



# **MOUNT IRON RESERVE**

# **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CATEGORY**  
2025 LGFA Taituarā Local Government  
Excellence Awards entry



**QUEENSTOWN  
LAKES DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Mount Iron is an iconic, significant geological landmark in the Wānaka landscape, providing breathtaking views of surrounding mountains, flats and lakes. A well-loved recreation reserve, approximately 2km from the CBD, it's arguably one of the most popular walking tracks in the area enjoyed by over 180,000 visitors annually.

In May 2023, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) completed the acquisition of ~100ha of land at Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron. QLDC worked closely with the community, Iwi and Department of Conservation on plans for Mount Iron's long-term future, acting as tautiaki and holding the land as public reserve in perpetuity.

The community was asked to share ideas for how they would like to use and enjoy Mount Iron to help develop a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) during late 2023. These insights helped the Parks team draft the RMP which was shared for formal submissions September-November 2024. Extensive participation was crucial to building community trust and a shared sense of ownership, as well as resetting negative perceptions of Council and how well it listens to its community.

Developing a plan that reflects the collective aspirations of a community through meaningful representative participation has been a critical part of delivering this successful project.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Creating a robust, shared vision for Mount Iron as a significant landmark was essential. The \$8M purchase of the site was a considerable capital investment and predicated on creating an enduring community asset for generations to come. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha community is passionate about protecting the environment, championing sustainability and biodiversity, and enjoyment of the local tracks, trails and mountains whether on bike or by foot. All of these things needed to be recognised in a holistic and representative reserve management plan.

Like many local authorities, QLDC has seen some in the community disengaging from consultation and democratic processes and challenging Council investment decisions. Satisfaction with Council was measuring low through annual surveys at only 15% satisfied with overall Council performance, and 32% satisfied with the opportunity to have a say. Some in the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community also feel Queenstown and the Whakatipu may receive a higher level of focus.

These challenges meant new ways of engaging needed to be explored, especially on such a well-loved local landmark.

Mount Iron is also recognised nationally as an extreme fire risk and this needed to be included when creating a future for the site. Not only in how it operates and can be accessed but also so that locals and visitors understand why decisions like reserve closures may be required in extreme circumstances.

To be successful this project needed to be 100% clear with the community about what to expect, what would be delivered, and how they could participate. It needed to outline what the reserve management plan process was and why a plan was required. Communication needed to be transparent, timely, and focused on developing a plan through genuine co-creation. Not achieving the necessary reach and accuracy of messaging was a big risk, as was not connecting with the broad range of stakeholders and interested parties. Using local staff and existing community, stakeholder and interest groups to help identify other interested parties helped develop an extensive network and helped mitigate the risk of anyone feeling left out of the process.

QLDC's strategic framework aims to deliver a healthy natural environment, sustainability, mātauraka Kāi Tahu, participation, and connected communities. The framework also seeks to deliver a sense of belonging and identity. Mount Iron as a significant local landmark was believed to be a project that is closely aligned with the framework and help bring it to life for the community. See Appendix B for QLDC's strategic framework.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Planning began by high-level mapping of processes and timelines to meet the requirements of the Reserves Act, considering available resources and governance timelines. The core team included a senior planner, project manager and communications advisor with other resources brought in as needed.

The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) were identified as the main governance body with the ability to make recommendations to full Council on the Reserve Management Plan.

WUCCB members were formally updated regularly and actively involved in the stakeholder workshops, on-site pop-up sessions and many on-site meetings with stakeholders, such as the climbing club at their climbing crags. This greatly assisted with quality assurance and ensuring the community voice was well understood through the process. Further quality assurance checks included internal review by multiple departments across the business, including the policy, and property & infrastructure teams to ensure nothing was missed and the plan didn't conflict with any other work.

There were several challenges to work through as the project plan evolved.

The first was determining whether to include a parcel of DOC land adjacent to the reserve, which is currently in the process of potentially being vested in QLDC. This was ultimately considered important to include to ensure the community was able to develop a cohesive vision for the whole site.

The Reserves Act process is long, so the project team had to navigate the challenge of keeping people interested and aware of how and when they can participate. Communicating our project timeline visually and early, along with our regular digital newsletter were both very helpful tools to overcome this.

While we did anticipate a high level of engagement through this process and allocated resourcing accordingly, the number and complexity of submissions received put a lot of pressure on the internal team to complete the analysis.

## RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

Early in the process, QLDC undertook stakeholder mapping to identify key contributors. This was recognised as work that needed to be responsive and a list that would develop as the project progressed. A list of stakeholders is available as Appendix D.

In summary we utilised a range of local channels to share messages and encourage participation. These channels, the message and tone of approach were all adopted to reflect where we were in the plan development process and the two core phases of early insights and plan drafting were deliberately similar but an evolution of approach. These approaches included:

- > online tools such as an interactive map, Q&A, surveys
- > in-situ signage with QR codes linking to important information and updates on the project
- > Digital promotion across opt-in e-newsletters, social media, online advertising
- > Interactive pop-up sessions on the mountain to engage directly with users
- > Stakeholder workshops
- > Proactive media opportunities
- > Keeping our internal audiences informed and engaged as our best advocates

And much more as detailed in Appendix E.

QLDC also acknowledged there were some stakeholders that required a direct, personalised approach. These included the previous landowners (the Cleugh family), FENZ, Department of Conservation as owners of adjacent land, Upper Clutha Track Trust and the Wānaka Climbing Club. Engagement with these stakeholders needed an ongoing, long term relationship approach and was managed by senior staff to ensure focused dialogue and escalation points.

Meaningful input and partnership with mana whenua was also a key project goal. Kāi Tahu helped embed the values of Iwi throughout development of the RMP. They ensured alignment with existing agreements/processes and engaged with stakeholders about how Kāi Tahu values relate to their activity. This was achieved through monthly catch ups.

## PROJECT SUCCESS

In an environment where sentiment towards the Council was highly negative, it was vital that success aligned with a positive swing in public sentiment and, most importantly, that everyone felt they had an opportunity to participate and genuinely shape the reserve management plan. Key to achieving this goal was two-fold.

Firstly, the community had to be a part of the conversation right from the very outset as well as having opportunities to remain engaged and informed throughout the process. As a significant landmark in the area and a considerable financial investment, success in this project mattered to a lot of people. Secondly, Council wanted to make sure it got maximum reach whilst connecting with the people who care about and access Mount Iron. So it couldn't rely on standard, everyday channels and had to take a very targeted and tailored approach. This approach relied on us being quite literally "at the foot of the mountain" on multiple occasions. Whether that was in person to hear from walkers, cyclists, climbers and other recreational users, with clear, well-positioned signage and promotional materials, or direct to inbox via opt-in e-newsletters.

The success criteria developed at the start of the project were as follows:

- > Positive social media sentiment and commentary
- > Positive stakeholder feedback
- > Community interest and participation
- > Media sentiment and commentary
- > Number of Mount Iron newsletter subscribers (>100 at early insights / >300 for consultation phase)
- > Number of submissions on draft Reserve Management Plan (>300)

Some success highlights against our criteria include:

- > The formal consultation period delivered more 6,746 Facebook post views converting to more than 13,200 views of the consultation video
- > Mount Iron newsletter achieved 451 subscribers (133% of target) with a top open rate of 75%
- > The number of submissions on the draft Reserve Management Plan was 446 (149% of target)
- > More than 60 people attended community workshops
- > 870 online pins were dropped (by 639 contributors) on an interactive map during engagement
- > Positive news coverage about the acquisition and plan development (see Appendix F)

Regarding ensuring broad and meaningful participation, the keystone launch activity was a Celebration Ceremony to formally mark the acquisition and bring all parts of the community together. This was held onsite in May 2023 and included iwi blessing the site and past owners, the Cleugh family, present along with Council staff and more than 70 community attendees. The Mayor and the Cleugh family's young son Oscar Cleugh-Gibb cut the ribbon together to demonstrate this has huge intergenerational and caretaker benefits and was a milestone event.

Bringing the community along for the journey at the outset was essential with regular communications to help maintain momentum and ongoing interest, such as opt-in newsletters from April 2022 and still running. The frequency of every 6-8 weeks (with some flexibility) meant there was a steady and reliable flow of information. It was a good way to share quick wins (minor improvements work such as new onsite signage for tracks and trails) to show progress and momentum of the project and also showcase work other community groups were doing to support the project e.g Wānaka Backyard Trapping, Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group.

Newsletters were also a way to share other key projects that affected Mount Iron such as Wildfire management and Environmental Monitoring Systems and changes/improvements to access and pathways (by QLDC and partner organisations).

Pop up sessions onsite were low cost and low resource but hugely effective as a way of ensuring community engagement – especially from those who are current users of the Mount Iron tracks and trails or have an active interest in the environment and how it is managed. Reaching these active users was a potential barrier to succeeding in developing a reserve management plan that reflected the aspirations and objectives of the community who truly care about this landmark site. Being on site when they were there was essential to overcoming this barrier. Along with onsite signage with a QR code (for project information directing interested parties to one source of truth) and also to sign up for newsletters.

The in-place, tailored and target approach was incredibly successful at delivering results for both QLDC and the community. It is one that QLDC has continued to apply to other projects to ensure that the right audience is delivered the right message at the right time, and that they know how to have a say, when to have a say, and what they can have a say on. It has proven considerably more effective than relying on traditional one-to-many channels such as print advertising and social media. This is particularly the case with infrastructure projects from a change in a lakeside car park to road closures, through to operational maintenance of trails, tree removals or speed management enhancements. The “mantra” of “timely, targeted and tailored” has become a foundational consideration in all consultation and engagement activity and is a simple mantra that can be successfully applied anywhere.

Summaries of the engagement activity and outcomes that led to the development of the final Reserve Management Plan are available as Appendix C.

A vital success factor to the project was also input and buy in of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board. Ensuring this took a three-pronged approach; informing, participation, and decision-making. Firstly, it was important to provide regular and timely updates on progress of the plan development and project milestones. This was provided through multiple workshops, briefings, and email updates, and providing the Board these opportunities to provide feedback and share their insights based on what they were hearing in the community and the groups they connect with.

