

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

22 August 2024

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [1]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: Draft Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider recommending to Council that the Draft Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan be approved for public notification.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Recommend to Council** to approve the Draft Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan for public notification in accordance with section 41 (6) of the Reserves Act 1977; and
3. **Approve** three members from the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (to be named) to be appointed to a panel to hear and consider submissions received (subject to Council approving the Draft Reserve Management Plan for public notification).

Prepared by:



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1 August 2024

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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Title: General Manager Community Services
2 August 2024

Context | Horopaki

1. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) purchased part of Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron in May 2023. The area has been gazetted as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 ('the Act'). The Mount Iron Recreation Reserve comprises two parcels of land totalling 94 hectares and is identified on the map in Attachment A.
2. Under Section 41 of the Act all recreation reserves under Council's administration are required to have reserve management plans, prepared in accordance with the Act.
3. On 22 June 2023 the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board approved the intention to notify the preparation of a Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan ('the Draft RMP'). Notification of the intent to prepare a Draft RMP was posted in local print media and on QLDC's social media platforms.
4. The Draft RMP sets out the direction for the use, maintenance, protection, preservation and development of the Mount Iron Reserve, through a vision and a series of objectives and policies. These will act as a guide for Council officers in making both day-to-day and long-term decisions about how the reserve will be used, managed or developed.
5. The direction in the Draft RMP was informed by engagement with the community and stakeholders in October and November 2023. Four in-person workshops, a drop-in session on Mount Iron and a Let's Talk online campaign open for two months gathered extensive feedback on what the community wanted to see for the future of Mount Iron. A summary of engagement was developed and shared back with the community (Attachment B). A range of views were expressed on the future for some areas e.g. mountain biking on Mount Iron.
6. The Department of Conservation (DOC) administers 54.3 hectares of land on Mount Iron, adjacent to the QLDC reserve land. QLDC has applied to DOC to become the administering body of this land under the Act. This is to enable a single management and maintenance approach to all the land at Mount Iron to achieve better community outcomes.
7. QLDC and DOC have entered into a management agreement for the DOC land until the outcome of QLDC's application to become the administering body is known. From 1 May 2024, QLDC is now undertaking the day-to-day management of the Public Conservation Land (PCL) while DOC continues to undertake statutory responsibilities.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

8. The Draft RMP (Attachment C) sets out the vision, character and intended uses of the reserve through objectives and policies.
9. The Draft RMP will only apply to the QLDC land at Mount Iron, with the DOC land being administered through the QLDC & DOC management agreement. However, if QLDC is successful in becoming the administering body of the DOC land, then the Mount Iron RMP will also apply to the DOC land from that time.

10. Notification of the Draft RMP allows the public to provide submissions to Council and be heard if requested in relation to how the reserve should be managed, used or developed.
11. The Draft RMP will be publicly notified for two months, and a hearing held if there are submissions received by submitters who wish to be heard. It is recommended the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board nominate a hearing panel to consider submissions and recommend the final form of the Reserve Management Plan for approval by Full Council.
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 Recommend to Council to approve the Draft RMP for public consultation

Advantages:

- Approving the Draft RMP will enable the development of the RMP to continue by allowing the public to view and formally submit on the draft. This aligns with community expectations.
- This ensures there is a clear plan for the future of Mount Iron that provides a clear management framework for the use and development of the reserve.
- This will support Council's obligation under the Act to prepare reserve management plans for recreation reserves.

Disadvantages:

- It will delay putting a final RMP in place and will be contrary to the principles of the Reserves Act 1977.

Option 2 Do not recommend to Council to approve the Draft RMP for public consultation.

Advantages:

- No clear advantages

Disadvantages:

- There will be no clear plan for how the Mount Iron Reserve is managed and developed in the future.
- Council will not meet the community's expectation that an RMP for the reserve will be developed.
- Council will not be acting in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

13. This report recommends **Option One** for addressing the matter because this will provide the community with the next opportunity to have their say on the future direction for Mount Iron, ensure a clear plan is developed that directs future use and development, and meets Council's obligations under the Reserves Act.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

14. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2021 because of the high community interest in the development and use of this new reserve that is highly valued by the community.
15. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are users of the reserve, residents/ratepayers of the Wānaka and Upper Clutha community, visitors to Wānaka, immediately adjoining residential neighbours and local recreation and conservation groups.
16. The Council has undertaken extensive engagement with community and stakeholders in October and November 2023 to inform the Draft RMP. Council officers have been working closely with DOC staff in relation to the management of the DOC land at Mount Iron.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

17. The Council has worked with Aukaha and Te Ao Marama when drafting the RMP.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

18. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10005 Ineffective planning for community services or facilities within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate residual risk rating.
19. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to avoid the risk. This will be achieved by creating a clear plan for how Council intends to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation of the reserve.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

20. Preparing and finalising the RMP is planned for within existing operational budgets.
21. The QLDC draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 includes a capital improvement budget of \$184,000 in 2026/27 to support future actions enabled and directed by the RMP once completed.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

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

- Vision Beyond 2050: [Our Vision and Mission - QLDC](#)
- The Reserves Act 1977
- Local Government Act 2002
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021
- Significance and Engagement Policy 2021
- The QLDC Disability Policy: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/media/kgzbjigr/final-disability-policy-may-2018.pdf>
- Proposed and Operative District Plan

23. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies. It aligns with the Reserves Act 1977 which requires reserve management plans to be in place for recreation reserves.

24. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan. However, funding to support future actions enabled and directed by the development of the (RMP) is included in 2026/2027.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiāka

25. 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. Approval of the report's recommendation will support environmental outcomes and is therefore within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

26. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term 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 | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Map of Mount Iron
B	Mount Iron Early Engagement Summary Document
C	Draft Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan