Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025 – 2028 Progress Report



JANUARY 2026 | FEBRUARY 2026 | MARCH 2026 | APRIL 2026 | MAY 2026 | JUNE 2026

6 MONTHLY
January – June 2026

Climate Action | QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

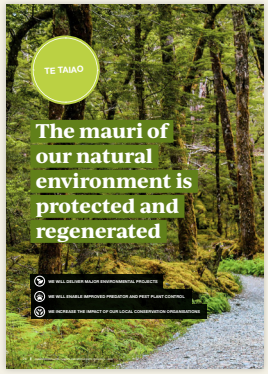
Summary

This report provides an update on implementation of the Climate & Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 (CBP) for the six-month period from January to June 2026. It is the second six-monthly progress report since adoption of the Plan on 31 July 2025.

Delivery has continued across all seven CBP outcomes, with positive progress in the areas of climate risk and scenario planning, energy management, community resilience, biodiversity restoration, and the integration of "natural infrastructure" into the draft 2027-2037 Long Term Plan and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

Overall delivery remains on track. Of the 50 actions reported, 43 are assessed as Green and seven as Amber, with no actions currently assessed as Red. Amber ratings primarily reflect delivery timing, organisational capacity constraints, or dependencies outside Council's direct control.

A separate indicators framework report will track longer-term changes against selected indicators for each of the seven outcome areas and will be made available on the QLDC Climate Action website **climateaction.qldc.govt.nz**. This progress report therefore focuses primarily on delivery of the actions, significant achievements, emerging risks, and the key milestones for the next reporting period.















Measuring success

The CBP has an indicators framework to measure progress and track the success of the plan.

Progress against the indicators framework will be measured annually with the initial measurement provided at the end of the financial year. QLDC also has organisational key performance indicators relating to Resilience & Climate Action, that are reported in the Annual Plan.

RAG status

RAG status is assessed at the individual action level and reflects the overall level of confidence, at the reporting date, that the action can be delivered within its agreed scope, timeframe, and CBP budget.

GREEN	AMBER	RED
ON TRACK	**AT RISK**	**OFF TRACK**
The action is progressing as planned and is expected to be delivered within scope, timeframe, and budget. Risks are minor, well understood, and managed through normal business processes.	The action has emerging risks, delays or dependencies that could affect delivery if not addressed. Mitigations are being actively managed and there remains a reasonable expectation that the action can be delivered within, or close to, its agreed scope, timeframe, and budget. Amber actions warrant increased management attention and are highlighted to governance for visibility	The action is not currently expected to be delivered within agreed scope, timeframe, or CBP budget. Significant issues have been identified, and the action requires re-scoping, additional resourcing, or a formal decision to pause or change delivery timeframes.



OUTCOME ONE

The mauri of our natural environment is protected and regenerated

TE TAIAO - NATURAL ENVIROMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL DELIVER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS				
1.1 Project Tohu	2025-2028	> An audit on the autumn 2025 plantings at Project Tohu shows a survival rate of over 95%, helped by an unseasonably wet summer season. > The Project Tohu restoration site was open to the public on the weekend 7-8 March 2026 for a preview of 12km of the trail network and restoration work undertaken to date. The site is now closed to the public, and will open again in 2027. > A further 130,000 native trees were planted during the Autumn planting season by contractors Te Tapu o Tāne bringing the total number of plants to over 200,000. > Ongoing maintenance work has continued through winter.	> Spring planting is planned for September 2026 > Stage 2 trail network is expected to be complete by January 2027	ON TRACK
1.2 Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes restoration	2025-2028	> The Waiwhakaata / Lake Hayes Strategy[1] was formally endorsed by the Community and Environment Committee on 12 March 2026. > A video case study to share the vision, progress, and objectives of the Waiwhakaata Strategy has been completed. > A community workshop was coordinated by Friends of Lake Hayes on 24 June to provide an overview of the Strategy and share updates on implementation progress of key partners. > QLDC has continued to support **Mana Tāhuna** through the Community Fund to undertake sediment removal from the Waiwhakaata catchment, weed control, and indigenous plantings.	> The Arrow River augmentation pipeline is due to be commissioned in late 2026. This will be supported by a joint media release and community event. > Finalisation of the QLDC implementation plan to support the Waiwhakaata / Lake Hayes Strategy.	ON TRACK
1.3 Mt Iron Reserve enhancement	2027-2028	> The **Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group** has produced a deciduous weed control plan for Mt Iron. > An ecological report was completed to understand the existing ecological values, what opportunities there are for enhancement and to inform future decision making on the reserve.	> Aerial weed control is planned for the southern and eastern faces of Mt Iron. > **Te Kākano** to undertake the first plantings on Mount Iron, planned for August 2026.	ON TRACK
1.4 Blue Green Network Plan	2025-2028	> The Blue-Green Network (BGN) Plan was adopted by Council on 7 May 2026. > The BGN Plan was recommended for endorsement by the **Grow Well Whaiora Steering Group** on 19 May 2026. > Work has commenced to translate the BGN Plan from a strategic framework into a longer-term investment pipeline. This includes identifying potential nature-based solution projects and opportunities to integrate biodiversity, stormwater, amenity, and climate resilience outcomes.	> Develop an indicative Natural Infrastructure project and investment programme for consideration through the 2027-2037 LTP and 30YIS. > Continue integrating Blue Green Network priorities into spatial planning, structure planning, asset management, and capital investment programmes.	ON TRACK