Secondly, the Board were invited to actively participate in pop-up sessions, the Celebration Ceremony, and public workshops to both learn more about community sentiment and ideas, and be a part of encouraging the public to get informed and make submissions. Finally, the Board was made a part of the formal decision-making process so whilst the formal and final decisions rest with Council, at each and every stage the Board we’re presented with the options and asked to make a recommendation to Council. This included formal decisions to recommend the draft plan for consultation, forming the hearing panel, and recommending the final plan for adoption.

A further potential barrier was possible misalignment or conflict between the aspirations of diverse groups within the community – such as mountain biking, trail walking, ecological, biodiversity and enthusiastic disc-golfers. There was also a strong desire for community-led development. So we took every opportunity to bring these diverse groups together and reflect back the broad range of desires and concerns. This approach demonstrated this was not Council setting the agenda but instead listening to its community and helping them shape the final outcome. Which has resulted in significant support for the final plan (see next paragraph).

The final reserve management plan will provide a set of policies for how Council will manage, protect, maintain, and preserve public land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron for generations to come. Thanks to the extensive community and stakeholder engagement, the draft reserve management plan was supported by 85% of respondents during the formal consultation period. The adopted plan will assist with all future decision making and ensure these decisions support achieving the community’s vision for the Reserve.

# Appendices

## APPENDIX A:

### DRAFT MOUNT IRON RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



#### **MOUNT IRON RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN – DRAFT Sept 2024**

**Wānaka**

**QLDC**

*Note: Currently, QLDC does not have a mana whenua endorsed Te Reo name for Mount Iron*



# **MOUNT IRON RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN – DRAFT Sept 2024**

**Wānaka**

**QLDC**

*Note: Currently, QLDC does not have a mana whenua endorsed Te Reo name for Mount Iron*

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### Other related documents:

Conservation Act 1987  
Health and Safety Act 2015  
Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998  
Reserves Act 1977  
Resource Management Act 1991  
Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996  
Te Tiriti o Waitangi  
Wildlife Act 1953

QLDC Activity Controls to Manage Wildfire Risk within Reserves  
QLDC Alcohol Bylaw  
QLDC Art in Public Places Policy  
QLDC Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy  
QLDC Disability Policy  
QLDC District Plan  
QLDC Dog Bylaw  
QLDC Event Enquiry Form  
QLDC Events Strategy  
QLDC Film Permit - for drone use  
QLDC Open Spaces Strategy  
QLDC Plaques, Memorials & Monuments Policy  
QLDC Public Art Policy  
QLDC Smoking Policy  
QLDC Traffic and Parking Bylaw  
QLDC Tree Policy  
QLDC Wildfire Reserve Closure Plan  
QLDC-NZTA Active Travel Strategy

DOC and QLDC Community / Volunteer Agreements (various)  
DOC-QLDC Management Agreement 2024  
FENZ 'Flammability of indigenous plant species' guide  
Kāi Tahu ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005  
Te Tangi a Tauria – The Cry of the People 2008

### Other relevant parameters for management and decision making:

QLDC Delegations Register:  
- Wanaka Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB)  
- QLDC Full Council

### Process for preparing a reserve management plan in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977:

24 May 2023 Board approved creating plan  
25 Sep 2023 Notice invited suggestions for the plan  
20 Nov 2023 Suggestions closed  
*TBC xx xxx 2024 Notice invited submissions on the draft plan*  
*TBC xx xxx 2024 Submissions close*  
*TBC xx xxx 2024 Hearing held (if required)*  
*TBC xx xxx 2024 Board recommends adopting plan*  
*TBC xx xxx 2024 Full Council adopts plan*

### Review:

Generally, reserve management plans should be reviewed at a minimum of 10-year intervals by Parks Officers. This does not necessarily require a rewrite.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Reserve Management Plan Purpose

This Reserve Management Plan (RMP) provides a vision for how Mount Iron Reserve is experienced and valued, now and into the future.

Objectives and policies outline the use, maintenance, protection, preservation, and development of Mount Iron Reserve. These assist with all decision making. Their purpose is to support achieving the community's vision for the Reserve.

## Mount Iron Reserve Formation

Mount Iron comprises multiple adjoining parcels of QLDC and DOC administered land, known as Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron, which in this document will be referred to as Mount Iron Reserve, or the Reserve, see **Appendix One**.

## Mount Iron Recreation Reserve

Northern and western portions of Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron were purchased from private ownership to create a Recreation Reserve by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) in May 2023.

## Mount Iron Scenic Reserve (under application)

The eastern steep side of Mount Iron remains under Department of Conservation (DOC) administration. QLDC has applied to DOC to have the land vested to QLDC as Scenic Reserve to manage the landform in a unified, consistent and complete

manner. Based on a successful application, QLDC would take over management and the policies within this RMP would apply.

From 1 May 2024, until the time of vesting to QLDC, the DOC owned land is managed jointly under a DOC-QLDC Management Agreement 2024 (MA). The MA defines DOC as undertaking *statutory* obligations and QLDC as undertaking *operational* management.

*Note: In principle, it is recommended in the first instance to seek guidance about all areas of Mount Iron Reserve from this RMP, or the QLDC Parks Department.*

### 1.1 Primary Purpose

#### Recreation Reserve Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of the recreation reserve is to provide for recreation and physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, while protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment, cultural landscape and retaining open space.

#### Scenic Reserve Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of the scenic reserve is to protect and preserve scenic interest, beauty, natural features, and cultural landscape for the enjoyment of the public.

# 2. RESERVE DESCRIPTION

## Legal Description

Mount Iron Reserve is situated on a combined area of approximately 100 hectares, plus approximately 55 hectares of DOC land.

It comprises land legally described as:

- Section 3 SO 573783
- Lot 4 DP 471320

And DOC administered land (under application to transfer to QLDC):

- Lot 1 DP 302955
- Lot 2 DP 21892
- Section 40 Block IV Lower Wānaka SD
- Section 58 Block XIV Lower Wānaka SD
- Part Closed Road Block IV Lower Wānaka Survey District
- Section 56 Block IV Lower Wānaka SD

Mount Iron Reserve is zoned Rural and is an Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF) under the QLDC District Plan. It is bounded by State Highway 84 (SH84), State Highway 6 (SH6) and otherwise surrounded by Large Lot Residential and Lower Density Suburban Residential zoned land uses. Wānaka Town Centre and Three Parks Commercial zones are nearby, as well as Allenby Park Informal Recreation and several Community Purpose zones

which include Wānaka Golf Course and the Wānaka Recreation Centre.

### Access

Mount Iron Reserve is located within 2km of Wānaka's central business area and the Lake Wānaka shorefront. The proximity of these locations and surrounding residential areas to Mount Iron Reserve make it a popular site to experience open space, particularly *elevated* open space, from within an urban area.

Primary vehicle, cycle and pedestrian access is at various locations around the base of Mount Iron Reserve.

A shared path passes along the southern boundary from Anderson Road roundabout to Mount Iron Reserve SH6 car park, linking residential, commercial and recreation areas. It provides a safe off-road active travel route, especially for commuters and school students attending Mount Aspiring College.

There is a shared use track around the base of Mount Iron Reserve that links the SH6 car park to Old Racecourse Road, towards Albert Town. This also forms part of the Mount Iron 5km walking loop track.

### Physical Characteristics & Landscape Significance

Mount Iron is an iconic and significant geological landmark in the Wānaka landscape and significant to mana whenua. Rising to 250m elevation (553m

above sea level), it provides breathtaking 360° views of the surrounding mountains, flats and lakes.

Geologically, Mount Iron is a classic example of a Roche Moutonnée landform. It has been carved by glacial action flowing from north to south, which smoothed the north-western slopes of bedrock and left steep crags on the southern side.

Its classification as an ONF in the District Plan is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act 1991, and therefore has the highest level of landscape protection.

The portion of Mount Iron that is now Recreation Reserve was grazed by the Cleugh family. It was called Allenby Farms, which still operates on the north-west boundary of Mount Iron Recreation Reserve.

### Little Mount Iron

Little Mount Iron is a smaller summit with views to the north, east and west, linked to Mount Iron by a saddle.

### Kāi Tahu values

Significant values that have been identified by Kāi Tahu through the Spatial Plan and Development Plans for QLDC Reserves include:

#### Spatial Plan Values:

- Hauora Wellbeing - ensuring the four wellbeings are recognised in decisions.
- Aumangea Resilience - ensuring communities and visitors are resilient and

adaptive to future shocks and climate change.

- Whakauku Sustainability - ensuring the use of sustainable development principles and zero emissions.

#### Development Plan Values:

- Ara Tawhito – acknowledging traditional trails and networks.
- Whakapapa – Recognising genealogy or Lineage.
- Manaakitaka - Acknowledging others and raising up of the mana of visitors.
- Whanaukataka – Supporting community and Whanau connections and relationships.

*Note: Currently, QLDC does not have a mana whenua endorsed name to use for Mount Iron.*

### Ecology

Due to its large open space and elevation, Mount Iron Reserve hosts a variety of indigenous species, including alpine and cushion plants, reptiles, and invertebrates.

It contains three Significant Natural Areas of kānuka dominant scrub, listed within the QLDC Proposed District Plan:

1. SNA E18C
2. SNA18D
3. SNA18D\_2

*Note: Currently, the SNAs do not continue into DOC land, as that land was considered already held for conservation purposes.*

Indigenous species examples include:

- Blue tussock pātītī taranu *Poa colonsoi*
- Pillow pimelea *Pimelea scericeovillosa*
- Scented tree daisy *Olearia odorata*
- Kowarau gecko *Woodworthia 'Cromwell'*
- Noctuid moth *Meterana exquisita*
- NZ falcon kārearea  
*Falcon novaeseelandiae*
- McCann's skink *Oligosoma maccanni*

Current main planting areas include:

- Indigenous species near the base of the southern slopes.
- Semi-mature and new deciduous and exotic trees along the shared path and SH84.
- Semi-mature indigenous and fruit trees near Allenby Place.

There are pest plants and animals, primarily found on the northern and western slopes. There is an active trapline to trap pest animals.

Pest species examples include:

- Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga mensiesii*
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
- Mayten tree *Maytenus boaria*
- St Lucia cherry *Prunus mahaleb*
- possums
- rabbits
- rats
- stoats and ferrets

## Recreation

Recreation has coexisted with conservation and farming for several decades, predominantly in the form of a publicly accessible 5km loop walking track to the Mount Iron summit (historically managed under an easement in favour of DOC).

Other informal walking and biking tracks have been used on the Reserve.

Horse trekking tours have previously operated from Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron to the Lake Wanaka outlet.

The reserve has also been used for climbing, horse-riding, orienteering, paragliding, sheep dog trials and informal recreational skiing or walking through snow. See more detail in Description of Primary Users and Activities, section 3.

### Infrastructure & Services

Mount Iron Reserve contains structures, including:

- Bench seats
- Cell towers
- Car parks
- Dog trials statue
- Environmental monitoring sensor
- Farm-related fences and gates
- Signage
- Wastewater pump station
- Woolshed

Toilets and drinking water are available at the adjoining QLDC Allenby Place car park.

There is electricity to the environmental monitoring pole, wastewater pump station, woolshed and to the toilets.

There are several easements at the base of Mount Iron in favour of QLDC and other service providers to manage underground infrastructure.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY USERS AND ACTIVITIES

Mount Iron Reserve, including both the previously farmed and the Public Conservation DOC land, have long been valued by mana whenua and for open space recreation and particularly the scenic views over the district.

The following descriptions are a general overview and not exhaustive.

### Informal recreation

Mount Iron Reserve has a 5km walking loop to the summit that is regularly and frequently used by residents and visitors for casual recreation, including walking, exercising, dog exercising and enjoying views.

Existing managed and maintained tracks:

- Mount Iron Track [easement portion]
- Mount Iron Loop Track [5km]
- Hidden Hills Track
- Mount Iron – Albert Town Link Track
- Little Mount Iron Track

Mountain biking was allowed on Mount Iron in the past and there are informal trails on the north-west slopes of Mount Iron.

Horse riding was carried out on Little Mount Iron and the northern slopes of Mount Iron where there were fewer other users.

Paragliders use an established launch towards the western side of Mount Iron.

Rock climbers use five established climbing crags with multiple lines, ranging from beginner to advanced, near the Old Racecourse Road entrance to the Reserve.

Informal skiing has been carried out on Mount Iron Reserve and the ability to walk through snow is a valued experience.

### **Community / Volunteer Agreements**

Several community and volunteer agreements are in place with DOC and with QLDC.

The Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group have an agreement with QLDC for carrying out removal of some small wilding pines.

Wānaka Backyard Trapping set up a Mount Iron Trapping Group in 2019 on DOC land. Since 2023 they have expanded their trap lines across Mount Iron Reserve, including Little Mount Iron.

Wānaka Rock Climbing Club have an agreement with DOC for the climbing lines located on DOC land.

### **DOC Concessions & leases**

The current limited number of active DOC concessions are under DOC's statutory management. Based on a successful future land transfer to QLDC, they would then be subject to Reserves Act and QLDC processes, which include leases, licenses, permits and community / volunteer agreements.

There is a St John's lease with DOC for the defibrillator located at the summit of Mount Iron currently on DOC land.

### **Events**

In the past, there have been sheep dog trials and orienteering competitions.

## 4. VISION

The following vision is the community's overarching long-term outlook for Mount Iron Reserve:

**Mount Iron Reserve is a revered Wānaka landmark providing natural recreation in the heart of an urban environment. It unites residents and visitors, bringing the community together to protect its cultural, ecological, geological and recreational values.**

## 5. OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are provided to manage the Reserve and support the vision. They are overarching goals; succinct statements on the principal aims of this RMP.

### Objectives

- 5.1 To preserve and prioritise the natural, open and informal recreation and scenic experience of the Reserve.
- 5.2 To acknowledge the distinctive Mount Iron geology, recognising it is an Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF), which makes it a key landmark at the gateway to Wānaka.
- 5.3 To empower the community to participate in protection, preservation, and guardianship, to protect and enhance the Reserve.
- 5.4 To provide for community non-profit events and ensure commercial activities and events align with the primary purpose (section 1.1) of the Reserve.
- 5.5 To protect and enhance the Reserve's unique, special, and significant ecological values, (including SNAs).
- 5.6 To retain the Reserve as an undeveloped 'slice of the outdoors' within a busy town, providing respite from the surrounding urban area.
- 5.7 To retain the readily accessible connections to the Reserve.
- 5.8 To recognise the Reserve's heritage values.
- 5.9 To 'tell the story' of Mount Iron.
- 5.10 To provide a safe and resilient reserve.
- 5.11 To enable active and passive recreation use, access, and enjoyment of the Reserve.
- 5.12 To enable a mountain bike trail network within the Reserve.
- 5.13 To protect the Reserve from cumulative adverse effects of use and development.
- 5.14 To facilitate mana whenua participation to ensure Kāi Tahu whanui values are embedded in decision making in relation to the management of the reserve.

## 6. POLICIES

The following policies are the actions that support the objectives. They outline how to achieve the goals. They are clear, informed, inclusive and achievable.

### 6.1 Commercial Activities

Commercial activities may include any for-profit or non-charitable activity, event or other use, including recreation related activities.

*Note: Events (short-term or one off) on reserve land require a QLDC Events Permit. Lodging a QLDC Events Enquiry Form starts this process.*

*Activities (longer duration, continuous or regular frequency) may require a lease or licence under the Reserves Act, which may also involve public notification.*

#### Policies

- 6.1.1 Ensure any commercial activities align with the primary purpose (section 1.1) and objectives (section 5) of the Reserve.
- 6.1.2 Require activities and events to be organised in a manner that ensures ecological values, Kāi Tahu values and SNAs are protected, maintained or enhanced and public use of the reserve is not adversely affected.
- 6.1.3 Assess commercial activity applications based on duration, frequency, scale and cumulative effects.
- 6.1.4 Consider use of the Reserve for weddings and other private functions, sporting, art and cultural events or activities.
- 6.1.5 Consider overflow parking on the Reserve for events on the Reserve under circumstances that are temporary, specific, infrequent and when conditions allow, in limited areas.
- 6.1.6 Consider the use of temporary signage in conjunction with commercial activities, where it is also in accordance with the District Plan.

## 6.2 Community Partnering, Guardianship & Volunteering

Community may include a local incorporated society, schools, not-for-profit sports, Kāi Tahu whanui, small community business providers, art or cultural groups operating for charitable purposes.

*Note: Definition from QLDC Community Services Fees and Charges Policy.*

### Policies

- 6.2.1 Encourage the community's active participation in planning, maintaining and enhancing the Reserve.
- 6.2.2 Enable community engagement and involvement in planting and caring for the ecological values of the Reserve.
- 6.2.3 Support establishment of a community guardianship group for the Reserve.
- 6.2.4 Support outdoor education on the Reserve, where it does not adversely affect public use of the Reserve.
- 6.2.5 Consider the use of temporary signage in conjunction with carrying out a community activity, where it is also in accordance with the District Plan.

## 6.3 Community Events

Community events refers to not-for-profit events, activities or gatherings for the community or organised by the community.

*Note: For commercial events see section 6.1.*

*Note: Events (short-term or one off) on reserve land require a QLDC Events Permit whether commercial community related. Lodging a QLDC Events Enquiry Form starts this process.*

*Activities (longer duration, continuous or regular frequency) may require a lease or licence under the Reserves Act, which may also involve public notification.*

### Policies

- 6.3.1 Ensure community events align with the primary purpose (section 1.1) and objectives (section 5) of the Reserve.
- 6.3.2 Require mitigation of event effects to minimise disruption to, and displacement of, other users of the Reserve.
- 6.3.3 Require activities and events to be organised in a manner that ensures ecological values, Kāi Tahu values and SNAs are protected, maintained or enhanced.
- 6.3.4 Consider the use of the Reserve for community, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and events.
- 6.3.5 Assess community event applications based on duration, frequency, scale and cumulative effects.
- 6.3.6 Consider overflow parking on the Reserve for community events on the Reserve under circumstances that are temporary, specific, infrequent and when conditions allow, in limited areas.
- 6.3.7 Consider the use of temporary signage in conjunction with community events, where it is also in accordance with the District Plan.

## 6.4 Ecology

Ecology refers to living organisms and their physical environment.

### Policies

- 6.4.1 Encourage the community to work in partnership with council to restore and enhance ecological values and manage pest species.
- 6.4.2 Ensure planting, and other activities, do not have adverse effects on the SNA and Kāi Tahu values.
- 6.4.3 Encourage and support regenerative practices.
- 6.4.4 Control pest plant and animal species.
- 6.4.5 Protect habitat for indigenous animals including lizards, moths and other invertebrates.
- 6.4.6 Protect and enhance waterways within the Reserve.
- 6.4.7 Identify and protect view shafts when planting areas near view points.
- 6.4.8 Ensure planting avoids high and moderately high flammability species, where it is outside the SNAs and close to residential areas.

*Note: Fire and Emergency New Zealand provides a 'Flammability of indigenous plant species' guide.*

## 6.5 Development, Infrastructure & Amenity

Infrastructure refers to development such as buildings, car parks, fences, signage and services.

Amenity refers to items or services that help to provide comfort, convenience and enjoyment of the Reserve. This may refer to planting, landscaping or recreation improvements.

### Policies

#### Access

- 6.5.1 Maintain the convenience of accessing the Reserve from the adjoining urban areas.
- 6.5.2 Provide paths and recreation infrastructure close to arrival areas that cater to people with limited mobility.
- 6.5.3 Identify and encourage establishment of a main arrival area and secondary arrival areas and nodes.
- 6.5.4 Provide strong connections to active transport and public transport networks to reduce the need for car parking.
- 6.5.5 Allow car parking only for use and enjoyment of reserve.
- 6.5.6 Limit car parking to main and secondary arrival areas and treat stormwater runoff in line with the Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice.
- 6.5.7 Support the gateway experience into Wānaka, such as by minimising or screening car parking areas.
- 6.5.8 Allow for the establishment of regional trailheads and promotion, if appropriate.

- 6.5.9 Allow for campervan specific car park spaces to improve safety of car parks where there is space.

- 6.5.10 Allow for bus specific parking spaces where there is space if needed.

- 6.5.11 Maintain established informal vehicle access farm tracks for emergency service response and maintenance of the Reserve.

#### Public Services/Utilities

- 6.5.12 Discourage new commercial and public infrastructure, such as cell towers, transformers and underground infrastructure unless critical to public health and safety, when all other options have been considered and found unsuitable.
- 6.5.13 Consider amenity lighting only where necessary at the base of the Reserve.
- 6.5.14 Consider temporary and permanent public toilets, shelters and storage where necessary at the base of the Reserve to meet the needs of Reserve users.

#### Fencing, Routing & Signage

- 6.5.15 Allow for removal of unnecessary fences, gates and signage.

- 6.5.16 Allow for signage on the Reserve to identify the Reserve, facilities, interpretive information and wayfinding.
- 6.5.17 Establish environmental and cultural interpretive signage and seek opportunities to partner with mana whenua to do so.
- 6.5.18 Allow structures or signage only where they enhance the ecological, educational landscape and recreation experience of the Reserve.
- 6.5.19 Allow pest control fencing for strategic pest control where it aligns with the primary purpose (see section 1.1) of the Reserve.

### **Amenity Planting**

- 6.5.20 Establish amenity trees to provide shelter and shade where appropriate, such as along shared active travel paths and car parks. This may include appropriate indigenous or exotic planting.

### **Heritage**

- 6.5.21 Consider opportunity for adaptive reuse of woolshed building, prioritising community, education and recreation uses over commercial ones.

### **Kāi Tahu Values**

- 6.5.22 Consider sculptures, cultural representation, and art where it is relevant to the Reserve and where it sits within its landscape context.

*Note: QLDC Plaques and Memorials Policy applies to all QLDC land including Mount Iron Reserve. Due to the significance and visibility of Mount Iron to many people the application process will be subject to elevated requirements. (These elevated requirements are under review through the QLDC Plaques and Memorials Policy review).*

## 6.6 Landscape & Geology

Landscape and Geology refers to the natural landform and all its features and natural processes over time and currently. This includes landscape character, ephemeral, physical, visible and non-visible elements and cultural landscape. Also refers to geomorphology and other earth-related disciplines.

### Policies

- 6.6.1 Promote the significance of Mount Iron as an example of a roche moutonnée (sheep back) landform.
- 6.6.2 Locate and construct tracks and trails in a manner to avoid adverse effects on the landform and cultural landscape.
- 6.6.3 Maintain and enhance the landscape values of the ONF and the cultural values identified by Kāi Tahu in the District Plan.

## 6.7 Recreation & Enjoyment

Recreation refers to activities carried out for enjoyment.

Active recreation refers to organised, formal uses, such as activities that require gear/kit/tools or specific-use facilities, such as courts, fields and spaces.

Passive recreation refers to informal uses that require none, or limited, supporting infrastructure.

### Policies

#### Tracks & Trails

- 6.7.1 Maintain and upgrade the current walking trail network for the continued use and enjoyment of the Reserve by the community and visitors as a natural walking trail.
- 6.7.2 Require suitably qualified peer review of proposed trail development.
- 6.7.3 Allow for a sustainable, well designed trail network within the Reserve that meets the needs of a range of trail users and skill levels, provides a legible track system and considers ongoing maintenance and safety requirements, including separated walking and biking trails, unless shared use is deemed appropriate and safe in some areas.
- 6.7.4 Maintain tracks to provide a natural experience.
- 6.7.5 Actively discourage unauthorised trail building and use.
- 6.7.6 Remove and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks and trails.
- 6.7.7 Encourage viewing areas within new trail development.
- 6.7.8 Create arrival area nodes for activity specific areas.

- 6.7.9 Ensure the impact of any trail planning, building and maintenance in the SNAs is appropriately mitigated, and leads to enhancement in the SNA.
- 6.7.10 Ensure trail planning, building and maintenance avoids areas identified by Kāi Tahu whanui as having cultural value.
- 6.7.11 Allow formalized/urban-grade trails only around the base of the Reserve.
- 6.7.12 Prohibit motorised and throttle bikes, other than approved mobility devices where they assist people with disabilities.

*Note: e-bikes or 'power assisted cycles' are defined by Waka Kotahi | NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) as, "a power assisted cycle that has an auxiliary electric motor with a maximum power output not exceeding 300W and is designed to be primarily propelled by the muscular energy of the rider".*

#### Other Recreation

- 6.7.13 Enable active and passive open space recreation in defined areas for access, use and enjoyment of the Reserve.
- 6.7.14 Consider new recreation opportunities where they do not conflict with existing uses

and are consistent with the character of the Reserve.

- 6.7.15 Facilitate reasonable access to as many areas of the Reserve as possible for persons with restricted mobility, balanced with maintaining and enhancing the naturalness and values of the Reserve and the cultural values identified by Kāi Tahu.
- 6.7.16 Support the use and extension of the climbing crags within appropriate areas, mitigating risk for other users of the Reserve.
- 6.7.17 Support the use and improvement of the existing paraglider launch.
- 6.7.18 Consider the use of the Reserve for non-motorised recreational paraglider and parapent takeoff and landings.
- 6.7.19 Prohibit a formal playground. However, can allow for some informal or temporary nature play.
- 6.7.20 Prohibit the operation and take off/landing of UAV/Drones and model aircraft on, or from, the Reserve, unless otherwise specifically enabled by relevant Council policies and permissions.
- 6.7.21 Consider helicopter landings for emergency, civil defence or park management purposes only.

- 6.7.22 Support an efficient planning framework by updating the district plan zone to Open Space & Recreation, with sub zone informal recreation and, or nature conservation.

## 6.8 Natural Hazard Risks

### Policies

Natural hazard risks on Mount Iron Reserve include fall from heights, rock fall and wildfire.

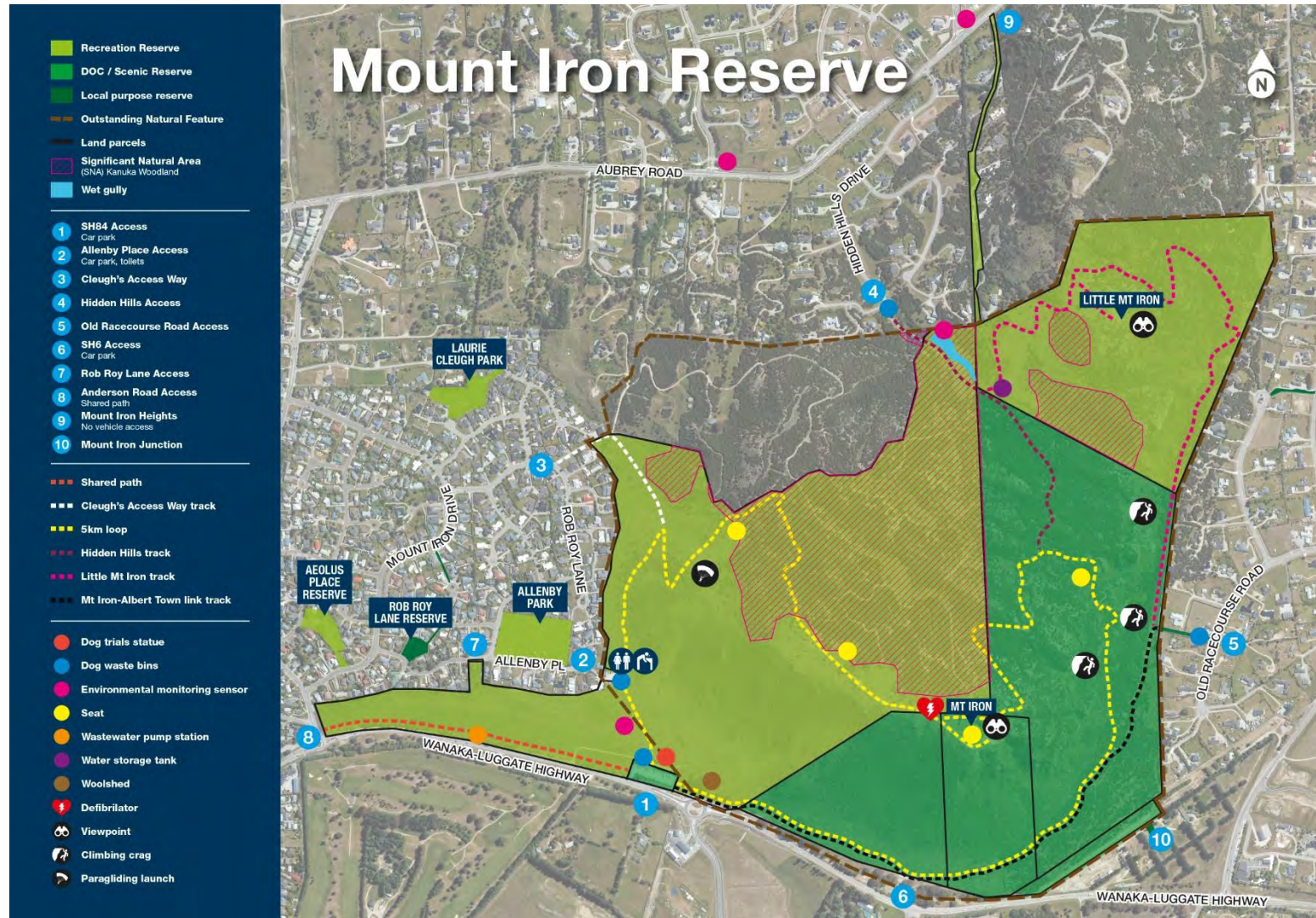
Risks to people, property and the environment can be exacerbated by human actions.

Individuals are responsible for looking after their own welfare and use reserves at their own risk.

*[Hazard risk mitigation aims to be consistent with regional and central government].*

- 6.8.1 Actively implement and regularly review the QLDC 'Activity controls to manage wildfire risk within reserves'.
- 6.8.2 Allow for reserve closures to mitigate risk for reserve users.
- 6.8.3 Identify risks when QLDC becomes aware of them and mitigate them in a non-invasive way and communicate them to Reserve users.
- 6.8.4 Encourage resilience to withstand and recover in a timely and efficient manner from adverse conditions.
- 6.8.5 Mitigate risk to, and from, organised events.
- 6.8.6 Mitigate hazard risks, such as rock fall and fall from heights, in a minimal and visually sensitive way to protect the landform and landscape.

## APPENDIX ONE – MOUNT IRON RESERVE MAP



Mount Iron Reserve – Access, land parcels, services, structures, trails and view points.

