

Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan



Summary of Consultation
September-November 2024

Community consultation summary

Mount Iron is an iconic and significant geological landmark in the Wānaka landscape, providing breathtaking 360° views of the surrounding mountains, flats and lakes. It is a popular recreation reserve, easily accessed from the town centre, with over 180,000 residents and visitors exploring its trail each year.

Following the acquisition of Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron by Queenstown Lakes District Council in May 2023, the community was asked to share their ideas for how they would like to use and enjoy Mount Iron to help develop a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for this site during October and November 2023.

These early insights helped the Parks team draft an RMP for Mount Iron which was shared with the community for formal submissions between September and November 2024.

A reserve management plan provides a set of policies for how council will manage, protect, maintain, and preserve public land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron Recreation Reserve.

Thanks for being part of the conversation

A big thank you to all that shared their views on this much loved-landmark - we received over 400 submissions!

Following the public consultation closing on 29 November 2024, we had 20 submitters speak to their submissions at a public hearing on 10 December with deliberations being held on 11 December.

All submissions are considered by the hearing panel and used to make final changes to the Reserve Management Plan for Mount Iron Recreation Reserve. This plan will then be presented to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board for recommendation in March and to Full Council for adoption in April 2025.



Over the eight week engagement period we had:



2,457
PROJECT PAGE
VISITS



SUBMISSIONS
RECEIVED



6,746
FACEBOOK POST VIEWS



SUBMITTERS SPEAK
TO THEIR SUBMISSION
AT PUBLIC HEARING



13,245
FACEBOOK VIDEO VIEWS

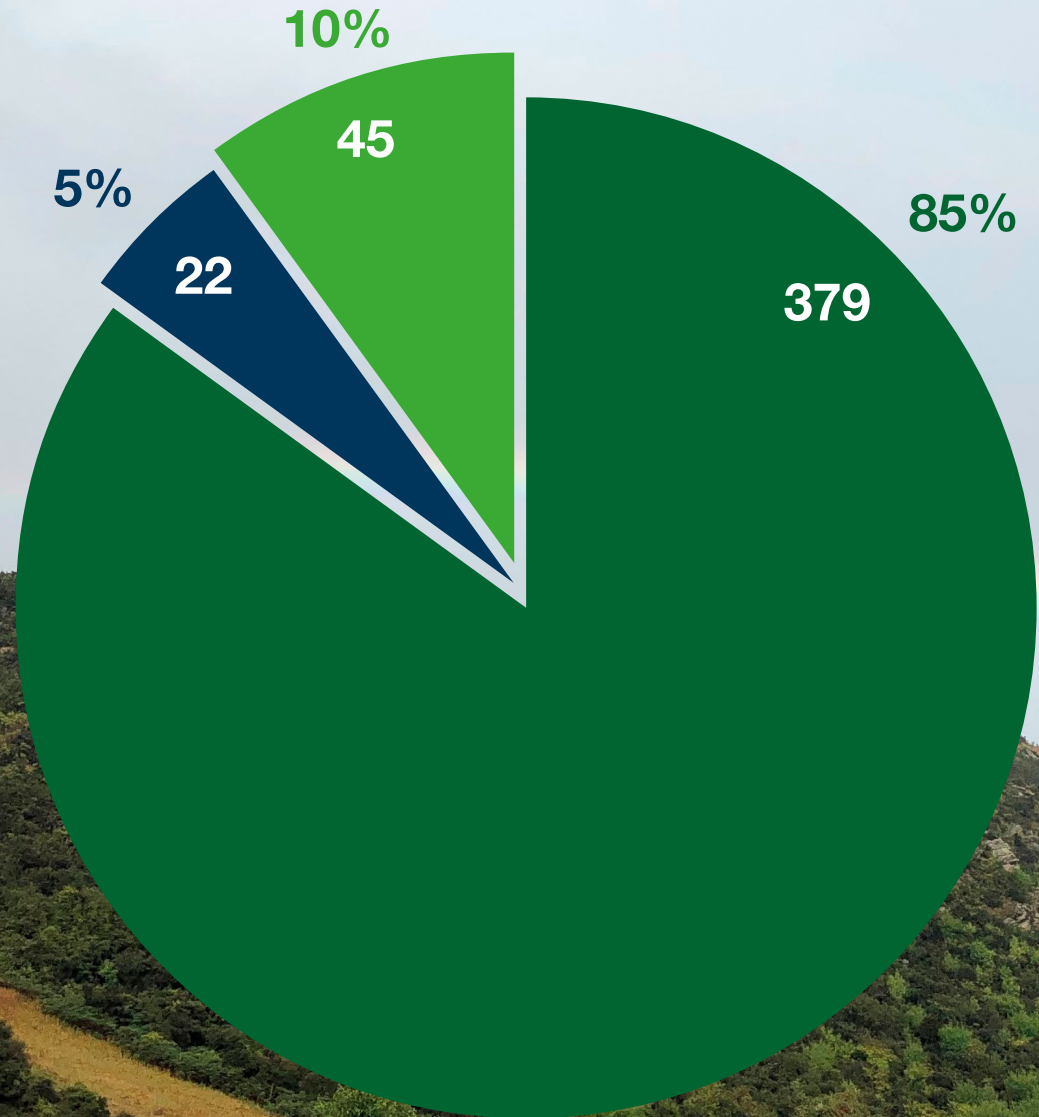
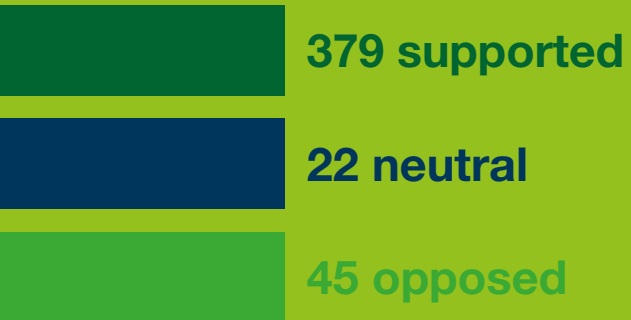