[1] Otago Regional Council (2025). Waiwhakaata / Lake Hayes Strategy https://www.savelakehayes.org.nz/_files/ugd/742908_a7e2432dee1d4270811f96227882a3db.pdf

TE TAIAO - NATURAL ENVIROMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL				
1.5 Agrichemical reduction programme	2025-2028	> A cross-functional agrichemical working group has been established, bringing together members from the Resilience and Climate Action (RCA), Parks, and Infrastructure Operations teams. > Research has been conducted to understand approaches taken by other local councils and best practices for agrichemical reduction. > A review is underway to improve data collection on agrichemical use by QLDC and its contractors.	> An Agrichemical Reduction Strategy is being scoped. > Roading operations and maintenance contract being reviewed for opportunities around spray reduction	AT RISK Amber due to staff resourcing constraints, which have delayed development of the Agrichemical Reduction Strategy.
1.6 Rewild & revegetate Council land	2025-2028	> QLDC continues to support community-led revegetation with thousands of native trees being planted thanks to the Parks team, iwi, community groups, schools, and volunteers. > QLDC projects include removal of woody weeds and planting new trees at Eely Point, the first community planting day at Peninsula Bay Reserve led by Te Kākano, native plantings at Albert Town Lagoon Reserve, and continued planting at Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens[2]. > The **Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group** has produced a deciduous weed control plan for Mt Iron with aerial weed control planned for the southern and eastern faces. > Scoping of reserve land that is suitable for potential rewilding/meadowing practices has commenced.	> Preparation for the 2026 spring planting season	ON TRACK
1.7 Predator trapping & species monitoring innovation	2025-2028	> QLDC continues to support the **Southern Lakes Sanctuary**, **Whakatipu Wildlife Trust**, and **Predator Free Wānaka** to enable landscape scale predator control and biodiversity monitoring. > Predator suppression in the district covers more than 250,000 ha and has removed 110,000 predators since 2021[3]. > In May QLDC staff attended the Southern Regional Predator Free Hui co-hosted by **Southern Lakes Sanctuary** and **Predator Free New Zealand Trust** to discuss the latest innovations in predator control, emerging technologies. > Species monitoring continues to advance through the success of the acoustic monitoring of breeding mohua populations in the Makarora and West Matukituki valleys. > The quarterly CBP newsletter is being developed in partnership with SLS to highlight local predator/pest species and native species restoration efforts.	> Continue supporting efforts of SLS, WWT, PFW and the wider local conservation group network with partnership, funding, and in-kind assistance. > Continue to support public communication and awareness campaigns in partnership with local organisations.	ON TRACK

[2] Kōrero Mai June/July 2026 (pp 20-21) (https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/3rhprmkb/qldc_scuttlebutt_jun-jul-2026_issue173-web.pdf)
[3] Southern Lakes Sanctuary (2026) Project Update IX Jan-Jun 2026 SLS-project-update-June-2026.pdf

TE TAIAO - NATURAL ENVIROMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ENABLE IMPROVED PREDATOR AND PEST PLANT CONTROL				
1.8 Wilding conifer control	2025-2028	> QLDC provides funding and operational support to the **Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group** and the **Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group**, alongside leading key projects to remove wilding conifer seed sources across priority sites. > Current work includes planning large-scale wilding conifer removal on sites such as Queenstown Hill, and removal of conifers at Eely Point in Wānaka. > These efforts focus on reducing wildfire risk, protecting native ecosystems, and restoring iconic landscapes, with strong collaboration between community volunteers, local agencies, and funding partners critical to achieving enduring outcomes.	> QLDC will continue to provide leadership, both locally and nationally, on wilding conifer control and tree succession projects across key sites, consistent with Chapter 34 of the District Plan. > Work will progress in partnership with community groups and agencies to plan staged removal of wilding and aging conifers, replanting with native and non-invasive species, and ongoing consultation to guide restoration outcomes.	ON TRACK
1.9 Cat Management	2025-2027	> A policy investigation is in progress to evaluate the nature and scale of cat management issues and assess potential Council interventions across biodiversity, public health, nuisance, and cat welfare outcomes. > Stakeholder feedback has been gathered through a survey on potential cat management options. > Targeted one-on-one engagement with conservation groups and cat rescue organisations has also been undertaken. > The investigation is assessing regulatory and non-regulatory responses, including bylaw appropriateness, land-use and reserve controls, responsible ownership education, and partnership-led initiatives, while recognising different roles for companion, stray, and feral cats.	> Continue to develop the findings report before presenting management options to Elected Members.	ON TRACK
WE INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS				
1.10 Enhance environmental data sharing	2025-2027	> The Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan led by the **Otago Regional Council (ORC)** was endorsed by the Community and Environment Committee in March 2026. > Both QLDC elected members and staff have been appointed to the ULICAP Governance Group. > The group has met regularly to establish Terms of Reference, ways of working, elect chairs and prioritise work programmes. > Data sharing and a progress dashboard has been identified as one of the key priorities for the group.	> Formalise the Terms of Reference for the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan which will include principles and working group structure for improved environmental information sharing.	ON TRACK
1.11 Strengthen capability of our local conservation groups	2025-2028	> A key focus has been expanding governance and leadership capability across the district's volunteer groups through **Huddl**[4], which is delivering tailored development workshops to help organisations strengthen their structure, decision-making and long-term sustainability. > Two education-focused community cohorts are also being supported: **Nature ED** in the Upper Clutha and the **Conservation Curiosity Collective** in the Whakatipu. These programmes help connect tamariki and whānau with local ecosystems and build a deeper understanding of conservation in action, strengthening long-term community stewardship.	> Expand the governance and leadership development programme with **Huddl** to additional groups across the district. > Refresh the resource and equipment support model to improve access and ensure consistency across conservation partners.	ON TRACK