## APPENDIX B:

# QLDC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



### OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES...



Thriving people  
| Whakapuāwai  
Hapori



Living  
Te Ao Māori  
| Whakatinana  
i te ao Māori



Opportunities  
for all  
| He ōhaka  
taurikura



Breathtaking  
creativity  
| Whakaohoho  
Auahataka



Deafening  
dawn chorus  
| Waraki



Zero carbon  
communities  
| Parakore  
hapori



Disaster-defying  
resilience  
| He Hapori  
Aumangea



Pride in sharing  
our places  
| Kia noho tahi  
tātou katoa

### ...ARE SUPPORTED BY OUR WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK...

#### CROSS CUTTING

Equity  
Mātauraka Kāi Tahu  
Resilience  
Sustainability

#### PEOPLE

Healthy and  
fulfilled people  
A good standard  
of living

#### PLACE

A healthy  
natural environment  
An enabling  
built environment

#### COMMUNITY

Connected  
communities  
Belonging  
and identity  
Participation  
and governance

### ...AND DELIVERED EVERYDAY THROUGH OUR CORE ACTIVITIES...

Community  
Partnerships

Libraries

Sport & Recreation

Community  
Facilities and Venues

Parks and Reserves

Property

District Plan

Planning Policy

Resource Consents

Water Supply

Wastewater

Stormwater

Transport

Waste Minimisation  
and Management

Strategic Growth  
- Spatial Plan

Economy

Climate Action  
and Resilience

Regulatory Functions  
and Services

Local Democracy

Emergency Management

Finance and  
Support Services

### ...AND THROUGH ADDITIONAL FOCUS ON OUR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

#### GET THE BASICS RIGHT FIRST

Protect human and  
environmental health  
Maintain levels of service  
Undertake  
essential renewals  
Ensuring we're ready  
for the future

#### DIRECTLY INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Create well designed  
communities  
Provide for growth  
Build resilience and ability  
to adapt to the future  
Enhance performance of  
the transport network  
Create thriving town centres  
Reduce carbon emissions

#### INVEST THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Diversify the economy  
Build a sustainable  
tourism system  
Improve housing  
affordability

**APPENDIX C:**

**ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY DOCUMENTS**

# Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan



**Summary of Consultation**  
September-November 2024



**Early Community Engagement Summary**  
October-November 2023



# Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan



**Early Community Engagement Summary**  
October-November 2023



## Community engagement – early insights 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 location with over 180,000 residents and visitors exploring its trails 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 to help develop a Reserve Management Plan for this site during October and November 2023.

**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.**

To jump start the reserve management plan process we invited stakeholders and the community to several workshops to ask what they love about Mount Iron, what they are not keen to see on the site, and what they think will continue to make it great for future generations. We also had an interactive map tool on our Let's Talk project page for the community to share their ideas and ask questions over an eight week period.

## Thanks for being part of the conversation

We'd like to say a big thank you to all those who took the time to share their ideas and insights both online and at community workshops and drop in sessions. The feedback you shared will help form a vision and shape the objectives and policies of the draft Reserve Management Plan. We hope you will continue to be involved as we progress through creating the draft and the final plan and encourage others to take part too.

## Next steps

The early engagement feedback will guide the development a draft Reserve Management Plan which will be drafted in the coming months. There will be further opportunities to get involved through formal submissions, when we share the draft Reserve Management Plan for public consultation in June 2024.



Over the eight week engagement period we had:

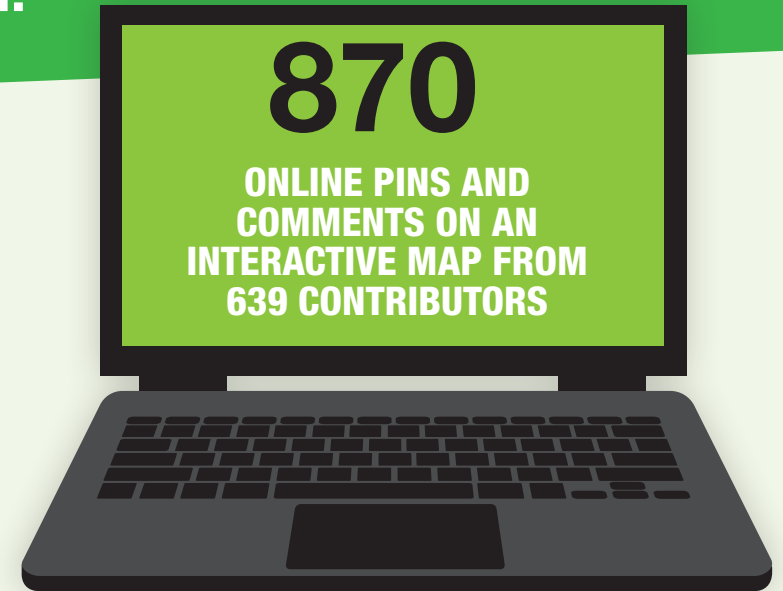
WORKSHOPS AND DROP  
IN SESSIONS WITH  
STAKEHOLDERS AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

5



**f 11,177**  
FACEBOOK VIEWS

**870**  
ONLINE PINS AND  
COMMENTS ON AN  
INTERACTIVE MAP FROM  
639 CONTRIBUTORS



**60+** PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE  
MOUNT IRON WORKSHOPS



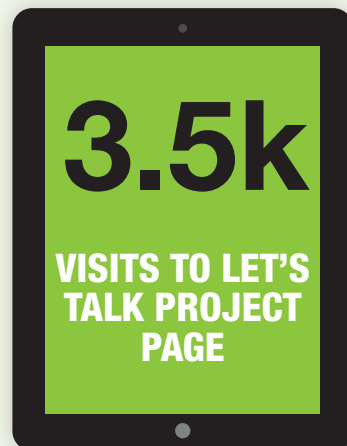
**581**

POST IT NOTE  
COMMENTS

FROM  
ENGAGEMENT  
EVENTS

**3.5k**

VISITS TO LET'S  
TALK PROJECT  
PAGE



WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING  
WITH MANY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS AT  
THE POP-UP SESSION WE HELD ON MOUNT  
IRON TRACK AND DURING THE WORKSHOP  
SESSIONS. WE ALSO RECEIVED SEVERAL  
LETTERS WITH FEEDBACK FROM  
INDIVIDUALS AND STAKEHOLDERS.



## Workshop results summary

We asked: What is your favourite thing about Mount Iron?

Here's a snapshot of what you said:

Take a look at all the community feedback received as raw data at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan)



We asked: What would make Mount Iron Recreation Reserve great for generations to come?

Here's a snapshot of what you said:

|                                                             |                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                        |                                                             |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Predator free<br>Mount Iron                                 | Develop<br>good mountain<br>bike tracks for<br>all abilities | Open space<br>for kids to free<br>range, places<br>to roam, make<br>huts and<br>explore | Links to<br>active travel<br>network                   | Greater<br>biodiversity                                     | Create safe<br>access to<br>the summit<br>for people<br>with mobility<br>challenges |
| An inviting<br>place that<br>welcomes a<br>range of users   | 18 hole<br>championship<br>disc golf<br>course               | To be actively<br>engaged with<br>mana whenua<br>to uphold Ngāi<br>Tahu values          | Storytelling<br>and<br>educating<br>through<br>signage | Family friendly<br>rock climbing<br>with top<br>roping zone | Winter ice<br>skating rink<br>in permafrost<br>zone                                 |
| Place of peace<br>– meditation,<br>yoga, mindful<br>sitting | Paragliding<br>take off<br>access                            | Removing<br>invasive plant<br>species                                                   | Reduced<br>wildfire risk                               | Stargazing<br>platform                                      | Outdoor<br>education<br>hub                                                         |

## We asked: What do you not want to see on Mount Iron?



Excessive safety  
signage and rules



A gondola



A cafe on the mountain



Loss of natural  
quiet solitude



Naked flames  
and smoking



Unsafe mingling of bikes,  
pedestrians and dogs off lead



Canopies and pergolas



Campsites, carparks,  
cell phone towers



Pests



Dog waste



Bikers encroaching on walkers



Dogs banned or  
restricted to onlead only



Prohibition of  
mountain biking



Motorbikes



Immaculate tracks



Too many tracks that are highly  
visible and impair the landscape



Too much construction,  
earthworks, fences



Lack of good oversight on  
the reserve management  
plan once it's implemented



Absence of Māori history,  
language, values - this is an  
opportunity to bring our cultural  
narrative of place to life



Commercial activity or  
concessions that exploit the  
natural values of the place

## **We asked: What are your top three priorities for Mount Iron Recreation Reserve?**

Here's the key themes that came through the discussions across the four workshops:



To read through priority areas in detail go to tab 4 on the 'All summary feedback' spreadsheet at:

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan)

## Workshops – a snapshot of comments

Birdlife opportunities for enhancement

An inclusive place with multiple access points

Develop good mountain biking tracks for all abilities

Respect for a fragile environment and other user groups, it's a shared space

No more tracks taking out vegetation and bird habitats

Remove as much fencing from the boundary as rabbit control allows

Cautious approach to bike tracks that are separate to walking tracks. Bike tracks erosion could be an issue

Protection and development of climbing crags

Keep it natural and retain open space

Only walking and cycling access from Hidden Hills (no parking facilities)

Working in with Department of Conservation to share information

Fitness stations at the top

Opportunity to predator fence the perimeter and regenerate the whole site with community involvement