A snapshot summary

We asked:

What is your position on the draft Mount Iron RMP?

Here's what you said:



A snapshot summary

Take a look at
all the submissions
received in
more detail here:



Key themes that came through the submissions included:

Biking

Both support and opposition. There was support for a network of well-designed biking tracks separated from walkers. As well as concern that allowing bike tracks will disturb the tranquillity and ecology of Mount Iron and create a management challenge. There was also concern that biking was singled out in an objective, when other recreation types were not.

Commercial activities

This had a broad range of responses from supporting community and sporting events, to objecting to private events such as weddings, to opposing any commercial or community organised event use entirely.

Ecology

There was generally strong support for ecological enhancement of Mount Iron.

Climbing

Support for current and future expansion of the climbing routes on Mount Iron.

Vision

Support for the long-term aspiration set out for Mount Iron Reserve.

Access

Both support and opposition. There was support for maximising access to Mount Iron, including the access point located on Aubrey Road. As well as concern that public access will cause safety issues near Aubrey Road (referred to as Access No 9 Mount Iron Heights in the draft RMP).

A snapshot summary

Selection of comments received from the community

“ No commercial activity should be permitted on Mount Iron. This should be a free space devoid of any commercialism. ”

“ I want Mount Iron kept the way it is. No bikes or anything. I know you are sad about sticky forest but still, preserve it. ”

“ The inclusion of events of any description, will compromise the tranquillity of the mountain. It can't be everything for everyone. ”

“ There is a long history of climbing and mountaineering in Wānaka and the surrounding area. The activity of rock climbing itself and the people it attracts lends itself to the vision and objectives of this plan. ”

“ Supportive of more planting of fire-resistant plants. ”

“ I also support Policy 6.7 which allows for a sustainable and well-designed trail network in the Reserve which includes the separation of biking and walking trails. ”

“ Mt. Iron has a high fire risk (mostly because of the large amount of manuka and kanuka). Increasing access and use of Mt. Iron clearly increases the risk. More signage indicating the risks, and making it a no smoking area are vital. ”

“ I support the professional development of trails for all users. Those with very high skill sets, as well as beginner bikers, hikers and climbers, young children, older people, and those with limited mobility such as people who use a wheelchair. I also support the use and extension of climbing crags, paraglider take offs, and bike trails. ”

“ I particularly support Objective 5.12 which enables a mountain bike trail network within the Reserve and Objective 5.3 which empowers the community to protect, preserve and have guardianship over the Reserve. ”

“ There is no need for extensive landscaping & excessive planting it just needs to be left as is. Being left as a natural resource with minimal development is all that is required. Rate payers can't afford more wasteful spending. ”

“ A world class bike park. Wanaka needs to compete with Queenstown and draw bike tourists. ”

“ I recommend that climate mitigation and adaptation be considered with the ecology of the Mt Iron reserve. ”

“ I am opposed to Accessway No 9 Mount Iron Heights driveway being made a public access for walkers, bikers, children and dogs. ”

“ Any community base event has to only have a positive effect on the community at large. ”



To read all online and written submissions from residents and stakeholders please go to www.letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan/