

4 URBAN DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to set out the objectives and policies for managing urban development within the District. This chapter forms part of the strategic intentions of this District Plan and will guide planning and decision making for the District's major centres and smaller urban townships.

The District experiences considerable growth pressures. Urban growth within the District occurs within an environment that is revered for its natural amenity values, and the District relies, in large part for its social and economic wellbeing on the quality of the landscape, open spaces and environmental image. If not properly controlled, urban growth can result in adverse effects to the quality of the built environment, with flow on effects to the impression and enjoyment of the District by residents and visitors. Uncontrolled urban development poses risks of urban sprawl, disconnected urban settlements and a poorly coordinated infrastructure network.

The objectives and policies for Urban Development provide a framework for a managed approach to urban development that utilises land and resources in an efficient manner, and preserves and enhances natural amenity values. The approach seeks to achieve integration between land use, transportation, services, open space networks, community facilities and education; and increases the viability and vibrancy of urban areas.

Urban Growth Boundaries are established for the key urban centres of Queenstown, Wanaka and Arrowtown, providing the tool to manage anticipated growth while protecting the individual roles, heritage and character of these areas. Specific policy is provided for these areas, including provision for increased density to contribute to a more compact and connected urban form.

4.2 Objectives and Policies

4.2.1 Objective - Urban development is coordinated with infrastructure and services and is undertaken in a manner that protects the environment, rural amenity and outstanding natural landscapes and features.

Policies

- 4.2.1.1 Land within and adjacent to the major urban settlements will provide the focus for urban development, with a lesser extent accommodated within smaller rural townships.
- 4.2.1.2 Urban development is integrated with existing public infrastructure, and is designed and located consistent with the capacity of existing networks.
- 4.2.1.3 Encourage a higher density of residential development in locations that have convenient access to public transport routes, cycleways or are in close proximity to community and education facilities.
- 4.2.1.4 Development enhances connections to public recreation facilities, reserves, open space and active transport networks.
- 4.2.1.5 Urban development is contained within or immediately adjacent to existing settlements.
- 4.2.1.6 Avoid sporadic urban development that would adversely affect the natural environment, rural amenity or landscape values; or compromise the viability of a nearby township.
- 4.2.1.7 Urban development does not result in the loss of productive agricultural land.

4.2.2 Objective - Urban Growth Boundaries are established as a tool to manage the growth of major centres within distinct and defensible urban edges

