

Audit, Finance & Risk Committee

6 March 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [4]

Department: Strategy & Policy

Title | Taitara: Climate and Biodiversity Plan Update

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of priorities and progress of the Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025 (CBP) for the period up to November 2024 and progress on development of the new CBP.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohu

That the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee:

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

Prepared by:



Name: Bill Nicoll

Title: Resilience & Climate Action Manager

Date: 13 February 2025

Prepared by:



Name: Tilly McCool

Title: Resilience & Climate Action Advisor

Date: 13 February 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Michelle Morss

Title: GM Strategy and Policy

Date: 13 February 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. On 27 June 2019 Council declared a climate and ecological emergency. In response to this declaration Council approved the development and adoption of a [Climate Action Plan](#) for the period 2019-2022.
2. On 30 June 2022, Council adopted its second [Climate and Biodiversity Plan \(CBP\)](#) for the period 2022-25. This plan sets out how Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) plans to respond to biodiversity loss and climate change in Queenstown Lakes District, with three goals, six outcomes and over 80 individual actions (see Figure 1).

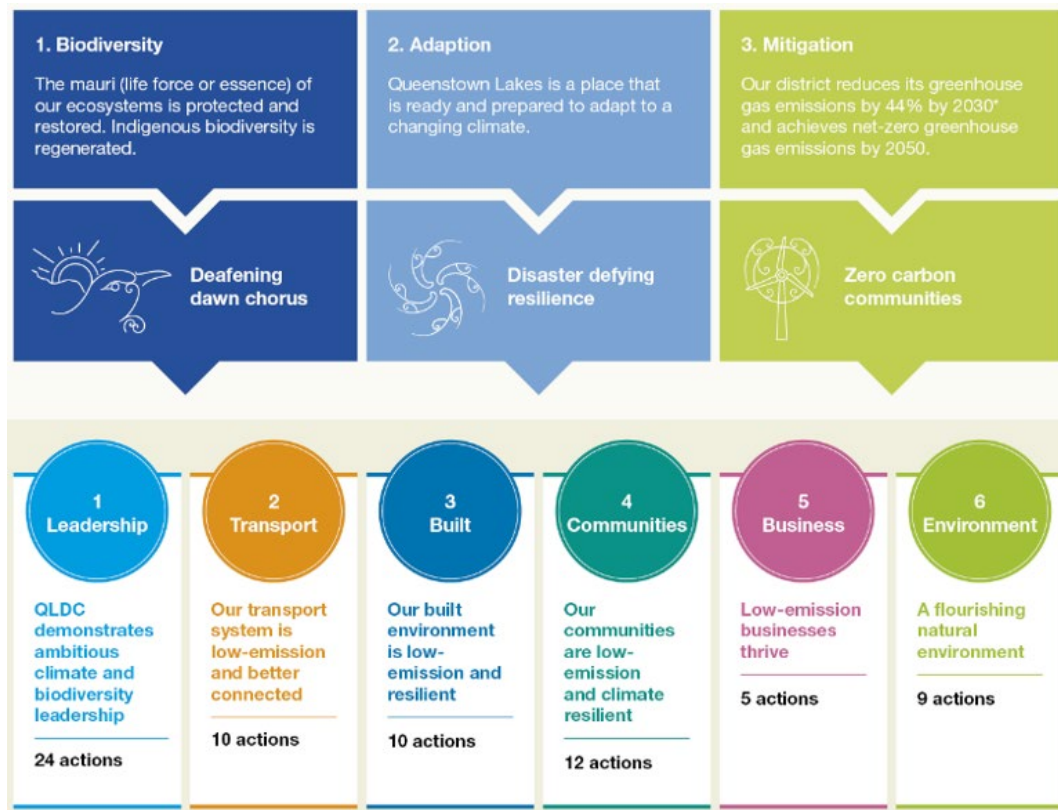


Table 1: Climate and Biodiversity Plan Structure

3. Council has identified the following climate risks within its Organisation Risk Register. Both the Climate Action Plan 2018-2022 and the Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025 can be considered as treatment plans for these Tier 1 risks.

- RISK10012 - Ineffective mitigation response to the declared climate and ecological emergency
- RISK10059 - Ineffective planning and action to support climate change adaption

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

CBP 2022-2025 PROGRAMME STATUS

4. The status of the CBP programme of actions is detailed in the below table. Of the 81 actions that were committed to, 77 are in a state of completion or in-progress implementation.

ACTION STATUS	Count	%
Complete	19	23%
In progress	58	72%
Not started	2	2%
On hold	2	2%
	81	100%

Actions completed or in progress	77	96%
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5. Commentary updates on all CBP actions are published quarterly in the following section of the Climate Action website: [Our Actions | Climate Action and Biodiversity \(qldc.govt.nz\)](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/our-actions). These commentaries can be accessed by clicking on the “+” symbol under the Update icon within each action.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2028

6. A key focus throughout December and January has been on the development of the next Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028.
7. The development process has involved an extensive review of various climate and biodiversity information sources from across a wide variety of public sector strategies, plans, standards, and reports (see Table 2 for examples). These sources have been reviewed to identify potential areas of action opportunity that align with the priorities of the Climate and Biodiversity Plan. Discussions about action opportunities have also been conducted with a wide range of stakeholders from across the Council [partner network](#).

CBP Outcome	Information Source
Outcome 1- Leadership	Kai Tahu Climate Resilience Strategy/ Te Kōunga Pāparangi Climate Action Plan LTP 2024-2034 submissions Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment Toitū Inventory & Management Reports Sustainable Project Management - Recommendations report ISO20400-Sustainable Procurement standard National Emissions Reduction Plan National Adaptation Plan Otago Strategic Climate Action Plan Waste Management & Minimisation Plan (WMMP)

CBP Outcome	Information Source
Outcome 2- Transport	C40 Climate Action Guide
	Various national and international City/District Climate Action Plans
	Travel Demand Management Business Case
	Queenstown Public Transport Business Case (QPTBC)
	Draft Parking Strategy
	Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024
	Regional Land Transport Plan
	Regional Public Transport Plan
	National electric vehicle charging strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand 2023-2035
	Beam Scooter Trial review
Outcome 3- Built Environment	QAC Sustainability Strategy / 10 year Masterplan
	Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice- Stage 3
	30year Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2034
	PAS 2080: Carbon Management Standard
	Green Project Management (GPM) Sustainability framework
	MBIE Climate Change Work Programme
	NZGBC Homestar Design Guide
	District Plan-Energy Chapter
	Transpower - Queenstown Lakes Future Energy Demand Modelling
	Rewiring Aotearoa- The Electrification Opportunity /Electric Homes Report
Outcome 4- Community	Are Ake Impact Report / Flex Challenge
	ORC Head of the Lake Adaptation Strategy
	Wildfire Risk Reduction Programme
	Aotearoa Health National Adaptation Plan 2024-2027
	Emergency Management Otago Community Resilience Strategy
	Government Response- Strengthening NZ's emergency management system
Outcome 5- Economy	WAO Food Resilience Project - Phase 2
	Travel to a thriving future- Destination Management Plan
	Scenarios for Decarbonising Queenstown Lakes' Visitor Economy by 2030
	New pathways to a thriving future- Economic Diversification Plan
Outcome 6- Natural Environment	Event Waste and Emissions Reduction Guide
	Te Mana o Te Taiao- Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy
	Draft QLDC Blue- Green Network Plan
	Draft Kāi Tahu Blue Green Network Ki Uta Ki Tai
	Draft Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes Strategy
	Project Tohu- Coronet Forest Reforestation
	ORC Integrated Catchment Management Plan
	Various Cat Management regulatory models from other Councils

Table 2: Examples of information inputs into draft CBP action development

- From this review a long list of potential actions was developed and shared for review and feedback with the Queenstown Lakes Climate Reference Group.

9. Feedback from this process has been evaluated and a number of early recommendations for the structure of the new plan have been identified. These include:

- The recommendation to place a strong focus on the theme of “Accelerating Transformation through Partnership”. This reflects the vital importance of working with a wide partner network to unlock opportunities and build momentum for transformational change.
- The recommendation to include Energy as a new outcome area within the plan. This reflects the significant scale of the challenge and opportunity associated with transforming the districts power supply to be more resilient, renewable and responsive.
- The recommendation to place the Natural Environment at the heart of the action plan.
- The recommendation to focus on the interconnectedness of outcome areas and to highlight concepts of circularity, collaboration and cooperation.