[4] https://www.huddl.nz/

OUTCOME TWO

QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate and biodiversity leadership

LEADERSHIP

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR DNA				
2.1 Emission reduction investments	2025-2028	> Procurement and design work has progressed to transition QLDC aquatic facilities away from LPG heating and toward lower-emissions electricity-based systems. > Procurement for the Arrowtown Pool heat pump conversion has commenced, while technical design and funding pathways continue to be refined for Alpine Aqualand and Wānaka Recreation Centre. > QLDC released a Request for Proposal for electricity supply services via GETS on 2 June. Respondents were asked to include how they would enable emission reduction investments and meet QLDC's strategic objectives related to decarbonisation and improved energy management. > Following endorsement of the Organisational Travel Plan, QLDC has launched the WorkRide Plus bike benefit scheme to encourage employees to use active travel to commute to and from work.	> Complete the Arrowtown Pool electrification project in time for the summer season opening in November. > Progress design and funding decisions for Alpine Aqualand and Wānaka Recreation Centre. > Award of Electricity Supply Services Contract October 2026.	AT RISK Amber due to installation and commissioning timeframes for the pool heating conversions being later than anticipated in the Emissions Reduction Plan[5].
2.2 Embedding climate and biodiversity into Council decision-making	2025-2028	> An internal change programme is being delivered to help embed climate and biodiversity considerations into Council decision-making. > Recent progress includes meetings with Senior Leadership teams, staff engagement initiatives, Team Talk articles and an internal communications campaign to raise awareness of how everyone's work contribute to the delivery of the CBP. > The outputs from Actions 2.4 (sustainable procurement), 2.7 (climate scenarios), 2.8 (climate risk), 5.1 (sustainable project management) and 5.3 (designing for climate resilience) will support the delivery of this change programme.	> Delivery is continuing through the LTP, 30YIS and updates to priority Council processes.	AT RISK Amber due to organisational capacity constraints, which may slow implementation of new climate and biodiversity tools and practices across Council.
2.3 Protecting indigenous biodiversity through planning policy	2025-2028	> A review is in progress for implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB), which will also consider the new resource management framework and Significant Natural Areas (SNA) criteria. > A communications plan has been prepared to help guide proactive, transparent, and inclusive engagement with stakeholders and landowners. > Monitoring of national reform developments is ongoing to ensure local planning responses remain aligned with legislative direction.	> Finalise and implement the communications plan to support early engagement with affected landowners and stakeholders as required by legislative direction.	ON TRACK

[5] DETA (2023). Queenstown Lakes District Council Emissions Reduction Plan. Final Report V2 13 September 2023 (https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/adiajubv/5a-a4-attachment-a-qldc-erp-report-final-report.pdf)

LEADERSHIP

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IS IN OUR DNA				
2.4 Sustainable procurement	2025-2028	> Sustainable procurement guidance and procurement processes are being reviewed to improve how climate, biodiversity, emissions, and waste considerations are incorporated into purchasing decisions. > Procurement templates within TechOne now include prompts to consider climate and biodiversity matters and to engage the Resilience & Climate Action team where these issues may be material. > The RCA team has provided advice on climate & biodiversity considerations for key procurement projects e.g. Electricity Services, EV Charging and Parks procurement processes.	> Continue to develop proportionate sustainability requirements and reporting templates for use in significant Council contracts. > Test the improved approach through selected capital and operational procurement processes.	ON TRACK
WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE				
2.5 Organisational GHG emissions reporting	2025-2028	> QLDC was recertified in January 2026 by Toitū Envirocare as a Carbon Reduce organisation. > A slight increase occurred in FY24–25 for emissions intensity from direct energy and electricity after a downward trend since FY18–19. > Category 1 and 2 emissions have risen by 21% against the FY18–19 baseline, primarily due to higher LPG consumption, increased electricity use, and an elevated national electricity emissions factor. > These results reinforce the importance of planned LPG-to-clean-energy conversions at Council's pools as a key emissions reduction opportunity.	> Preparation of the Organisational GHG Emissions Inventory for FY25-26. > Toitū verification audit in November 2026.	ON TRACK
2.6 District GHG emissions reporting	2026-2027	> QLDC along with **Destination Queenstown (DQ)** / **Lake Wānaka Tourism (LWT)** are scoping district emissions reporting, with a focus on the contribution of the visitor economy to the district's emissions profile. > The **Otago Climate Officer Group (OCOG)** continue to investigate tools for standardised reporting of regional and district GHG emissions.	> Procure services to undertake district-level GHG reporting with a focus on the contribution of the visitor economy.	ON TRACK
2.7 Climate scenario analysis	2025-2026	> Local Queenstown Lakes district climate scenarios have been developed to help test long-term infrastructure assumptions and support a dynamic adaptive planning approach to asset management planning. > The scenarios are informed by the national Local Government Sector Climate Scenarios[6], which QLDC helped develop through participation in the sector working group. > The local scenarios are now being incorporated into development of the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy and 2027-2037 Long Term Plan to support more adaptive and resilient long-term investment decisions.	> Incorporate climate scenarios into the LTP and 30YIS.	ON TRACK

[6] https://www.lgfa.co.nz/sustainability/sustainability-lgfa/local-government-sector-scenarios