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Policies

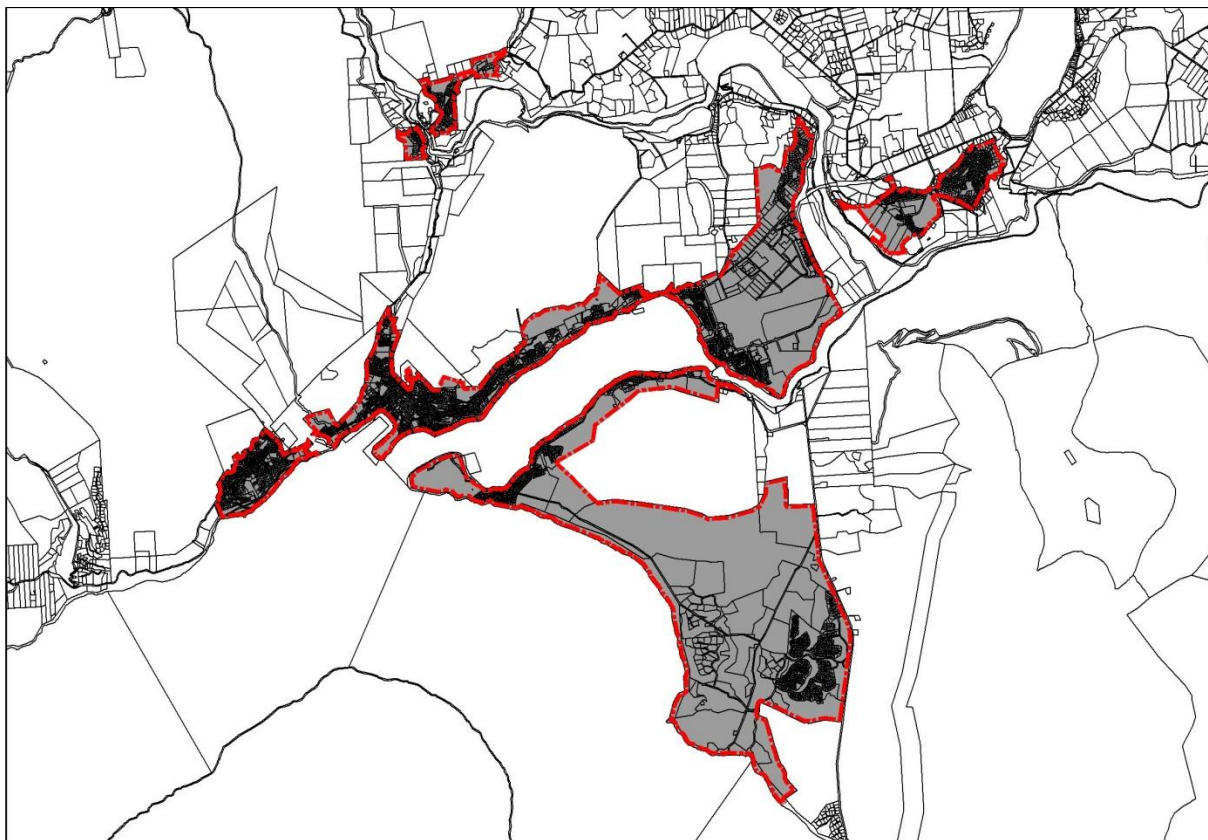
- 4.2.2.1 Urban Growth Boundaries define the limits of urban growth, ensuring that urban development is contained within identified Urban Growth Boundaries, and urban development is avoided outside of any identified Urban Growth Boundaries.
- 4.2.2.2 Urban Growth Boundaries are of a scale and form which is consistent with the anticipated demand for urban development over the planning period, and the appropriateness of the land to accommodate growth.
- 4.2.2.3 Within Urban Growth Boundaries, land is allocated into various zones which are reflective of the appropriate land use.
- 4.2.2.4 Not all land within Urban Growth Boundaries will be suitable for urban development, such as (but not limited to) land with ecological, heritage or landscape significance; or land subject to natural hazards. The form and location of urban development shall take account of site specific features or constraints to protect public health and safety.
- 4.2.2.5 Urban Growth Boundaries may need to be reviewed and amended over time to address changing community needs.
- 4.2.3 Objective – Within Urban Growth Boundaries, provide for a compact and integrated urban form that limits the lateral spread of urban areas, and maximises the efficiency of infrastructure use and provision.**

Policies

- 4.2.3.1 Provide for a compact urban form that utilises land and infrastructure in an efficient and sustainable manner, ensuring:
- connectivity and integration;
 - the sustainable use of public infrastructure;
 - convenient linkages to the public and active transport network; and
 - housing development does not compromise opportunities for commercial or community facilities in close proximity to centres.
- 4.2.3.2 Enable an increased density of residential development in close proximity to town centres, public transport routes, community and education facilities.
- 4.2.3.3 Low density development does not compromise the viability of the Urban Growth Boundaries in providing for growth.
- 4.2.3.4 Urban development occurs in locations that are adequately serviced by existing public infrastructure, or where infrastructure can be efficiently upgraded.
- 4.2.3.5 New public infrastructure networks are limited exclusively to land within defined Urban Growth Boundaries.
- 4.2.3.6 Development improves connections to recreational and community facilities, and enhances the amenity and vibrancy of urban areas.
- 4.2.3.7 The edges of Urban Growth Boundaries are managed to provide a sensitive transition to rural areas.

Queenstown

4.2.4 Objective - Manage the scale and location of urban growth in the Queenstown Urban Growth Boundary.



Policies

4.2.4.1 Limit the growth of Queenstown so that:

- the natural environment is protected from encroachment by urban development
- sprawling of residential settlements into rural areas is avoided
- residential settlements become better connected through the coordinated delivery of infrastructure and community facilities
- transport networks are integrated and the viability of public and active transport is improved
- the provision of infrastructure occurs in a logical and sequenced manner
- the role of Queenstown Town Centre as a key tourism and employment hub is strengthened
- the role of Frankton in providing local commercial and industrial services is strengthened

