

Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
2 July 2020

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 5

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Climate Action Plan

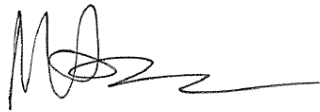
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

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

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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

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15/06/2020

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18/06/2020

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 In November 2019, the Government passed the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act. The purpose of the Act is to provide a framework in which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to the international effort to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The proposed emissions reduction goals in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) are aligned to those in the Act.
- 4 Mitigation and adaptation are two methods to limit and manage the effects of climate change. Local government has a role to play in both. Mitigation refers to reducing the impact of human activities that contribute to climate change, reducing GHG emissions for example, with the objective of limiting climate change for future generations. Adaptation means adjusting natural or human systems, such as infrastructure networks and the economy, to respond to actual or expected climatic conditions and their effects.
- 5 Climate change doesn't recognise administrative boundaries, it doesn't discriminate between nationalities, and it doesn't care if a person in our district is a visitor, resident or anywhere in between. Responding to the challenges of climate change requires what has been called a 'global citizen mindset'. The CAP marks a new benchmark in preparing the district for the challenges ahead and becoming a net zero carbon society.
- 6 To increase our understanding of climate change and help us prepare and adapt, Bodeker Scientific produced a comprehensive report on implications for the Queenstown Lakes District until the end of the century. They predict that as a result of climate change, the Queenstown Lakes District is likely to warm by several degrees by the end of the 21st century, with some parts of the District potentially warming by up to 7°C under a high greenhouse gas emissions scenario. While total annual precipitation is not projected to change much across the District, the distribution and intensity of rainfall is likely to change, with a greater likelihood of more extreme rainfall events. The total snow volume that accumulates on QLD mountain ranges over the winter, and then melts in spring and summer, is projected to reduce significantly by the end of the century as a direct result of increasing temperatures and rising snowlines.
- 7 On 27 June 2019, the same day as the draft version of the CAP was approved for public feedback, QLDC declared a climate and ecological emergency. Following public consultation and subsequent changes to the plan, the CAP was adopted by Council on 12 March 2020. It will help to guide local action as we rise to and meet the challenge of the climate change emergency. As a Council, we have embarked on a journey towards a major organisational systems and behaviour shift.
- 8 The CAP is the first of many for our district. It starts to identify ways in which we can reduce emissions and sets a strategic direction for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. It is designed to remain flexible as we gain a greater understanding of the challenges we face and the technological advances that will help us develop potential solutions.

9 The overarching goals for the CAP are:

- to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 across the whole district and;
- to be resilient to the local impact of climate change across the whole district.

10 The CAP is intended to provide an overview of QLDC’s actions over the next three years. It will be reviewed annually and will look forward across a three-year horizon. The CAP is structured according to five key outcomes, supported by a range of actions:

- Outcome one - The community looks to QLDC for leadership and action.
- Outcome two - Queenstown Lakes has a low-carbon transport system.
- Outcome three - Built environment and infrastructure is climate responsive.
- Outcome four - Communities are climate-conscious and resilient.
- Outcome five - Our economy and natural environment thrive together.

11 There are 72 actions that sit under these five outcomes.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

PROGRESS TO DATE

12 Progress has already been made towards several CAP actions. Since mid-April, a resource has been dedicated to delivering the plan. The top three priorities of the CAP this financial year are:

- Establish an independent, multidisciplinary Climate Reference Group (CRG) within three months of the plan being adopted. The CRG will identify key challenges, evaluate best practices, identify funding and agree priority action areas (annual review and revision of priority areas).

At a Council workshop in February, it was discussed with Councillors that this group would consist of iwi representatives, climate change experts, community leaders from Upper Clutha and Wakatipu, the Infrastructure Committee Chair and a Wakatipu Councillor. A long list of potential members has been prepared, which largely reflected this make up, with the addition of links to the Otago Regional Council (ORC) and biodiversity. The list will be considered by Councillors and the CRG will be convened for a July meeting.

- Establish system to monitor and evaluate QLDC’s emissions using an established and reputable system. Scope opportunities to include contractors.

Carbon EMS have been appointed to deliver an emissions measurement and monitoring system. QLDC’s emissions will be being measured effectively by June 30th.

- Measure the district’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and develop an emissions reduction master-plan with science-based targets, and emissions reduction toolkit. Include sequestration plan and approach to offsetting.

The district's GHG emissions inventory is being updated using 18/19 data. The master-plan is underway, targeting a completion date of September 2020.