LEADERSHIP

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE COMMIT TO PROACTIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE				
2.8 Climate risk assessment	2026-2027	> An update on recent climate risk developments at a national, regional and local level was provided to the Risk & Assurance Committee on 23 June 2026[7]. > The National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA)[8] was released by the Climate Change Commission in May 2026. The NCCRA identified 10 significant risk areas with risks to water infrastructure, road networks, emergency management, ecosystems & biodiversity, and funding as key risks of relevance to the Queenstown Lakes District. > At the regional level, QLDC staff participated in an **ORC**-led workshop in March 2026 to review the 2021 Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment (OCCRA). The purpose of the work is to update climate change risks facing Otago and provide a local context to how these risks may affect the district's people and places > At a local level, QLDC is using this national and regional risk assessments along with its local climate scenarios to strengthen how climate risk is incorporated into Council planning and investment. This includes in the 2027 Long Term Plan, 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, asset management, spatial planning and emergency management planning.	> The review of the OCCRA is expected to be released by ORC in August 2026. > Updates on QLDC climate risk programme will be reported to the Risk & Assurance Committee	ON TRACK
2.9 Climate insurance strategy	2025-2027	> QLDC is developing an Insurance and Risk Transfer Strategy to consider the changing risk environment facing Council, including climate and natural hazard exposure. > The work is being developed alongside wider consideration of Council's infrastructure resilience, financial risk, and future Water Services CCO arrangements. > Feedback from the insurance sector confirms that local government is facing increasing insurance costs, changes in insurability, and the potential for major financial challenges from severe weather events and long-term climate stress.	> Progress the Insurance and Risk Transfer Strategy through the relevant Council process.	ON TRACK

[7] https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/va4fqmf3/4-rac-climate-risk-update-report-23062026.pdf
[8] https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/upcoming-work/nccra/

OUTCOME THREE

Our communities are ready and prepared for a changing climate

COMMUNITIES

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE				
3.1 Preserving our cultural and natural heritage	2025-2028	> Tāhuna-Glenorchy is one of two New Zealand locations selected for the **Preserving Legacies** cohort to work on climate-action, environmental protection, and cultural preservation. > Four Workshops took place with Glenorchy School in May-June 2026 with all students focusing their science projects on climate change related topics culminating in a science fair in late June.	> Two Community Engagement Workshops on Climate Scenarios and updates on hazards, and Wetland Restoration are scheduled for August followed by a 3.5 day Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning workshop focused on Tāhuna Glenorchy wetlands in September.	ON TRACK
3.2 Ensuring a just transition	2025-2028	> QLDC is partnering with the **Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA)**[9] to investigate opportunities to reduce energy hardship and improve social equity outcomes with regards to access to solar and battery technology. > This includes the piloting of an innovative Solar for Renters programme which aims to remove the barriers that renters face with this technology.	> Continue to support delivery and scaling of the QEA, with a focus on community and social equity focussed programmes.	ON TRACK
WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE				
3.3 Community resilience groups	2025-2028	> QLDC and Emergency Management Otago continue to strengthen the district's Community Resilience Group network as a key component of local preparedness. > Several new groups are being developed, including West Queenstown, Cardrona and Queenstown Central, while updated information has been prepared for established groups across Wānaka and the Whakatipu. > A quarterly CRG newsletter has been launched to improve information-sharing, hazard awareness, training opportunities, and connections between groups. > Emergency preparedness sessions have also been delivered in partnership with Welcoming Communities, Lakes Multicultural Collective and New Zealand Red Cross to improve engagement with migrant and culturally diverse communities.	> Continue rollout of CRG training and updated templates and guidance. > Continue expanding the network in identified community gaps. > Deliver the next district-wide CRG hui. > Strengthen links between CRGs, community emergency hubs, lifeline planning, and QLDC emergency management arrangements.	ON TRACK

[9] https://www.qea.nz/

COMMUNITIES

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE				
3.4 Community adaptation – Head of the Lake natural hazards	2025-2028	> Work has commenced on the Lower Rees River and Glenorchy flood resilience programme, with a communications plan prepared and technical investigations underway. > The current programme includes concept design for resilience interventions at Bible Stream and the Glenorchy water supply borefield, together with detailed design work for improvements to the Lower Rees lagoon floodbank. > Resilience investment in Glenorchy Community Hall and Glenorchy Wharf is also being investigated through development of the next LTP. > The developing Natural Infrastructure programme provides a further opportunity to consider where catchment, wetland and other nature-based approaches can complement engineered flood resilience measures.	> Geotechnical investigations for the Lower Rees lagoon floodbank are planned for July 2026. > Business case for investments in Glenorchy Hall and Wharf to be initiated.	ON TRACK
3.5 Community adaptation – Wildfire hazards	2025-2028	> QLDC continues to collaborate with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) through pre-season workshops and multi-agency coordination exercises. These joint activities help strengthen operational readiness, clarify roles, and align response planning with the district's wildfire risk reduction programme. > In addition, QLDC works closely with FENZ and business and community partners to review the wildfire closure protocols around reserves ahead of the summer period. > Progress has also been made this quarter to improve the performance and resilience of the district's environmental monitoring network.	> Work closely with FENZ to coordinate pre-season preparedness activities, including joint briefings, refinement of communication protocols, and alignment of public messaging for the 2026-27 fire season. > FENZ is also supporting QLDC's wildfire mitigation programme and supporting planning for the LTP.	ON TRACK
WE WILL HELP GROW A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM				
3.6 Strengthen local food system resilience	2025-2028	> QLDC is continuing the partnership with **Wao Aotearoa** to progress their Food Resilience programme and the **Southern Lakes Kai Collective (SLKC)** – a multi-disciplinary working group that brings together 31 partners across the local food system. > SLKC has been selected to participate as a case study in an international research project with the Bioeconomy Science Institute and Wageningen University (Netherlands) exploring how food systems transform. > Development of a local Food Charter is progressing, with a draft prepared for member input and future community consultation.	> Ongoing delivery of the roadmap through the SLKC. > Launch of an Emergency Food Planning project between QLDC, Emergency Management Otago and SLKC	ON TRACK
3.7 Exploring Kaupapa Māori food projects	2025-2028	> Work on this action is being progressed through alignment with the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan and its Kāi Tahu-led mahika kai priorities. > This provides a stronger strategic framework for supporting restoration of mauri, taoka species and cultural food pathways than progressing a separate standalone Council programme. > Relevant priorities include wetland restoration, riparian enhancement, and habitat protection for species such as tuna and kōura.	> Work with Kāi Tahu and Upper Lakes Catchment Action Plan partners to identify practical opportunities where QLDC programmes can contribute to agreed mahika kai outcomes.	ON TRACK