10. A draft illustration to convey how these recommendations will shape the structure of the plan is shown in Figure 3. This structure places the protection and restoration of the mauri (life force) of our natural environment at the centre, with a focus on partnered delivery across all other outcome areas.



Table 3: Draft CBP structure

11. Next steps for the plan development include further Climate Reference Group review and partner feedback, prior to a Councillor workshop in March. From this the draft plan will be finalised and presented to Council for approve for community engagement in late April.

KEY PROJECT UPDATES

12. The following sections provide a brief update on the delivery progress of key actions within the current Climate and Biodiversity plan over the last quarter.

Action 1.1b- Council will join a certified carbon reduction programme

13. Council completed its FY2023-2024 Toitū carbonreduce verification audit on 13-14 November 2024. The audit was successful with no major non-conformance findings and positive feedback. Council is awaiting the formal recertification documentation from Toitū which should be issued soon.

14. As part of its carbonreduce certification Council has committed to reduction targets for scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas emissions for direct energy (petrol, diesel, LPG) and purchased electricity. The Toitū auditing has verified the following trending for these emission categories:

- Electricity - incremental reduction over last 3 years from peak of 2150 tCO₂e in 2021 to 1488 tCO₂e in 2024
- Petrol and Diesel - steady reduction from a peak of 213 tCO₂e in 2019 to 148 tCO₂e in 2024
- LPG - there has been an increase in LPG related emissions over past three years from 843 tCO₂e in 2022 to 1,155 tCO₂e in 2024

15. QLDC has a window of time to meet its emissions reduction targets (currently FY 2026-27). In the recent Long Term Plan 2024-2034 funding was committed for the conversion of LPG heating systems for aquatic facilities to clean energy sources. The implementation of these decarbonisation projects is estimated to create a step reduction in emissions, along with a considerable operational cost saving.