4.2.4.2 Ensure that development within the Queenstown Urban Growth Boundary:

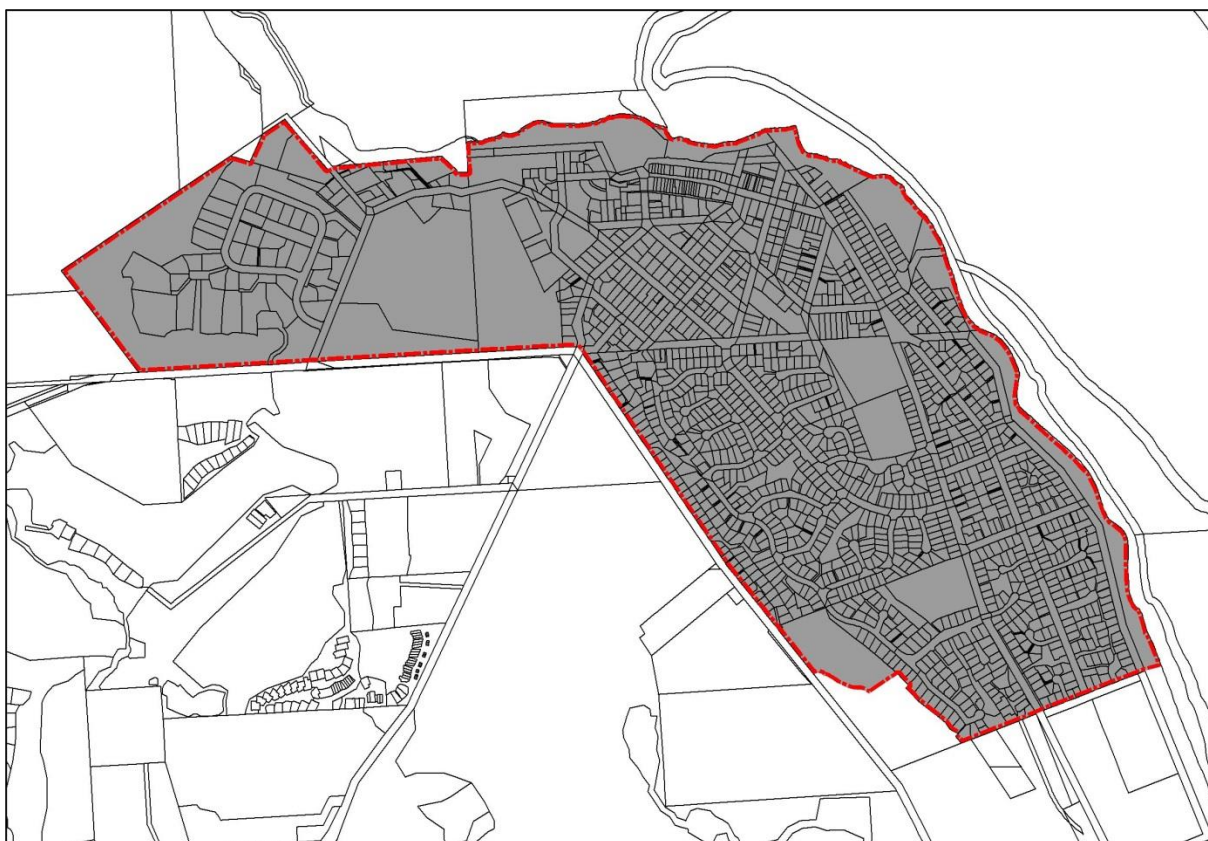
- Provides a diverse supply of residential development to cater for the needs of residents and visitors
- Provides increased density in locations close to key public transport routes and with convenient access to the Queenstown Town Centre

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- Provides an urban form that is sympathetic to the natural setting and enhances the quality of the built environment
- Provides infill development as a means to address future housing demand
- Provides a range of urban land uses that cater for the foreseeable needs of the community
- Maximises the efficiency of existing infrastructure networks and avoids expansion of networks before it is needed for urban development
- Supports the coordinated planning for transport, public open space, walkways and cycleways and community facilities
- Does not diminish the qualities of significant landscape features

Arrowtown

4.2.5 Objective - Manage the scale and location of urban growth in the Arrowtown Urban Growth Boundary.



Policies

4.2.5.1 Limit the growth of Arrowtown so that:

- Adverse effects of development outside the Arrowtown Urban Growth Boundary are avoided.
- the character and identity of the settlement, and its setting within the landscape is preserved or enhanced

