

18 May 2022

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 19 April 2022. You requested the following information from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC):

1. *Does your council have a climate change strategy?*
 - Queenstown Lakes District Council's climate change strategy is provided in its current [Climate Action Plan 2019-2022](#) and has recently been updated in the [Draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025](#) which was released for consultation from 21 March until 25 April 2022.
2. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?*
 - Refer to the current Climate Action Plan 2019-2022 (CAP) and chapter 13 of the Draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025 (CBP).
3. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?*
 - The five outcomes of the CAP are supported by a program of actions which are tracked and reported to the [Audit, Finance and Risk Committee](#) three times per year. Our overall progress to date is presented in chapter 10 of the draft CBP. A proposed indicators framework with measures to monitor progress towards the six outcomes of the draft CBP is presented in chapter 14.
4. *Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?*
 - Council has recently integrated its biodiversity strategy into the Draft CBP.
5. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?*
 - Refer to chapter 13 of the draft CBP.

6. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?*

- A proposed indicators framework with measures to monitor progress towards achieving the biodiversity outcome of the draft CBP is presented in chapter 14

7. *Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?*

- SNAs have been mapped and are part of the Proposed District Plan (PDP). They are listed in Chapter 33 Indigenous Vegetation and Biodiversity.

(<https://www.gldc.govt.nz/media/puwdbt1q/pdp-chapter-33-indigenous-vegetation-biodiversity-feb-2022.pdf>). The rules within Chapter 33 are now treated as operative. The SNAs are mapped in the District Plan Maps ([ArcGIS Web Application](#)).

8. *How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?*

- There are 189 unique SNAs with a combined total area of approximately 32,815 Ha.

9. *How does your council maintain SNAs?*

- SNAs are maintained through the implementation of the policy set out in the district plan, through [Chapter 33](#).

10. *How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?*

- There have been no consents granted or declined for vegetation clearance within an SNA in the last five years.

11. *Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?*

- No. Any additional SNAs would need to be included through the Schedule 1 process (plan change) of the RMA.

12. How often does your council monitor SNAs?

A review of SNAs was undertaken in 2018 by appropriately qualified individuals to assist in identifying the most ecologically threatened and/or at risk SNAs across the district. Twelve specific SNAs were provided.

SNAs are monitored if a specific complaint is received in relation to a SNA. If Forest and Bird has concerns with specific SNAs we welcome this information, and our team will investigate accordingly.

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Sethi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Poonam Sethi
Governance and official Information Advisor