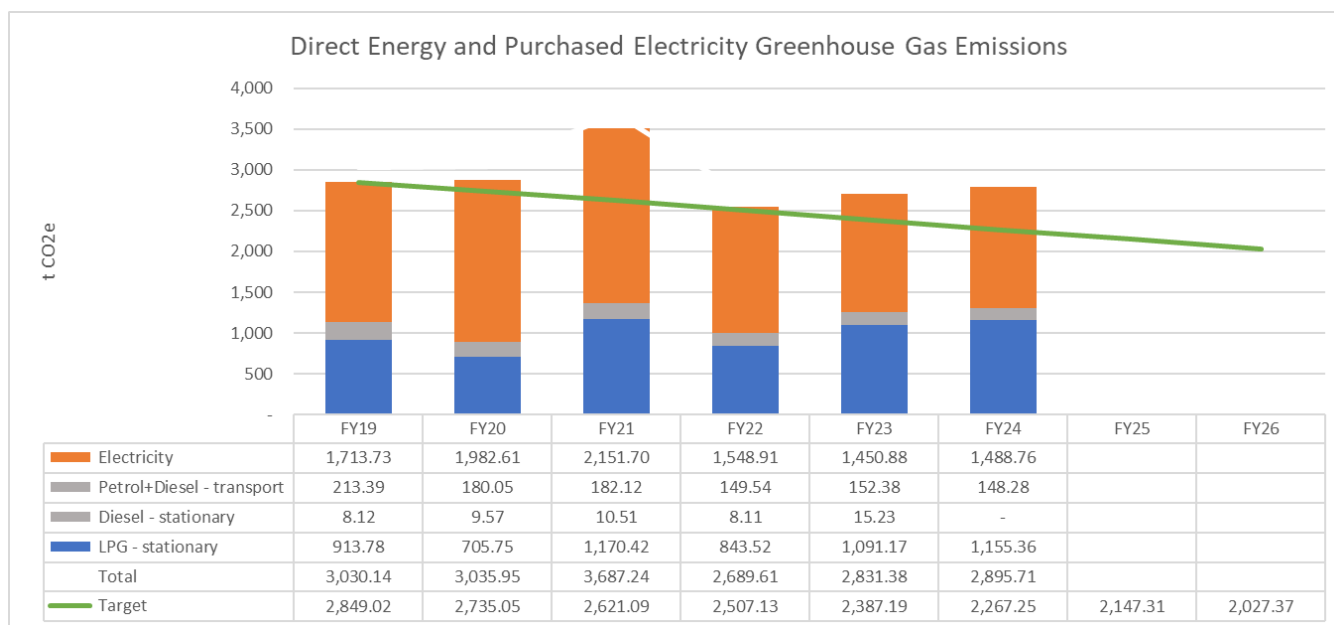


Table 4: Direct Energy & Electricity GHG Emissions Trending

16. Of importance to Council’s carbon reduction certification is the fact that biogenic wastewater emissions are currently excluded from the organisation targets. The rationale for not including it at the time of certification (2023) was the uncertainty over future ownership of Three Waters infrastructure. A review is underway to assess whether these emissions should be included within future Council targets and this will take into consideration the decision processes associated with the Local Water Done Well reforms.

Action 1.20 Communicate and engage with the public

17. Following the launch of the climate action website in 2024, there has been ongoing work to develop an indicators framework that can help track the progress that is being made across the outcome areas of the Climate and Biodiversity Plan. A new section of the website is now live with links to a variety of data sources across our district. This section of the website can be found here: <https://climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/our-plan/measuring-progress/>

18. The development of this resource will be an evolving piece of work between Council and key partners. The intent is to share a diverse range of information sources that can inform our community about the progress that is being made and the milestones that have been achieved. The framework will also help inform measures and targets for the next Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025 – 2028.



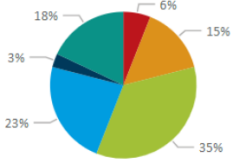

 <p>TOITŪ CARBON REDUCE ISO 14064-1 ORGANISATION</p> <p>QLDC Organisation Emissions</p> <p>We measure our organisational emissions annually and are part of the Toitū Carbon Reduce programme. We have projects in the pipeline that will help us make gains with emissions reduction on top of what we've already achieved.</p> <p>QLDC Toitū CarbonReduce Certification →</p>	 <p>Demand on active travel routes</p> <p>We have 34 counters on our active travel routes across the district. The below link includes an interactive map that details how many walkers, cyclists and scooters use each route.</p> <p>QLDC counters →</p>	<p>Satisfaction with steps QLDC is taking to protect biodiversity</p>  <p>Satisfaction with steps QLDC is taking to protect biodiversity</p> <p>The district's annual Quality of Life Survey shows the level of community satisfaction with our efforts to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>Wellbeing Dashboard →</p>
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Table 5: Examples of data sources

Action 4.6 Glenorchy Head of the Lake Natural Hazard Programme

19. QLDC continues to work closely with Otago Regional Council's (ORC) Natural Hazards team in the delivery of the Head of the Lake Natural Hazards programme.
20. The current focus of the programme is on finalising the Adaptation Strategy which synthesises the programme findings into a community-centric adaptation framework. The final draft Strategy document and a summary feedback document have been completed and shared with programme partners, stakeholders and the community. You can read further information on these documents [here](#).



**Head of Lake Whakatipu
Natural Hazards
Adaptation Strategy**

Draft report for public feedback | December 2024

COVER ARTWORK: CONNIE ANDERSON

Purpose

Otago Regional Council (ORC) has led the development of a Draft Natural Hazards Adaptation Strategy (the strategy) for the Head of Lake Whakatipu area.

The detailed Draft Strategy report is comprehensive and brings together technical, social and strategic information that has been gathered over the last five years.

Not everyone has time or interest to delve into a large report, so we also have this plain language summary that introduces the main ideas.

If you want to explore the detailed Draft Strategy content, you can download a copy from the ORC website at orc.govt.nz/holwfeedback

We need your feedback

The feedback period runs from 5 December 2024 to 11.59pm on 23 February 2025.

Your input will be considered by ORC and help us improve the strategy to make it practical and effective. The revised strategy is expected to be released in Quarter 2 of 2025.

This document includes:

- A summary of the Draft Strategy.
- Survey questions to collect your feedback. You may respond to as many or as few questions as you like, and we encourage you to explain your answers wherever possible.

