291 km², its third largest), depth (with its floor being below sea level), high water quality (used for urban Queenstown water supply), distinctive shape (dog leg), unmodified lake level (with a seiche period of 26.7 minutes, which causes the water level to rise and fall some 200mm in Queenstown Bay) and highly dynamic character (as a consequence of its scale and the effects of weather).
5. Ornamental pond in Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens).

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

6. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
 - a. Small pockets of remnant mountain beech and grey shrubland along the lake edge between Fernhill and Sunshine Bay. In places that are stands of wilding blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*).
7. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
 - a. The proliferation of mature exotic specimen trees along the lake shore between Queenstown and Sunshine Bay and at Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens). Species include: *Abies grandis* (grand fir), *Abies nordmanniana* (Algerian fir), *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle), *Populus nigra 'Italica'* (Lombardy poplar), *Quercus velutina* (black oak), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Tsuga heterophylla* (western hemlock), *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (wellingtonia), *Salix babylonica* (weeping willow),

Tilia x europaea (lime). *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir) is a dominant species at Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) forming a protective forest around much of the gardens.

- b. The rose garden and other largely exotic amenity plantings throughout Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens).
 - c. Mown grass areas studded with specimen trees along the lake edge between Queenstown and Fernhill.
 - d. Amenity plantings of indigenous trees and shrubs have been established along the walking track between Sunshine Bay and Queenstown.
 - e. Coniferous and amenity plantings throughout Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course).
 - f. Southern Rata re-establishment on Queenstown Gardens periphery and presence of notable solitary specimen trees.
8. Animal pest species include feral cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels, rabbits, possums, rats and mice.
 9. Plant pest species include wilding conifers, hawthorn, buddleia, broom and gorse.

Important land-use patterns and features:

10. Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course) with a wide range of recreational uses (described below).
11. Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) features include;
 - a. operational facilities to manage the park e.g., the depot;
 - b. Amenity display structures: Conservatory;
 - c. Daytime parking for Freedom Camping.
12. The reserve or open space zoning of almost all of the land-based part of the area under the District Plan.
13. The walkway along the lake edge between Queenstown and Sunshine Bay forms a linkage of the Aotearoa's national walkway, the Te Araroa Trail passing through the ONL along the lakefront via the Wakatipu Track.
14. The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) of Queenstown and Kelvin Heights which adjoins the lake edge within the PA.
15. Uses on the lake including tourism and recreation-based activities (e.g., the Earnslaw, kayaking, scenic cruising/touring, jet boating, sailing, parasailing and recreational boating, jet skiing and water sports, water taxis, barges).
16. Other neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the area due to their scale, character, and/or proximity include: the commercial development in central Queenstown, residential development at Sunshine Bay, Fernhill, Queenstown Hill and Kelvin Heights, Glenorchy Queenstown Road, Bob's Peak and the Skyline gondola and building.

Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:

17. The numerous protected exotic specimen trees throughout Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and along the lake shore between Queenstown and Fernhill.
18. Queenstown Gardens and Plantation Reserve Block, including the Queenstown Gardens Gate (District Plan reference 13).

19. William Rees Memorial, Hakitekura Plaque, and Scott Rock Memorial, Queenstown Gardens (District Plan references 24-26).
20. Queenstown Bowling Club Pavilion, Queenstown Gardens (District Plan reference 65).
21. Shipping navigation beacon at the end of the Gardens Peninsula (District Plan reference 221).
22. Rifle butt adjacent to the lake esplanade (District Plan reference 220, archaeological site E41/305).
23. Kelvin Peninsula midden/oven site (archaeological site E41/13).

Mana whenua features and their locations:

24. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori.
25. Much of the ONL is within the mapped wāhi tūpuna Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu). Whakatipu Waimāori is a Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
26. It also includes the mapped wāhi tūpuna Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course) and Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens).

Associative Attributes and Values

Mana whenua creation and origin traditions • Mana whenua associations and experience • Mana whenua metaphysical aspects such as mauri and wairua • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Mana whenua associations and experience:

27. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.
28. The name Whakatipu-wai-māori (or Whakatipu Waimāori) originates from the earliest expedition of discovery made many generations ago by the tupuna Rākaihautū and his party from the Uruao waka. In tradition, Rākaihautū dug the lakes with his kō known as Tūwhakarōria. The Lake is key in numerous Kāi Tahu pūrakau (stories) and has a deep spiritual significance for mana whenua.
29. For generations, the lake supported nohoaka, kāika, mahika kai as well as transportation routes for pounamu. The knowledge of these associations hold the same value for Kāi Tahu to this day.
30. Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura is related to the feats of Hakitekura, the famous Kāti Māmoe woman who was the first person to swim across Whakatipu-wai-māori.
31. Te Kararo was the site of a kāika (permanent settlement).
32. The mana whenua values associated with this ONL include, but may not be limited to wāhi taoka, tauraka waka, kāika, ara tawhito and mahika kai.

Important historic attributes and values:

33. Early Māori occupation around the lakeshore.
34. Historic recreational use of the lake, lakeshore, and gardens.
35. Historic use of the lake for transport.

36. The early establishment and continued use of the gardens as a public reserve.

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

37. The descriptions and photographs of the area in tourism publications.
38. The popularity of the postcard views from Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course), the various lake-edge trails and the waters across the lake to Cecil Peak and Walter Peak and the broader mountain context, as an inspiration/subject for art and photography.
39. The very high popularity of the Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course), the various lake-edge trails and water-based activities on the lake. The very close proximity of this recreational feature to Queenstown urban area also plays a role.
40. The critical role of Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu), Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course), the various lake-edge trails and water-based activities on the lake in shaping the identity of Queenstown.

Important recreation attributes and values:

41. Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), botanical gardens by the town centre that is home to a wide range of recreational uses (children's playground, lawn bowls, frisbee golf, tennis, skate boarding, skating, BMX biking, ice skating, ice hockey, walking and jogging, cycling, picnicking, outdoor events, peaceful contemplation).
42. Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course), which includes the golf course and a sculpture walk around the lake edges of the golf course, used by walkers, joggers, cyclists, and picnickers.
43. The Queenstown Trail around the lake edge of Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course).
44. Walking, running, cycling and picnicking along the lake-edge trail between Queenstown and Sunshine Bay.
45. Water-based activities including: swimming, kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding, boating, jet skiing.
46. Fishing for rainbow trout, brown trout, and chinook salmon in Whakātipu-Wai-Māori.
47. Glenorchy - Queenstown Road as a key scenic route in close proximity.
48. Band rotunda at the Queenstown Gardens; music, contemplation, performance arts.

Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

Legibility and Expressiveness • Views to the area • Views from the area • Naturalness • Memorability • Transient values • Remoteness / Wildness • Aesthetic qualities and values

Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values:

49. The area's natural landforms, land type and hydrological features (described above), which are highly legible and expressive of the landscape's formative geomorphic processes.

Particularly important views to and from the area:

50. The postcard views from Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course), the various lake-edge trails, Glenorchy - Queenstown Road and the dynamic waters of the lake

to Cecil Peak and Walter Peak and the broader mountain context. The frequent movement of vessels on the lake adds to the interest of the outlook.

51. Iconic mid to long-range views from central Queenstown, across the waters of Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu) to the rugged and dramatic landforms of Cecil Peak, Walter Peak and the broader mountain context framing the lake. The seemingly undeveloped and green finger of Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and almost continuous fringe of green along the northern lake edge (Queenstown to Sunshine Bay) adds to the appeal of the outlook.
52. In all views, the striking juxtaposition of urban development alongside the grandeur of the natural landscape adds to the spectacle.

Naturalness attributes and values:

53. The very close proximity of urban development and level of human activity within the area inevitably colours the impression of naturalness within the PA ONL. Nonetheless, the contrast created between the area and its urban context due to the dominance of more natural landscape elements (i.e., water or vegetation) together with the largely unmodified underlying landform character (glacial lake and legible peninsulas) means that the area displays at least a moderate-high level of naturalness. Historic forestry land uses throughout the broader mountain context serve to ensure that the exotic vegetation character of much of the landward area is not discordant or incongruous within the wider high-value landscape setting.
54. The general avoidance of structures along the lake edge within the PA, excepting the jetties and boat sheds, etc. on the south side of Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens).

Memorability attributes and values:

55. The highly memorable views of the Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu) and its surrounding mountain frame.
56. The sense of Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) as a place of beauty and tranquillity close to central Queenstown.

Transient attributes and values:

57. The ever-changing patterning of light and weather across the lake.
58. Human activity on the lake.
59. Autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with the exotic vegetation around the lake edges and throughout Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens) and Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course).

Remoteness and wildness attributes and values:

60. A localised sense of remoteness along the lake edge trails within the PA ONL, where intervening landforms and/or vegetation screen views to nearby development and the focus is confined to the lake and broader undeveloped mountain context.

Aesthetic attributes and values:

61. The experience of the values identified above from a wide range of public viewpoints.
62. More specifically, this includes:
 - a. The highly attractive and engaging large-scale composition created by the tree-lined glacial lake and 'green' peninsulas set within a broader mountain context seen either individually or collectively, juxtaposed beside an urban context.

- b. At a finer scale, the following aspects contribute to the aesthetic appeal:
 - i. The highly dynamic qualities of the lake waters in terms of natural processes (wind and wave action, etc.) and human activity.
 - ii. The general absence of structures and the dominance of vegetation along the lake edges.
 - iii. The limited level of built modification evident within the landward parts of the PA, which forms a marked contrast to the urban context and imbues an impression of 'green relief'.
 - iv. The mature trees throughout the area which contribute to the scenic appeal.

Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Associative • Perceptual (Sensory)

Rating scale: seven-point scale ranging from **Very Low** to **Very High**.

very low	low	low-mod	moderate	mod-high	high	very high
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The combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for PA ONL Queenstown Bay and Environs can be summarised as follows:

- 63. **High physical values** due to the high-value landforms, vegetation features, hydrological features and mana whenua features in the area.
- 64. **Very High associative values** relating to:
 - a. The mana whenua associations of the area.
 - b. The historic features of the area.
 - c. The strong shared and recognised values associated with the area.
 - d. The significant recreational attributes of Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Whakatipu), Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura (Kelvin Heights Golf Course) and the lake-edge trails.
- 65. **High perceptual values** relating to:
 - a. The high legibility and expressiveness values of the area deriving from the visibility of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape's formative processes.
 - b. The high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its distinctive and highly appealing composition of natural landscape elements juxtaposed beside Queenstown. The visibility of the area from Queenstown, Glenorchy-Queenstown Road, and sections of the Queenstown Trail network, along with the area's transient values, play an important role.
 - c. A sense of tranquillity and green relief at Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens).
 - d. A localised sense of remoteness and wildness along the lake edge trails where views to nearby urban development are screened by landforms and/or vegetation.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA ONL Queenstown Bay Environs for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **Commercial recreational activities – limited** landscape capacity for activities that integrate with, and complement/enhance, existing recreation features; are located to optimise the screening and/or camouflaging benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a sympathetic scale, appearance, and character; integrate appreciable landscape restoration and enhancement; enhance public access; and protect the area's ONL values.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – no** landscape capacity.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity.
- v. **Earthworks – very limited** landscape capacity for earthworks associated with public access tracks, that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **Farm buildings – no** landscape capacity.
- vii. **Mineral extraction – no** landscape capacity.
- viii. **Transport infrastructure – very limited** landscape capacity for trails that are: located to integrate with existing networks; designed to be of a sympathetic appearance and character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement; and protect the area's ONF values. **No** landscape capacity for other transport infrastructure.
- ix. **Utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – very limited** landscape capacity for infrastructure that is buried or located such that they are screened from external view. In the case of utilities such as overhead lines or cell phone towers which cannot be screened, these should be designed and located so that they are not visually prominent and/or co-located with existing infrastructure.
- x. **Renewable energy generation – no** landscape capacity.
- xi. **Production forestry – no** landscape capacity.
- xii. **Rural living – no** landscape capacity.
- xiii. **Jetties and boatsheds – very limited** landscape capacity for additional jetties and boatsheds that are co-located with existing features, designed to be of a sympathetic scale, appearance, and character; integrate appreciable landscape restoration and enhancement (where possible); enhance public access; and protect the area's ONL values.