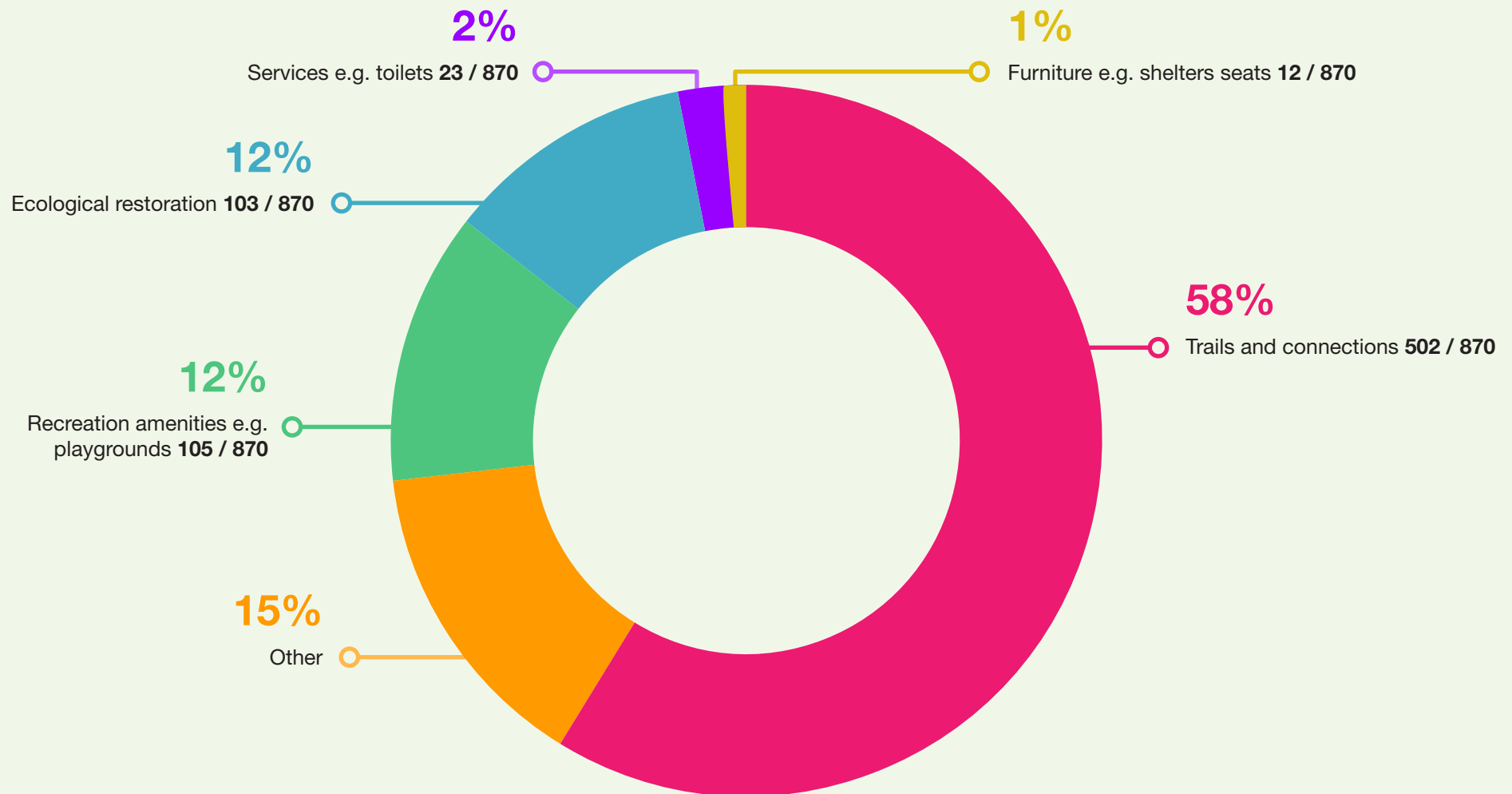
Wildfire risk management

It is a space overwhelmingly for nature

Coordinate community groups for ecological enhancement / volunteering

# Let's Talk Online Interactive Map Summary

We had 639 contributors pin 870 comments on a map of Mount Iron.  
Ideas you pinned on online map were on the following topics:



## Online Conversation – a snapshot of comments

“Reinstate all the mountain bike tracks on this face of Mount Iron.”

“Create a network of new uphill, downhill and cross country trails.”

“I strongly feel that mountain bikes should not be allowed on Mt Iron, even on the existing trails. The mountain biking community is adequately served by existing trails elsewhere in Wanaka. Mountain bike trails will contribute to erosion and damage to, and unnecessary removal of, the existing vegetation.”

“Walking and running tracks that are 100% separate from any bike tracks so walkers can enjoy the space and walk dogs without having to worry about bikes whizzing past.”

“Turn Little Mount Iron and or Mount Iron into another Zealandia (in Wellington) by erecting set free fencing, eliminate pests, and reintroduce native birds which will then repopulate the whole of Wānaka. Would also be a tourist attraction.”

“Protect small native plants such as myosotis and protect their habitat.”

“Create an information site under shelter at the summit that includes local history, geography, mana whenua stories etc.”

“Have a dedicated paragliding launch site and landing zone.”

“Restrict dog access to Mount Iron. The lack of proper waste disposal by dog owners has become increasingly evident.”

“Restore the old Woolshed as an info centre and cafe with a kids play area.”

“Frisbee golf course on top of Mount Iron and the last hole you shoot from the summit down to the bottom.”

“Work with organisations like Te Kakano to restore vegetation but still maintain viewing points and view shafts along trails.”

“Wheelchair accessible trail that connects Mount Iron to a Mount Iron loop.”

## Online Conversation – a snapshot of comments continued...

“Horse friendly trails and some access to water at the top.”

“Development of rock climbing areas.”

“Picnic area, outdoor yoga area, quiet space in saddle between big and little Mount Iron.”

“Commuter track connecting Wānaka-Luggate Highway with Aubrey road.”

“Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron, are beautiful examples of wild natural landscape. They are best left in their current state to allow the freedom to explore the bush.”

“Outdoor basketball court.”

“Trapping to control pests such as rats.”

“Create several large “lizard gardens” along Mount Iron Loop Track in an area that receives sufficient sunlight and is viewable to public. In addition to this, undertake lizard monitoring in combination with predator-control and predator-monitoring to see how (if) lizard populations change over time.”

“Allow orienteering events. There are awesome orienteering opportunities for the area including Little Mount Iron.”

To read letters sharing feedback from residents and stakeholders please go to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan)

“Big slides, dual flying fox.”

“Additional safe parking spots to access Little Mt Iron and clearer signage for visitors.”

“Consider ecological corridor connections to the Cardrona River, Albert Town Lagoon and Hikuwai/Clutha Mata-Au.”

“No commercial operations including cafes, gondolas, quad bike tours.”

For more detailed comments on topics such as commercial activity, infrastructure improvements, dogs, and ecology check out the all summary spreadsheet at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan)

# Promoting awareness and engaging with the community

Community drop in session on Mount Iron Track



Community Stakeholder workshop session



Community Stakeholder workshop session



Promotional signage on Mount Iron trails



# 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**  
**ONSITE  
COMMUNITY  
DROP IN  
SESSIONS**



**2,457**  
**PROJECT PAGE  
VISITS**



**446**  
**SUBMISSIONS  
RECEIVED**



**6,746**  
**FACEBOOK POST VIEWS**



**13,245**  
**FACEBOOK VIDEO VIEWS**



**20**  
**SUBMITTERS SPEAK  
TO THEIR SUBMISSION  
AT PUBLIC HEARING**

## A snapshot summary

We asked:

What is your  
position on the draft  
Mount Iron RMP?

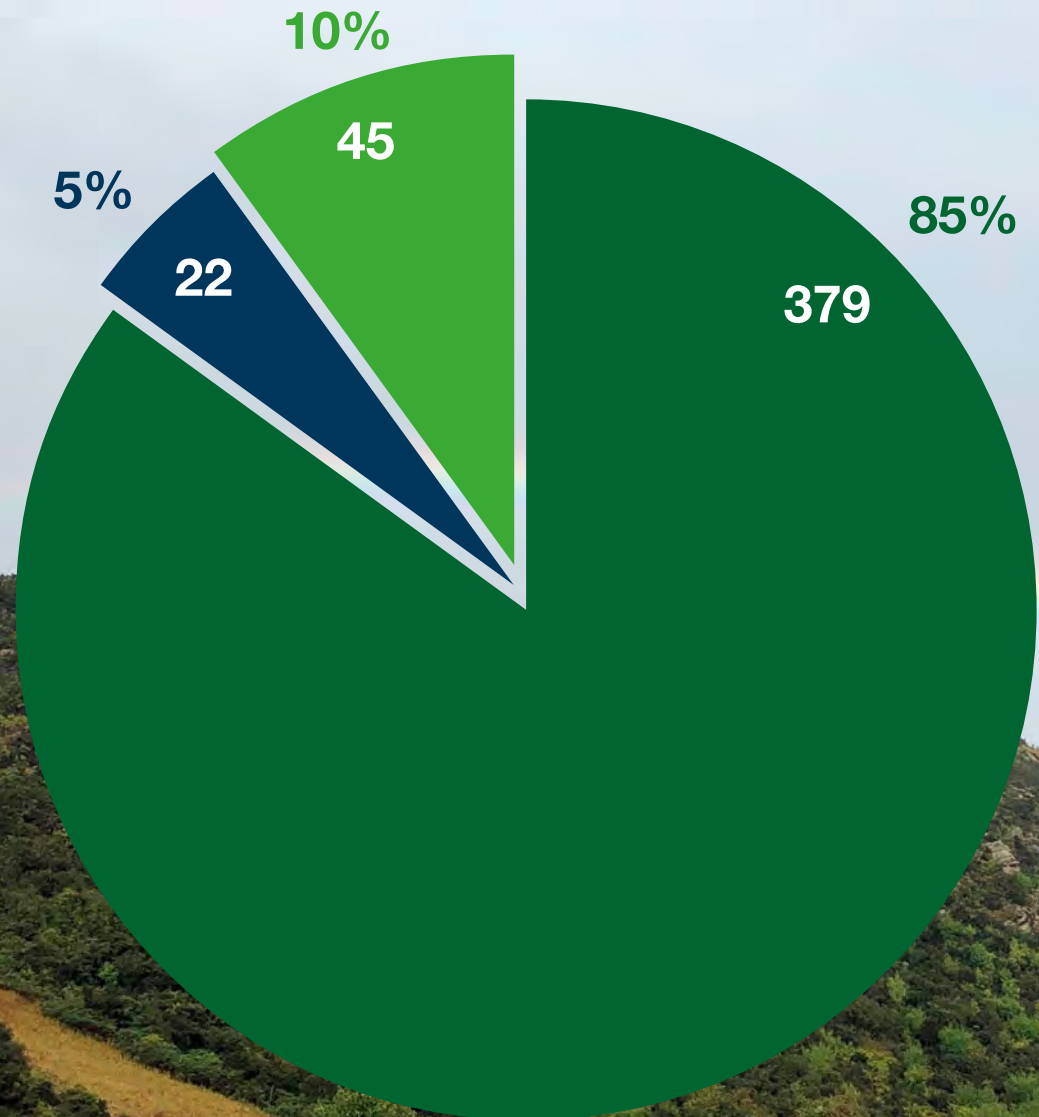
Here's what you said:

---

379 supported

22 neutral

45 opposed



## 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/](http://www.letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-recreation-reserve-management-plan/)

## APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

| Stakeholder / Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Role/Connection                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Benefits of involvement                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Level of interest | Level of influence | Level of impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Residents and Ratepayers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Aware</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide public support</li> <li>&gt; To share public input/feedback</li> </ul>                                                                                                       | M                 | Inform             | M               |
| <b>Community Associations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Albert Town Community Association</li> <li>&gt; Mount Iron Community Group</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br><br>To be kept informed of potential development of public infrastructure near/ connecting with Albert Town. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide assistance with educating/ informing public about project details</li> <li>&gt; To foster social licence and advocacy for the project</li> </ul>                             | M/H               | Consult            | M               |
| <b>Hidden Hills Community Association</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br><br>To be consulted on potential easement and future public access near private property.                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To foster social licence and advocacy for the project</li> <li>&gt; To provide feedback on specific topics of interest (public access near private land/potential easement).</li> </ul> | H                 | Consult            | H               |
| <b>Government Departments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Forest and Bird</li> <li>&gt; Department of Conservation</li> <li>&gt; Fire Emergency New Zealand</li> <li>&gt; Waka Kotahi</li> <li>&gt; Wānaka Primary School</li> <li>&gt; Holy Family Catholic Schools</li> <li>&gt; Te Kura O Tititea Mt Aspiring College</li> </ul> | <i>Reviewers</i><br>To provide input on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land.<br><br>To provide specific input on topics like fire risk mitigation, pest control and planting.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide clarification on risks present and mitigations</li> <li>&gt; To provide expertise on specific topics of interest (i.e., planting, wildlife)</li> </ul>                       | M/H               | Consult            | M/H             |

| Stakeholder / Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Role/Connection                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Benefits of involvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Level of interest | Level of influence  | Level of impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Engaged Community Organisations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Te Kākano</li> <li>&gt; Wānaka Backyard Trapping</li> <li>&gt; Upper Clutha Tracks Trust</li> <li>&gt; Bike Wānaka</li> <li>&gt; Wanaka Walkers</li> <li>&gt; Active Travel Network</li> <li>&gt; Wānaka Climbing Club</li> <li>&gt; WAI Wānaka</li> <li>&gt; Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group</li> <li>&gt; Upper Clutha Historical Records Society</li> <li>&gt; Southern Lakes Sanctuary</li> <li>&gt; Kahu Youth Trust</li> <li>&gt; Heart of Wānaka</li> <li>&gt; Upper Clutha Tramping Club</li> <li>&gt; Love Wānaka Community Fund</li> <li>&gt; Southern Gliding and Paragliding Club</li> <li>&gt; Guardians of Lake Wānaka</li> <li>&gt; Thursday Club</li> <li>&gt; Lakeside Road Enhancement Group</li> <li>&gt; Touchstone (Aspiring Environmental)</li> <li>&gt; Wao</li> </ul> | <i>Watchers</i><br>To provide input on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land.                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide feedback on specific topics of interest (i.e., trapping methods which could be used, or what grade bike trails are needed in Wānaka)</li> <li>&gt; To help provide expertise/resources for use once the acquisition is complete</li> </ul> | H                 | Consult/<br>Involve | H               |
| <b>Mount Iron Junction Limited</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br><br>To be kept informed of potential development of public infrastructure connecting to future development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide feedback on specific topics of interest (public access from private property).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  | H                 | Consult             | M               |

| Stakeholder / Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Role/Connection                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Benefits of involvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Level of interest | Level of influence | Level of impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><i>Advisors/Creators</i></p> <p>To advise on the decision-making process of the acquisition of Mount Iron.</p> <p>To advise on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land.</p> <p>To represent Wānaka's community in any decision-making process.</p> <p>To support project communications.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide community view of project</li> <li>&gt; To provide a voice and advocacy for the Wānaka community (includes Luggate, Hāwea, Albert Town and Makarora)</li> <li>&gt; To assist with educating and informing the public about key information</li> <li>&gt; To help advise on decision-making for acquisition and future plans</li> </ul> | H                 | Collaborate        | H               |
| <p><b>Internal stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Chief Executive</li> <li>&gt; Councillors</li> <li>&gt; Risk and Resilience team (Bill Nicol)</li> <li>&gt; Planning &amp; Development</li> <li>&gt; Property &amp; Infrastructure</li> <li>&gt; Regulatory</li> <li>&gt; Community Partnerships (Abbey Mocke)</li> <li>&gt; Lake Wānaka Centre (Christine Schafer)</li> <li>&gt; Sport &amp; Recreation</li> <li>&gt; Libraries</li> </ul> | <p><i>Advisors</i></p> <p>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.</p> <p>To provide input into project communications.</p>                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To provide assistance with educating/ informing public about project details</li> <li>&gt; To foster social licence and advocacy for the project</li> <li>&gt; To help advise on decision-making for acquisition and future plans</li> </ul>                                                                                                      | H                 | Involve            | H               |
| <p><b>Regional Authorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Otago Regional Council</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><i>Reviewers</i></p> <p>To provide specific input on topics like pest control.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To assist in providing clarification on issues/ consenting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | L/M               | Consult            | L/M             |

| Stakeholder / Group                                        | Role/Connection                                                                                                                                                                 | Benefits of involvement                                                                                                                                                                                  | Level of interest | Level of influence | Level of impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Business associations:</b><br>> Wānaka Business Chamber | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br>To provide input on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land. | > To provide public support<br>> To foster business community support<br>> To share business sector input                                                                                                | L/M               | Consult            | L               |
| <b>Tourism associations:</b><br>> Lake Wānaka Tourism      | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br>To provide input on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land. | > To provide public support<br>> To foster tourism community support<br>> To share tourism sector input                                                                                                  | L/M               | Consult            | M               |
| <b>Iwi</b>                                                 | <i>Advisors</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br>To advise on future plans for Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron land.        | > To provide Kāi Tahu view of acquisition<br>> To provide a voice and advocacy for the Upper Clutha Māori community<br>> To help advise on decision-making for acquisition for DOC land and future plans | H                 | Involve            | H               |
| <b>Media</b>                                               | <i>Watchers</i><br>To be kept informed on the overall progress of the acquisition of Mount Iron.<br>To share information on the acquisition of Mount Iron to the community.     | > To share information about the project<br>> To provide assistance with educating/ informing public about project details                                                                               | H                 | Inform             | L               |

## APPENDIX E:

# ENGAGEMENT METHODS AND COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

We implemented a range of channels to keep the community informed across the lifecycle of the project and drive engagement to obtain early insights feedback and formal submissions for the Mount Iron draft RMP. These included:

| PHASE 1: EARLY INSIGHTS ENGAGEMENT                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Media releases                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Display advertising                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Public notice in ODT and Wānaka Sun                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Let's Talk project page with interactive map to pin ideas and Q&A tool                                                                                                                                                        |
| Social media posts on QLDC Facebook page (shared with Community Associations and stakeholder groups)                                                                                                                          |
| Direct email invitation to stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| QLDC Mount Iron RMP webpage:<br><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/mount-iron-reserve-management-plan">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/mount-iron-reserve-management-plan</a> |
| QLDC venue digital screen (Libraries, Service centre receptions and recreation centre foyers)                                                                                                                                 |
| Council Snippets Column – Wānaka Sun                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Let's Talk Kōrero Mai (ratepayer newsletter) – Jun/July edition and October/Nov 2023 edition                                                                                                                                  |
| Posters                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Radio adverts and interviews – Media Works and NZME                                                                                                                                                                           |
| QT and Wānaka App banners                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Community Engagement – x 4 Workshops (x2 Stakeholder and x2 Community)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Onsite pop-up session                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Internal audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Email councillors</li><li>&gt; Email customer services, library and QEC</li><li>&gt; CEO video update</li><li>&gt; Friday Stand Up – organisation wide</li></ul> |

EXAMPLES  
OVER PAGE



COMMUNITY DROP IN SESSION ON MOUNT IRON TRACK



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP SESSION





PROMOTIONAL SIGNAGE ON MOUNT IRON TRAILS

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

**Queenstown Lakes District Council**  
3 October 2023 · 🌐

Share your ideas, both big and small, for our newest community reserve! Tell us what you love about Mount Iron, how you'd like to use the area in the future, and what you're keen to protect.

Help guide the development of the Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan and a vision for how this iconic landscape can be enjoyed by all. Feedback closes at 5.00pm on 20 November 2023.

Find out how to get involved, share feedback and join a community workshop at <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/>



How should Mount Iron be used and managed in the future?

**Queenstown Lakes District Council** created an event.  
29 September 2023 · 🌐

## Community Workshops

Tues, 7 Nov 2023  
**Mount Iron RMP early insights - Community Workshops**  
Lake Wanaka Centre  
102 people interested

☆ Interested



POSTER



DIGITAL SCREEN



QT AND WĀNAKA APP BANNERS

## Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Map

We'd like to hear your ideas about what we should include in a Reserve Management Plan for Mount Iron. Drop a pin on the map and add a comment telling us what you'd like to see in the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve.

To get started, just click the "+" button, then drag your marker of choice to the desired map location.

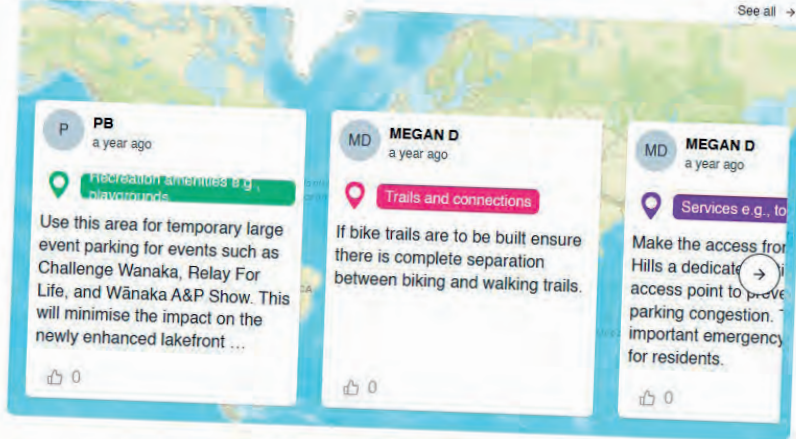
In addition to placing your pin, leave a brief comment with any details to explain or support your idea.

Please note:

- Participants CANNOT delete a pin after it is submitted. However, ...