OUTCOME FOUR

Our energy system is resilient, renewable and responsive

ENERGY

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEM				
4.1 Supercharge the rollout of residential solar and batteries	2025-2028	> Council remains committed to supporting establishment of the national Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS), following its decision in July 2025 to contribute up to $250,000 toward final development of the scheme, subject to matched funding. > The scheme remains dependent on Central Government support and enabling legislative change. QLDC continues to work alongside Rewiring Aotearoa and the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator to advocate for financing approaches that can improve access to solar, batteries and household electrification, particularly for households that face upfront cost barriers.	> Continue advocacy and partnership work to support establishment of the RAS and identify opportunities for Queenstown Lakes to support early implementation.	AT RISK Amber because establishment of the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme depends on Central Government support and legislative change outside Council's control.
4.2 Empowering community-led electrification	2025-2028	> QLDC continues to support the **Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA)** and **Electrify Wānaka** to accelerate community electrification across the district. > QEA has expanded its practical support for households and businesses, including the Solar for Renters trial, development of an online electrification information hub, the Solar Streets Map and direct engagement with businesses and developers. > The programme is focused on providing trusted independent advice to overcoming barriers to electrification including upfront financial costs, technical constraints and access for renters.	> Support QEA to scale the Solar for Renters trial and expand practical electrification guidance for households, landlords and businesses. > Work with QEA to strengthen business engagement, case studies, and sustainable funding opportunities for the programme.	ON TRACK
4.3 Accelerator projects	2025-2028	> A QLDC Energy Steering Group has been established to coordinate Council investment in electricity procurement, facility electrification, solar and batteries, EV infrastructure and opportunities to better manage electricity demand. > QLDC is partnering with the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator on a Vehicle-to-Grid trial at Arrowtown Community Centre, testing whether an electric vehicle can supply electricity to a Council building and potentially back to the electricity network. > Together, these initiatives are helping Council manage energy more strategically, with the potential to reduce costs and emissions, improve flexibility and strengthen resilience during electricity disruptions.	> Progress the Arrowtown Community Centre V2G trial. > Award of Electricity Supply Services Contract October 2026. > Integrate findings from the pilot projects, electricity contract, and aquatic electrification programme into an Energy project investment programme for the 2027-2037 LTP.	ON TRACK

ENERGY

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL HELP CREATE A MORE ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT				
4.4 Energising regulatory reform	2025-2028	> QLDC is increasingly engaging in national regulatory reform to help remove barriers to local energy innovation. > QLDC and Central Otago District Council jointly approached the Electricity Authority seeking support for a regulatory sandbox that could enable innovative electricity technologies, services, and business models to be tested in the region. > In June 2026 the Electricity Authority contacted QLDC to recognise this request and invite direct engagement between its Power Innovation Pathway team and Council officials to explore regulatory barriers and opportunities emerging through local initiatives and Regional Deal work. > Alongside this national engagement, QLDC has reviewed District Plan consent requirements for small and community-scale solar generation. The review found that current provisions are not significantly restricting solar uptake, although improved guidance would assist installations in non-urban areas.	> Establish engagement with the Electricity Authority's Power Innovation Pathway team. > Identify priority regulatory barriers and potential innovation trials arising from the QEA, V2G, distributed energy and Regional Deal programmes. > Prepare guidance for small and community-scale solar installations in non-urban areas.	ON TRACK

OUTCOME FIVE

Our built environment is resilient with low environmental impact

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE ADOPT BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS				
5.1 Sustainable project management	2025-2028	> QLDC is updating its project management approach so climate, biodiversity and whole-of-life costs are considered when major projects are planned and delivered. The approach will initially be tested on a small number of capital projects. > Initial discussions are underway to identify suitable capital programmes where the approach can be tested in practice, with Community Services projects identified as potential early candidates.	> Work with PMO office and Programme Directors to identify opportunities for adopting sustainable project management practices into existing projects.	AT RISK Amber due to organisational capacity constraints, which may slow implementation of sustainable project management practices across QLDC.
5.2 Best practice carbon management	2025-2028	> A draft options paper has been prepared that outlines a more consistent whole-of-life assessment approach for QLDC capital projects. The paper compares the costs, benefits, limitations, and implementation implications of different assessment options. > Recommendations from this options paper are being incorporated into the draft Infrastructure Strategy under the “Thriving Te Taiao” planning setting.	> Presentation of Options Paper. > Implementation of the recommended option will commence with framework design and testing it on a small number of pilot capital projects.	AT RISK Amber due to organisational capacity constraints, which may slow development and implementation of the whole-of-life assessment framework.
5.3 Designing for climate resilience	2025-2028	> Council is building climate and natural hazard resilience into the draft 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy. This includes using local climate projections to identify vulnerable infrastructure and guide future investment. Flood, slope, rockfall and wildfire resilience projects are also being considered for the 2027-2037 LTP, alongside opportunities to use nature-based solutions. > A Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning framework to help screen hazard exposure and criticality for critical and non-critical assets and guide decisions over protect/retrofit, relocation/adaptation or service-level change decisions is under development. > Resilience projects relating to flood protection, slope instability, rockfall, and wildfire hazards are being investigated for prioritisation in the 2027-2037 LTP investment programme. > Work is also underway to identify opportunities where nature-based solution (NBS) approaches could complement traditional engineered interventions and how the Land & Subdivision Code of Practice can be updated to encourage these solutions (see action 5.7). > Scoping is also underway for the QLDC geotechnical monitoring contract that will review and monitor geotechnical features in the transportation network to mitigate/minimise risk of instability in the network.	> Finalise the 30 year Infrastructure Strategy and resilience investment programme within the 2027-2037 LTP. > Identify priority projects where nature-based solutions could be trialled or incorporated alongside engineered solutions, including flood attenuation, erosion management, water quality improvements, and biodiversity enhancement. > Procurement for geotechnical inspections of the transportation network.	ON TRACK

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL ACCELERATE THE GREEN BUILDING TRANSITION				
5.4 Promoting a better building standard	2025-2028	> QLDC continues to provide support for the **Better Building Working Group**, **Wao Summit** and **NZ Green Building Council** to promote higher-performing, climate-resilient buildings and initiatives that lift minimum building standards and encourage best-practice design across the district. > QLDC's Zero Waste Programme supported Wao's "This Is How We Build" training series[10]. The six-part programme brings together films, webinars, and events to help the sector move from awareness to real-world action and more sustainable construction. > The 2026-2027 QLDC Waste Minimisation Community Fund accepted 17 applications, including funding projects looking to reduce construction waste in the district.	> Promote the 2026 work programme for the Better Building Working Group	ON TRACK
5.5 Sustainable Council Buildings	2025-2028	> A Project Management company and design team have been appointed for the Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) Upgrades project, which includes investigation of energy efficiency improvements and integration with the planned LPG-to-electric pool heating conversion.	> Final design programme for the QEC Upgrades will be developed with design workshops scheduled to confirm scope, performance outcomes, and delivery sequencing.	AT RISK Amber because integrating sustainability improvements across QLDC's property portfolio may create cost and programme pressures within approved budgets and delivery timeframes.

[10] https://www.wao.co.nz/this-is-how-we-build

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL PROTECT & MANAGE OUR WATER TOGETHER				
5.6 Promoting responsible water usage	2025-2028	> The business case for water demand management interventions for QLDC water supply schemes is being developed and a presentation was provided to Council on 2 June 2026. > This work builds on a long-running programme of initiatives aimed at improving water efficiency and resilience, including smart water metering trials in Luggate and Glenorchy, which have provided valuable insights into consumption patterns, peak demand drivers, and customer behaviour.	> Approve Programme Business Case in July 2026. > Implement increased leak detection and repair programme with enhanced District Metered Areas. Continue the roll out of customer meters with a focus on high priority schemes. > Review and update the Three Waters Bylaw to manage excessive use.	ON TRACK
5.7 Strengthening stormwater resilience	2025-2028	> QLDC is developing comprehensive Stormwater Network Management Plans (previously termed Catchment Management Plans) for Queenstown and Wānaka, adopting a consistent, catchment-wide approach to managing stormwater quantity and quality across the district. > The plans set out a coordinated programme of recommended actions, including capital works, targeted investigations, enhanced monitoring, data validation, and policy and operational improvements, with a strong focus on preparing for climate change and future growth pressures. > An internal gap analysis review of stormwater infrastructure vesting and consent transfer issues has been undertaken. One of the key recommendations from the review is to improve the Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice (CoP) so that nature-based solutions, which is the preferred stormwater quality approach, are made clearer and incentivised to be utilised by the development community.	> Embed Management Plan recommendations into long-term planning, capital programme development, and future spatial and structure planning to strengthen district-wide stormwater resilience. > An information sharing hui on improving Nature Based Solutions within the CoP is planned for September 2026, with additional engagement planned with stakeholders and the development community in the new year. > Recommendations for improvements to the CoP will be taken to the Assets & Infrastructure workshop in November 2026.	ON TRACK
5.8 Supporting community-led water initiatives	2025-2028	> QLDC is strengthening its partnership approach to freshwater science by actively supporting **WAI Wānaka** and their catchment-scale research and monitoring programmes. Officers continue to participate in information sharing sessions to ensure that emerging freshwater data and climate-related risks, such as lake warming, nutrient loading, microplastics and sedimentation, are incorporated into Council decision-making. • QLDC also continues to support the work of the **Friends of Lake Hayes**[11], including their community-led monitoring, catchment restoration advocacy, and investigations into options to improve water quality in Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes.	> Incorporate insights from these partnerships into QLDC's climate adaptation, biodiversity restoration and three-waters planning work, to help ensure that freshwater science and community-based knowledge are embedded.	ON TRACK

[11] https://www.savelakehayes.org.nz/

OUTCOME SIX

Our transport system is low emission and better connected

TRANSPORT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAVEL				
6.1 Investing in our future transport network	2025-2028	> Significant investment is underway across the district to improve transport capacity, safety, resilience, and active and public transport performance. This work is being progressed in partnership with **ORC**, **Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency**, and the **Trails Trusts**. > A Transport Network Plan is being developed as part of the Regional Deal to provide an agreed long-term foundation for investment prioritisation and planning for Otago Central Lakes. > The QLDC Transport Model development is in the data collection phase and will be used as a tool to better inform transportation decisions in the network. > The Transport Asset Management team are currently updating the Transportation Asset Management Plan for the 2027-2030 period. This asset management plan will be used as a business case for investment for the next LTP period. > Queenstown's Orbus network recorded more than two million passenger trips during the 2025-2026 financial year, with Quarter 4 patronage up 9.3% compared with the same period last year. Bus reliability remained strong, averaging 90.1% across the year[12].	> An update on the Transport Strategy will be presented at a Full Council workshop on 14 July 2026. > Finalisation of the Otago Central Lakes Transport Network Plan as part of the Regional Deal.	ON TRACK
6.2 Growing community-led active travel initiatives	2025-2028	> QLDC has supported the **Lightfoot Initiative** to deliver a range of programmes including February's Aotearoa Bike Challenge, road safety audits and travel plans for schools in the Whakatipu basin and continued support for the OneBike Hub which repairs and refurbishes bikes. > Over the 2025-26 financial year, more than 511,000 cycle trips and 541,000 pedestrian trips were recorded on monitored active travel routes across Queenstown and Wānaka. Several shared paths, particularly in Wānaka, saw significant year-on-year increases in use[13].	> Procurement for design of improved wayfinding signage for the Upper Clutha Active Travel network will be undertaken in August 2026 with planned physical delivery from February 2027.	ON TRACK
6.3 Smarter parking solutions	2026-2028	> Council has progressed the development of a comprehensive, district-wide Parking Management framework, including a Parking Strategy, Parking Guidelines, and draft Parking Management Plans for Queenstown, Frankton, and Wānaka, presented to elected members in March 2026. > This work provides a consistent and transparent approach to managing parking demand and prioritising access across different user groups and locations. It supports mode shift though changes to time restrictions, pricing structures, permit systems, and support for EV charging and active and shared transport.	> Final draft Parking Management Plans to be presented to the Asset & Infrastructure Committee in November 2026 for approval to go to consultation. Public consultation to follow with timing to be confirmed. > Implementation prioritising locations with the highest parking pressure and congestion impacts to begin from 2027-28.	ON TRACK

[12] Transport Network Monitoring Report Q4 1 April to 20 June 2026 (https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/wqrpiwcy/summary-monitoring-report-q4-2025-26.pdf)
[13] Transport Network Monitoring Report Q4 1 April to 20 June 2026 (https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/wqrpiwcy/summary-monitoring-report-q4-2025-26.pdf)

TRANSPORT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE WILL HELP ACCELERATE TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION				
6.4 Expand the EV charging network	2025-2028	> A Request for Proposal for a district-wide public EV charging network, enabling fast-charging infrastructure on Council land was released in June 2026. > This includes priority sites in Queenstown, Wānaka, Arrowtown, Glenorchy, Kingston, and Cardrona for public fast-charging infrastructure, with a coordinated procurement process being prepared to ensure consistent, equitable delivery.	> Procurement for the EV charging network closes 31 July 2026, after which the successful tenderer will be announced.	ON TRACK
6.5 Exploring innovative mass transport solutions	2026-2028	> Council has been actively monitoring and engaging with emerging proposals for innovative mass transport solutions in the district. > These proposals signal growing private-sector interest in alternative transport modes that could complement existing public and active transport networks.	> Continue to track the development of **Woosh** and **Southern Infrastructure Limited** proposals. > Engage with central government agencies and project proponents to understand how innovative mass transport options could be supported through planning, regulatory, or partnership mechanisms.	ON TRACK
6.6 Supporting the aviation transition	2025-2028	> **Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC)** has achieved Level 4+ Airport Carbon Accreditation and reduced Scope 1, 2 and limited Scope 3 organisational greenhouse gas emissions by 80% since 2019. QAC is on track to achieve an 85% reduction by 2028. > It has continued with electrification of operations, waste minimisation initiatives, completed a climate-related risks and opportunities assessment, developed a Sustainable Building Guidelines, and enabled a new biodiversity partnership with Remarkables Station. > **QAC** is continuing to work with airlines to encourage the deployment of new-generation, quieter, lower-emissions aircraft into Queenstown. Since 2019 there has been a steady increase in the introduction of these aircraft types operating to and from Queenstown. These include Virgin Australia's B737 Max and Qantas Group's A321 NEO and A320 NEO. In 2026 approximately 25% of passenger movements and 22% of aircraft movements are on new generation aircraft compared to 3% in 2019. The rate is expected to stay constant for the next few years before another step change as aircraft fleet mixes evolve. > In addition, **QAC** is collaborating with the aviation sector to understand the future infrastructure requirements for next-generation aircraft to ensure these requirements are incorporated into our planning. More information is available in QAC Statement of Intent FY27[14]	> A significant Capital Investment Programme is underway > Maintain ACA Level 4+ accreditation. > QAC's next Sustainability Report will be published before the end of 2026.	ON TRACK

