

Ben Lomond Reserve Wildfire Readiness Plan



Background of Wildfire Threat Assessment

- In 2018 QLDC set out to understand the threat that wildfires pose to, or from council administered land. Wildfire Management NZ were engaged to draft the QLDC Reserve Wildfire Threat Assessment Report.
- To ensure recommendations and findings are in line with national best practice, Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) was involved in drafting the report.

Ben Lomond Reserve

- The Ben Lomond Reserve is part of a high wildfire risk area.
- The reserve is 388 hectares which adjoins other land parcels forming part of a total fire ban area. A fire in the reserve would be very hard to control due to the steep slopes, large amounts of vegetation and limited escape routes.
- In 2023/24, QLDC implemented its wildfire prevention programme.
 - Immediate actions included: reserve closures, signage, environmental monitoring system
 - Future actions: firebreaks proposed in Long Term Plan
- Risk reduction requires a complex approach - educating the users of the reserve, working with multiple stakeholders, reducing the probability of a fire, and reducing the impact of a fire if it does occur.

Current Management Tools (Reserve closures)

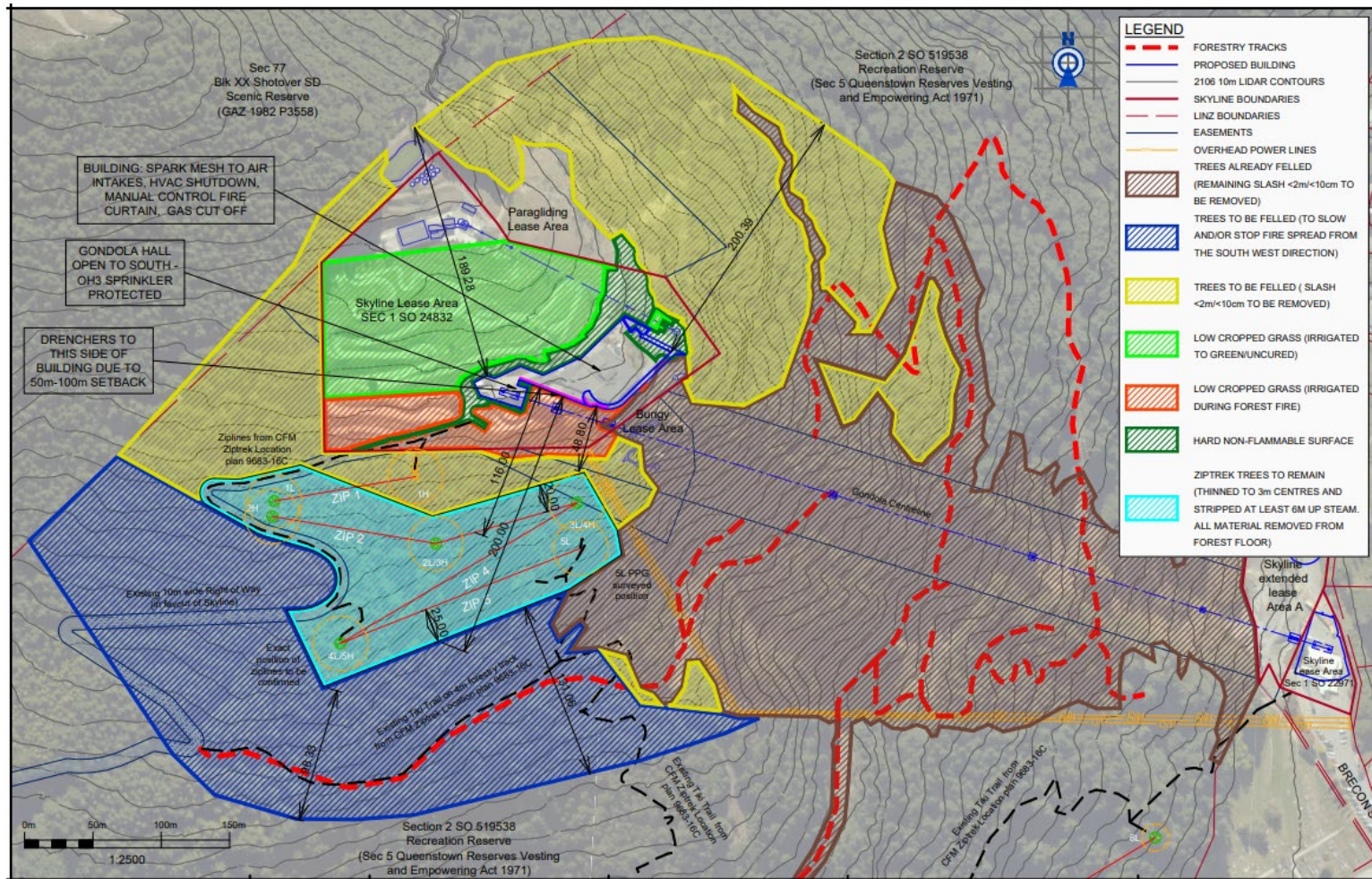
- QLDC's primary tool for managing the wildfire risk is to apply its Wildfire Reserve Closure Plan.
- Reserve closures are an effective means of reducing the risk to persons using the reserve.
- Closing reserves has an impact on commercial lease and licence holders and community recreational users accessing Ben Lomond Reserve.



Ben Lomond Wildfire Readiness Plan

- In response to QLDC's wildfire prevention programme, a Ben Lomond Stakeholder Group has formed (Skyline, Bungy, G-Force and Ziptrek).
- The Group has drafted a Wildfire Readiness Plan. This plan proposes several outcomes including:
 1. Skyline Building Survivability, e.g. sprinklers, internal fire protection for property/people
 2. Firebreaks around the Skyline lease areas i.e. removal of trees to 200m
 3. Support measures which prevent general public accessing the wider Reserve during elevated wildfire risk

Proposed tree clearance to mitigate fire hazard



Pathway

The following aspects must be worked through to assess the viability of implementing and ongoing management of the draft wildfire readiness plan:

- Meeting requirements under the Resource Management Act requirements; for the necessary consent(s)
- Engagement with Reserve users and community in relation to landscape and visual amenity considerations
- Assessment of risks that may increase if the trees are removed, including and not limited to stormwater, slope stability/debris flow risk and rockfall
- Rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance plan for the tree removal zones
- Formal landowner approval
- Confirm delegations and decision-making process

* Other factors may need to be considered as this work progresses

Questions