**CLOSED:** This map consultation has concluded.

### Latest posts



See all 870 posts

LET'S TALK PROJECT PAGE INTERACTIVE MAP

## Milestone celebration on Mount Iron

A fantastic turnout of over seventy people gathered at the base of Mount Iron at the end of May to celebrate nearly 100 hectares of land becoming the district's newest recreation reserve.

Members of the Cleugh family (previous owners and caretakers of the land) joined representatives from community groups, the Department of Conservation, Iwi and the Council to mark this significant milestone.

The sun shone as the site was blessed by Justin Tipa, Kaiwhakahare.

Mayor Glyn Lewers and Oscar Cleugh-Gibb cut the ribbon as Kai Tahu ki Tuawhenua representative Justin Tipa looks on.

(Chair) of Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and representative of Kai Tahu ki Tuawhenua. Mayor Glyn Lewers welcomed everyone before some words from the Cleugh family, whose youngest member Oscar later cut the ribbon with the Mayor, Councillor Quentin Smith told the story of how the seed of an idea turned into a reality and QLDG Community Services General Manager Kenneth Bailey spoke of how significant this legacy acquisition is for the community and thanked everyone for their collective efforts.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR MOUNT IRON?

We'll be developing a Reserve Management Plan to guide how the area will be used, enjoyed, maintained and protected in the future. We'll need lots of community input as we develop this so keep your eyes peeled for details of how to get involved in the coming months.

Remember to stick to the tracks and follow signage when you're out exploring Mount Iron.

To keep in the loop, sign up to our Mount Iron newsletter at [www.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-acquisition](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/mount-iron-acquisition)

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

LET'S TALK KORERO MAI (JUNE/JULY)

## Mt Iron: join the conversation

Share your ideas, both big and small, for how you'd like to use and enjoy Mount Iron Recreation Reserve and see it managed in the future. We're looking for community insights to help guide the development of a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for our newest community reserve in the heart of Wānaka.

It's important we hear from as many different groups and individuals as possible about what you love about Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron, what you want to see made available on the site and what you want protected or maintained.

Our Parks team will be out and about to meet, chat and listen. You can also share your feedback online, take part in a community workshop, or visit us at our on-site drop in session.

Share your ideas on [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) by 5.00pm, 20 November.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

WHEN: Monday 30 October, 6.00-7.30pm.

WHERE: Armstrong Room, Lake Wānaka Centre.

#### COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2

WHEN: Tuesday 7 November, 12.00-1.30pm.

WHERE: Armstrong Room, Lake Wānaka Centre.

#### ONSITE DROP IN SESSION

WHEN: Saturday 4 November, between 9.00-11.00am.

WHERE: Mt Iron track entrance near Allenby Place car park.

Register your interest for these events at [facebook.com/QLDCinfo/events](https://facebook.com/QLDCinfo/events)

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

LET'S TALK KORERO MAI (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

Channels used to drive engagement to obtain feedback for the Mount Iron draft RMP engagement:

| DRAFT RMP CONSULTATION                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Media releases                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Formal public notice                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Let's Talk project page with online survey, Q&A tool and updated FAQs (hard copy survey produced if required)                                                                                                                   |
| Social media posts on QLDC Facebook page (shared with Upper Clutha Community Associations and relevant stakeholder and community groups)                                                                                        |
| Direct emails to stakeholders database from early insights phase                                                                                                                                                                |
| Mount Iron newsletter (edition #18 sent on 22 August)                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Mount Iron dedicated webpage<br><a href="https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/mount-iron-reserve-management-plan">https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects/mount-iron-reserve-management-plan</a>   |
| QLDC home page swimlane                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| QLDC venue digital screen (Upper Clutha Libraries, Service centre receptions and recreation centre foyers)                                                                                                                      |
| Council Snippets Column – Wānaka Sun                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Lets Talk Kōrero Mai newsletters – October and November 2024 edition                                                                                                                                                            |
| Radio adverts– Media Works and NZME                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Community Engagement - Drop in sessions x2                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Onsite signage with QR codes to Let's Talk project page                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wānaka App Banners                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Poster at libraries and rec centres and supermarkets/community noticeboards in Wānaka                                                                                                                                           |
| Internal audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Email councillors</li> <li>&gt; Email customer services and libraries</li> <li>&gt; CEO video update</li> <li>&gt; Friday Stand Up – organisation wide</li> </ul> |

EXAMPLES  
OVER PAGE



PROMOTIONAL SIGNAGE ON MOUNT IRON TRAILS

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



Queenstown Lakes District Council  
25 November 2024 · 🌐

Love Mount Iron? A heads up that it's the final week to submit on a plan to manage Mount Iron Reserve in Wānaka. Thanks to all those who have engaged with us on this much loved-landscape - we've received over 300 submissions so far!

Check out <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz> to read the draft plan and share your thoughts via an online submission form by 29 November 2024.

HAVE YOUR SAY  
ON A PLAN TO MANAGE  
MOUNT IRON





POSTER



DIGITAL SCREEN



QT AND WĀNAKA APP BANNERS

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

All projects

Consultation FAQs

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Home / Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Management Plan

## Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Management Plan

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Email](#)

**Shout out for community engagement on Mount Iron!**

A big thank you to all that shared their views on this much loved-landmark - we received over 400 submissions! You can view both the online and written submissions in the document library.

[See a summary of the engagement results here](#)

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. [Listen to a recording here](#)

Following this, all submissions will be 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.

### Document library

- Draft Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan - September 2024.pdf (880 KB) (pdf)
- Draft RMP Engagement Feedback
- Mount Iron RMP Engagement Summary\_Feb25.pdf (8.58 MB) (pdf)
- Let's Talk online submissions Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Management Plan.xlsx (157 KB) (xlsx)
- Written Submissions Mount Iron Draft RMP 29 November 2024.pdf (12.5 MB) (pdf)
- Early Engagement Feedback Summary.docx
- QLDG\_Mount Iron RMP Early Engagement\_Summary Document\_Jan24 WEB.pdf (1.02 MB) (pdf)
- QLDG\_Mount Iron RMP Early Engagement\_Summary Document\_Jan24 INT PRINT.pdf (5.25 MB) (pdf)
- Early Engagement Interactive Online Mount Iron Map comments

### Background

In May 2023 Council completed the purchase of nearly 100 hectares of land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron in Wānaka. This land has been vested as Recreation Reserve.

Our community is now the proud owner and guardian of the cherished local landmark. Over September-November 2023, we asked the community for feedback on how we use, enjoy, manage, preserve and enhance public land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron.

These ideas and insights have helped the Parks team shape a draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for the reserve. [Click here](#) to read the early feedback summary.

We now want to know if we have got the draft plan right and if you support it, how you'd like to see how this much-loved landscape can be enjoyed by all.

LET'S TALK PROJECT PAGE

LOVE MOUNT IRON?

In May 2023, Council completed the purchase of nearly 100 hectares of land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron in Wānaka. This land has been vested as Recreation Reserve and our community is now the proud owner and guardian of a cherished local landmark.

Before the end of last year, we asked for initial feedback on how everyone wanted to use, enjoy, manage, preserve and enhance this new public land. This has helped shape a draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) and it's now time to ask if the draft plan aligns with the community's vision.

Check out the draft plan and share your thoughts by 29 November.

Once public consultation has closed and people have had the opportunity to speak at a public hearing, all submissions will be considered by the hearing panel and used to make final changes to the RMP. This will then be presented to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board and Full Council for adoption early next year.

HAVE YOUR SAY AT

LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.NZ

The Parks team is also currently updating the draft RMP for Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Reserves. Public engagement is planned to kick off in December so keep an eye on Let's Talk for your chance to get involved.

10 THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

LET'S TALK KORERO MAI (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

## APPENDIX F:

### MEDIA COVERAGE

<https://wanakaapp.nz/NewsStory/mt-iron-acquisition-a-step-closer/62f5dbe1cca18c002c8341f6>

<https://www.thenews.co.nz/news/qldc-hopes-to-become-new-guardian-of-mt-iron/>

<https://lwb.co.nz/content/mount-iron-land-soon-to-be-in-public-ownership/>

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK2410/S00055/community-encouraged-to-have-a-say-on-a-plan-for-mount-iron-in-wanaka.htm>

<https://www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?id=125130>

<https://wanakaapp.nz/NewsStory/undeveloped-slice-of-outdoors-mt-iron-plan/670208dce4ea3f002e01ad35>

<https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/wanaka/mt-iron-draft-plan-consultation-taken-people>

<https://wanakaapp.nz/NewsStory/future-uses-of-mt-iron-subject-of-hearing/675519d85333c900d2805eb4>

<https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/wanaka/opinions-split-during-hearing-mt-iron-management-reserve-plan>

## APPENDIX G: RISKS AND MITIGATION

### **Risk: Community expectations not in line with what is acquired/delivered:**

The wider community believes they will receive something different to what is delivered, or in a different timeframe to what is accurate.

#### **Mitigation:**

- > Clear and transparent communication on what is being delivered
- > Clear and transparent communication on acquisition timeframes
- > Regular communication to reinforce expectations and timeframes
- > Proactive communication on what feedback could be utilised and delivered

### **Risk: Community doesn't understand acquisition process:**

The wider community believes the private land is already public reserve land, or will be soon.

#### **Mitigation:**

- > Clear and transparent communication on acquisition timeframes
- > Clear and transparent communication on process steps and QLDC's current location in that process
- > Regular communication to reinforce timeframes and process

### **Risk: Community doesn't understand Reserve Management Plan process:**

The wider community and/or stakeholders believe once the land is public reserve, development should be underway to meet their desires.

#### **Mitigation:**

- > Clear and transparent detail around why an RMP is required and how it works
- > Clear and transparent communication on process steps and QLDC's current location in that process
- > Regular communication to reinforce timeframes and process
- > Clear communication on when community can expect to provide input to RMP

### **Risk: Insufficient resources:**

High workloads put pressure on the delivery of the communications material.

#### **Mitigation:**

- > Regular project team meetings to manage expectations and timeframes
- > Clear communication on the content and material preparation process

### **Risk: Missed implementation/completion dates:**

Projects come with potential for missed timelines and can influence negative feelings in the community.

#### **Mitigation:**

- > Regular project team meetings to manage timeframes and identify potential extensions/missed dates
- > Clear and timely communication on any shifting timeframes

**LOVE**

**MOUNT IRON**



QUEENSTOWN  
LAKES DISTRICT  
COUNCIL