[14] Queenstown Airport Corporation Statement of Intent Year Ending 30 June 2027 (https://www.queenstownairport.co.nz/media/jx5iwtem/2027-2029-statement-of-intent.pdf)

OUTCOME SEVEN

Our economy leads the transition to a low emission future

ECONOMY

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM				
7.1 Partnered delivery of the Destination Management Plan	2025-2028	> QLDC supported **Destination Queenstown's (DQ)** Electrify Queenstown event from 17-19 May 2026. Held at Queenstown Events Centre the event showcased how electrification can strengthen energy resilience, support decarbonisation, reduce energy costs and provide new economic opportunities for the district[15]. > QLDC and DQ / **Lake Wānaka Tourism (LWT)** provided joint support for the **QEA** designed to increase electrification of homes and businesses in the district[16]. > DQ alongside Destination Think led a Place DNA® research project for Queenstown, which has been completed and identified four main themes – nature, community, innovation, and sharing Queenstown. At the heart of Queenstown's identity is a deep care for nature as evidenced by the conservation and restoration work underway, and residents' efforts to live more sustainably[17]. > External engagement remains active with joint input into the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Action Plan governance formation.	> Procure services to undertake district-level GHG reporting (see Action 2.6) with a focus on the contribution of the visitor economy. > Support the delivery of the DQ LWT Member Capability programme including business sustainability support through targeted workshops and member hub resources. > Queenstown-Lakes is one of three destinations in a 3-year Tourism Nature Restoration Project with Griffith University (led by Dr S Becken), funded by the Australian Research Council. Griffith is working with QLDC and DQ/LWT to conduct the research in-region. > DQ/ LWT is working with **Wastebusters** and QLDC Waste team to scope a Waste Minimisation Plan for the visitor economy.	ON TRACK
WE HELP ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY				
7.2 Support growth of the environmental services sector		> Scoping is underway to establish a Queenstown Lakes Environmental Enterprise and Nature Finance Network of Practice. > The work will explore emerging economic opportunities associated with biodiversity investment, high-integrity nature-based carbon markets, environmental services, and other forms of natural capital investment. > The programme is intended to connect environmental practitioners, conservation organisations, landowners, investors, and technical experts, while supporting the Environmental Enterprise component of the Queenstown Lakes Economic Diversification Plan. > A key objective is to understand which emerging nature-finance mechanisms may be credible and useful in the Queenstown Lakes context, rather than assuming that any particular biodiversity or carbon-credit model is appropriate.	> Commission the Network of Practice work and convene an initial expert and stakeholder hui. > Produce recommendations on practical opportunities, risks and potential next steps for environmental enterprise and nature finance in the district.	ON TRACK

[15] https://www.regenerativetourism.co.nz/progress/electrify-queenstown
[16] https://www.regenerativetourism.co.nz/progress/queenstown-electrification-accelerator
[17] https://www.regenerativetourism.co.nz/progress/queenstown-place-brand

ECONOMY

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PROGRESS	NEXT KEY MILESTONE	RAG STATUS
WE HELP ENABLE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY				
7.3 Supporting our local business transition		> QLDC continues to work with economic development, tourism, and energy partners to identify priority sectors and business cohorts for targeted energy transition support. > The QLDC waste team provide funding support via several Service Level Agreements with community partners to deliver waste minimisation services and behaviour change initiatives in line with the Waste Management & Minimisation Plan. > Funding through the Waste Minimisation Community Fund will also support Arrowtown businesses and accommodation providers to reduce waste, and adopt Single Use Cup Free (SUCFree) initiatives through targeted, community-led engagement. > Upcoming infrastructure projects such as the Wānaka Refuse Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Solution will also increase capacity and enable better diversion of waste from landfill.	> Monitor emerging central government policies, funding mechanisms, and standards to ensure local businesses are well positioned to adapt and remain competitive as the low-emissions transition accelerates.	ON TRACK
7.4 Supporting sustainable film productions		> Collaboration with **Film Otago Southland** and internal QLDC teams has supported the integration of sustainability considerations into filming guidance, permitting processes, and location management discussions. > Early efforts have focused on encouraging practical, achievable actions such as reduced waste to landfill, improved energy use, transport efficiency, and alignment with emerging best practice for sustainable screen production in Aotearoa New Zealand. > Debriefs conducted with productions that have implemented Sustainability Plans locally to document successes and challenges.	> Continue to strengthen guidance and expectations for sustainable film production through filming permits, location agreements, and pre-application engagement. > Explore opportunities to align local filming practices with national sustainable screen production standards and tools, and to share case studies and lessons learned with the sector.	ON TRACK
7.5 Enabling sustainable events		> QLDC has continued to support the transition to more sustainable events by embedding climate and waste minimisation considerations into event planning, approvals, and delivery processes. > Sustainable event guidance and tools were revised prior to the 2026 Events Funding round in April. Funding focussed on supporting environmental sustainability and waste and GHG emissions reduction initiatives. > Successful fund applications can be viewed here: https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/community-funding/events-fund > QLDC staff continue to support event organisers through advice, coordination, and the sharing of information on best practice, helping to lift capability and normalise sustainability as a core component of event delivery. > In addition, the waste team provided funding through the Waste Minimisation Community Fund to events such as the IRONMAN New Zealand Queenstown Marathon and Sustainable Queenstown for Green Drinks.	> Monitor implementation and identify opportunities to further incentivise or require sustainable practices through event approvals, partnerships, and reporting.	ON TRACK