- 13 Climate change impacts have been embedded into the QLDC spatial planning process. Climate action is integral to the three principles of Wellbeing, Resilience and Sustainability, as well in the Spatial Plan Outcomes.
- 14 Other actions in the plan are progressing. For example, the procurement policy and guidelines are under review, with climate action principles being considered. Emissions reduction behaviour of staff is also being supported. Embedding the risks arising from climate change into the Ten Year Plan is underway.
- 15 A CAP Tracker is used to co-ordinate delivery and document progress against actions.

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- 16 The highest priority will continue to be the emissions master-plan.
- 17 The CRG will be convened and terms of reference drafted.
- 18 A prioritisation exercise of 20/21 actions will undertaken in July. The prioritisation of actions will consider both Covid-19 recovery activities and input from the CRG.

IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19

- 19 Climate action is being considered in all activities undertaken by the Covid-19 Recovery Team. This is important so that QLDC can flexibly react to opportunities for climate action and accelerate actions in the CAP.
- 20 Some actions have been delayed due to the impact of the Covid-19 emergency and it has taken a little additional time to identify resources to deliver the CAP.
- 21 However, while some actions have been delayed, momentum has increased. There are opportunities for transformation in the community and economy. Incorporation of climate action into other activities of the organisation has been accelerated, with staff taking advantage of behaviour change triggers.

ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DELAYED

- 22 Some actions have been delayed as follows:

- Carry out a full assessment of current and future climate hazards and vulnerabilities. Seek inclusion in the District Plan and the organisational risk management system.

ORC is delivering a report on hazards and vulnerabilities, with a slightly delayed due date of 31st July. In 2018, climate change considerations were embedded in chapters 3 and 4 of the District Plan and the Hazards Chapter was updated include climate change impacts. There is ongoing investigation of climate change impacts on Gorge Road. The organisational risk register has been updated (reported in the Risk Update Report).

- ‘Ensure climate change considerations are integral to all Council Reports and decision making.’

This action is underway but not yet complete.

FUTURE REPORTING STRUCTURE

- 23 It is recommended that this committee note that reports on Climate Action Plan progress will be received on a quarterly basis.
- 24 Future reports will include insights from the action tracker and key risks. Recommendations for further action and investment may be included in the future, as opportunities arise.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 25 This matter is of [low] significance, as determined by reference to the Council’s [Significance and Engagement Policy](#) because it is consistent with existing strategy, and does not impact on the objectives set out in the Financial Strategy, Ten Year Plan or Annual Plan. Although the matter is of importance to the district and is of community interest, it is of low significance due to its alignment with the CAP.
- 26 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, particularly individuals who take an interest in climate change.
- 27 As the significance of this matter is low and only for noting, no consultation with the community or local iwi is required.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 28 This matter relates to the Environmental risk category. It is associated with RISK00019 Ineffective planning for climate change affects within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). This risk has been assessed as having a very high inherent risk rating.
- 29 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by continued governance of the CAP by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 30 There are no budget, cost or resource implications to consider at this time.

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

- 31 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The Climate Action Plan is aligned to the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, particular to Zero Carbon Communities and Disaster-Defying Resilience.
- Related policies, strategies and bylaws (including Management plans) are:
 - 2018-48 Infrastructure Strategy
 - 2018 Three Waters Asset Management Plan
 - 2018 Transportation Activity Management Plan
 - 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
- The QLDC Disability Policy was considered in the development of the CAP

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

33 This matter is included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan

- “QLDC is currently developing its first generation Climate Change Strategy – this strategy intends to broadly line up with the recent LGNZ Climate Change Programme – New Zealand’s commitment to the Paris Agreement. There are two streams to this strategy, the first being emissions reduction. Identifying projects that reduce Councils [sic] and the Community’s emissions i.e. public transport, energy efficiency on large items such as swimming pools and pumping costs for three waters. Other initiatives currently underway include measuring the emissions base line for Council, i.e. what do we emit today, this will allow us to measure and report our future performance. The second stream is about resilience and climate change, i.e. exploration of vulnerabilities and mitigation of the effects. If the future will be characterised by stormy and warmer weather, what is our exposure to that as a district? It is about identifying what aspects of a changing climate will most need to be responded to and what are our responses i.e. the district’s natural hazards are flooding and storms, warming temperatures and wind erosion. Identifying and actively pursuing ways to improve the district’s resilience.” (6.1 Demanding Natural Environment, p. 32)

ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	Climate Action Plan 2019-22
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