Ways to submit feedback

You can submit feedback in three ways:

- **Online**
Use the ORC website orc.govt.nz/holwfeedback to complete the survey.
- **Written feedback by email**
Email your feedback to headofthelake@orc.govt.nz
- **Written feedback by post**
Mail hard copy to:
Natural Hazards Department
Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954,
Dunedin 9054

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Table 6: Head of Lake Whakatipu Adaptation Strategy

21. ORC is undertaking a community presentation and drop-in session on 13-14 February 2025 to gather feedback and answer questions from the community ahead of the plan being finalised. ORC, QLDC and Otago Civil Defence and Emergency (CDEM) staff will be present at these sessions to answer any questions from community members.
22. The outputs of the strategy include a summary of current actions and “Future Toolbox” considerations. These future recommendations are being reviewed by QLDC staff for integration into future planning and investment prioritisations for the head of the lake area.

Action 2.8 Partner with local organisations to promote active travel and public transport

23. We have partnered with local organisation ‘The Lightfoot Initiative’ to deliver an exciting Travel Demand Management (TDM) programme of work. This programme is all about promoting and enabling TDM initiatives through delivering travel planning, supporting local organisations and businesses and promoting active travel options.
24. For the month of February 2025, Lightfoot has been focussing on delivering a range of events to encourage engagement in the Aotearoa Bike Challenge which helps to reduce the amount of single occupancy vehicles on our roads and ultimately lower our emissions.
25. Events include pit stops, bike checks and repairs at a number of key events in Queenstown. There is also a ‘Little Pedallers’ course at the Events Centre for kids to learn to ride.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

26. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 because it is consistent with existing strategy and does not impact on the objectives set out in the Financial Strategy, Long Term Plan or Annual Plan. Although the Climate and Biodiversity plan is of high importance to the district and community, the matter is of low significance due to the fact that current progress is aligned with the goals and outcomes of the plan.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

27. The Council has partnered with rūnaka representatives in the development of the Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-25 and undertakes regular engagement on its progress with representations from Aukaha and Te Ao Marama within the Climate Reference Group.
28. Opportunities for alignment and integration with Kāi Tahu’s Climate Change Strategy Te tāhū o te whāriki are being discussed and explored.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

29. This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK10012 Ineffective mitigation response to the declared climate and ecological emergency within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.
30. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing additional controls for this risk to be implemented. This shall be achieved through the implementation of the 70 actions with the Climate and Biodiversity Plan. These actions represent a broad risk control response to the challenges associated with emissions reduction, climate change adaptation and biodiversity restoration.
31. The effectiveness of the implementation of these risk controls is supported through the advisory oversight of the Climate Reference Group and the governance of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

32. There are no variances to operational budgets or resource implications to consider at this time.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

33. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- The Climate and Biodiversity Plan is aligned to the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, particularly Zero Carbon Communities, Disaster-Defying Resilience and Deafening Dawn Chorus <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/vision-beyond-2050/>
 - Related policies, strategies and bylaws (including Management plans) include:
 - 2024-2034 Long Term Plan
 - 2024-2054 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy
 - The QLDC Disability Policy was considered in the development of the Climate and Biodiversity Plan.
<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Disability-Policy-May-2018.pdf>
 - Further reference to Council policies can be found here: <http://www.qldc.govt.nz/policies>
34. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the above named.
35. This matter is included in the [Long Term Plan](#)
- Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive - pg. 5
 - What's Changed? pg. 19
 - Taking Climate Action pg. 45
 - Disaster Defying Resilience pg. 54

- Climate Action pg. 166
- Risk, Resilience and Climate Action pg. 167

36. This matter is also included in the [Annual Plan](#)

- Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive pg. 4

Legal Considerations and Statutory Responsibilities | Ka Ture Whaiwhakaaro me kā Takohaka Waeture

37. There are no legal considerations to take into account at this time.

38. The Council has statutory responsibilities under the [Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019](#) as a reporting organisation.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

39. 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 Climate and Biodiversity Plan plays a central role in delivering upon this purpose through its focus on environmental stewardship, community resilience and intergenerational equity;

40. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
 - Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
 - Would not significantly alter 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.
-