

1. Request from The Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove Council trees from Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MO TE PURONGO

1. To consider a request from the Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove 8 mature Eucalyptus trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION | NGA TUTOHUNGA

That the Community and Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular;
2. **Note** that this request has been considered in accordance with the QLDC Tree Policy 2022, including replacing any removed tree with at least two new trees.
3. **Decline** the request by the Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove 8 mature Eucalyptus trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula.

	Prepared by:	Reviewed and Authorised by:
Name	Tim Errington	Briana Pringle
Position	QLDC Parks Arborist	Parks and Open Spaces Planning Manager
Signature		
Date	29/1/2023	31/1/2023

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

2. Council has received a request from the Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove 8 mature established Eucalyptus fastigata trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula.
3. This application has been processed in accordance with the recently adopted QLDC Tree Policy 2022 (Tree Policy). The application has been assessed against the policy and subsequently is not supported by the Council's Arboricultural Officer and Parks Manager.
4. This application does not include Protected Trees under QLDC's District Plan, trees listed for potential protection in the Proposed District Plan, or Notable Trees from the NZ Tree Register.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATARITANGA ME NGA TOHUTOHU

5. The relevant tree removal sections from the QLDC Tree policy 2022 were considered when assessing the application:
6. Tree removal will be considered where the tree is causing, or likely to cause, significant damage to buildings, services or property (both public or privately owned), and the damage cannot be

reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree. More suitable replacements will be sought and planted in the same location or vicinity if it can be achieved.

7. QLDC will not remove trees for the following reasons:

- To minimise obstruction of views
- To minimise obstruction of commercial or advertising signage
- To reduce leaf or fruit litter and other debris
- To reduce shading
- For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.17
- When the risk posed by the tree meets the requirements of the Tree Risk Management Procedure

8. Other – Requests for removal of tree(s) due to other issues will only be approved under exceptional circumstances and will be required to meet all the criteria below:

- The issue caused by the tree has a significant effect on the applicant's day to day living
- The tree is the sole cause of the issue
- The issue is not able to be mitigated through general maintenance by the applicant (e.g., clearing gutters of leaves)
- The issue caused by the tree cannot be mitigated by pruning
- No reasonable engineering solution can mitigate the issue caused by the tree

9. The 8 exotic Eucalyptus broadleaf trees form a row adjacent to the South-Western boundary of the Wakatipu Croquet Club green, this boundary divides the club from the adjoining conifer plantation and the Jean Malpas Nursery (Attachment A). There is a row of Thuja plicata (known as Western Red Cedar) trees interplanted with the Eucalyptus

10. In 2012, around 14 Eucalyptus in this same row were removed by Council at the Croquet Club's request, due to their proximity to the lawn where roots were beginning to affect the surface of the green (Attachment B)

11. The subject trees were assessed in November 2022 by the QLDC Arborist (and the associated arboricultural report (Attachment C) concluded that "there is no justification to remove the Eucalyptus trees based on their health, vigour or structural condition". In addition, the risk rating of the trees was assessed to be 'Broadly Acceptable'

12. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002:

Option 1 Approve the tree removal application at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula.

Advantages:

13. Removal of the trees will reduce damage and regular maintenance to the Croquet Club green as a result of debris dropping onto the green and tree roots growing into the green

14. Replacement planting will increase the overall number of trees and the planting of New Zealand native trees will increase biodiversity in the area

15. Only a small proportion of the overall tree population in Jardine Park will be removed, leaving the tree environment for the community to enjoy

16. The Thuja Plicata which are interplanted between the Eucalyptus trees will have a chance to flourish

17. There is an opportunity for the Croquet Club to fell the Eucalyptus trees when 100 Wilding conifers are removed from Jardine Park later this year, utilising machinery that will be on site, and taking advantage of efficiencies such as set up and lay down areas.

Disadvantages:

18. A loss of carbon reduction in the interim although long term the carbon reduction will be doubled.

19. Temporary minor loss of visual amenity.

Option 2 Decline the tree removal application at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula.

Advantages:

20. No immediate reduction in the carbon sink associated with established trees.

21. The assessment of the eight trees identified no obvious issues regarding their health, vigour, structural condition or root environment.

Disadvantages:

22. Missed opportunity to improve local biodiversity by planting suitable replacement trees.

23. This report recommends Option 2 as the requested tree removals do not comply with the 2022 QLDC Tree Policy, specifically Policy 4.15:

A tree removal request will be assessed against Policies 4.1 - 4.5. Should the request meet any of the policy requirements, the tree may be removed as part of routine maintenance, or sooner if the risk posed is unacceptable. If it does not meet the policy requirements QLDC will work with the applicant to seek alternative solutions to removal, e.g., targeted pruning.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HATEPE MATAPAKI

24. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it involves a high level of community interest (trees).

25. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter the residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, visitors to Jardine Park and residents of Kelvin Peninsula.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGA RARU TUPONO ME NGA WHAKAMAURUTANGA

26. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a low inherent risk rating.

27. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to retain the risk at its current level.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGA RITENGA A-PUTEĀ

28. There will be no financial impact to the Annual or Long Term Plans. The removals, clean up and revegetation is to be funded by the Wakatipu Croquet Club in association with the Wakatipu Reforestation Trust.

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

29. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- QLDC Tree Policy 2022
- QLDC Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan 2022
- Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019
- Parks and Open Space Strategy 2021
- Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019

Refer to online documents here: <http://www.qldc.govt.nz/policies>

30. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.

31. This matter is not included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan and there is no expenditure required.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KAWANATAKA A-KAIKA

- 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.

As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten-Year 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

ATTACHMENTS | NGA TAPIRIHANGA

Number	Title of Attachment
1.	Aerial Map of Jardine Park showing location of the Eucalyptus trees
2.	Tree Removal Reasons – Wakatipu Croquet Club
3.	Arboricultural Report – QLDC Arborist