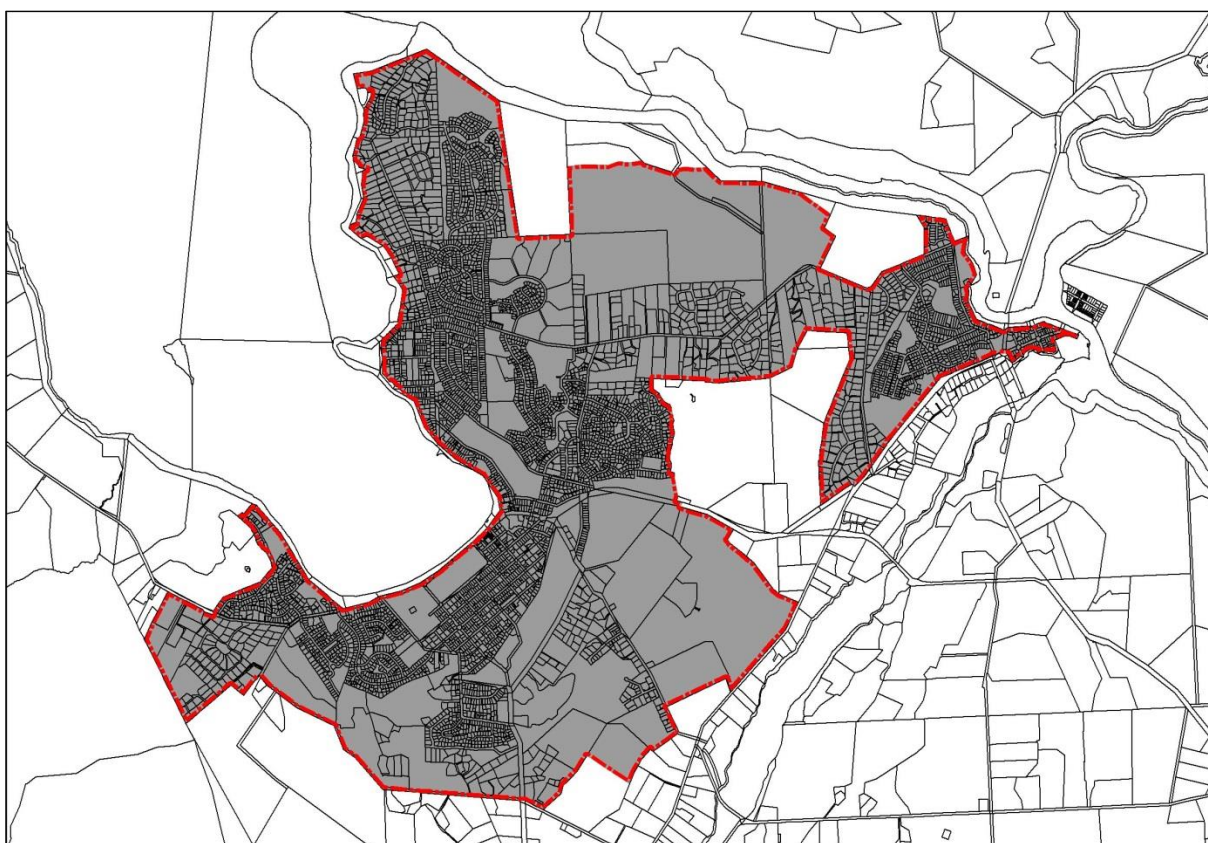
4.2.5.2 Ensure that development within the Arrowtown Urban Growth Boundary provides:

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- an urban form that is sympathetic to the character of Arrowtown, including its scale, density, layout and legibility in accordance with the *Arrowtown Design Guidelines 2006* (and any adopted updates)
- a designed urban edge with landscaped gateways that promote or enhance the containment of the town within the landscape, where the development abuts the urban boundary for Arrowtown
- for Feehley's Hill and land along the margins of Bush Creek and the Arrow River to be retained as reserve areas as part of Arrowtown's recreation and amenity resource.
- To recognise the importance of the open space pattern that is created by the inter-connections between the golf courses and other Rural General land

Wanaka

4.2.6 Objective - Manage the scale and location of urban growth in the Wanaka Urban Growth Boundary.



Policies

4.2.6.1 Limit the growth of Wanaka so that:

- The rural character of key entrances to the town is retained and protected, as provided by the natural boundaries of the Clutha River and Cardrona River
- A distinction between urban and rural areas is maintained to protect the quality and character of the environment and visual amenity
- Ad hoc development of rural land is avoided
- Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features are protected from encroachment by urban development

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4.2.6.2 Ensure that development within the Wanaka Urban Growth Boundary:

- Supports increased density through greenfield and infill development, in appropriate locations, to avoid sprawling into surrounding rural areas
- Provides a sensitive transition to rural land at the edge of the Urban Growth Boundaries through the use of setbacks to maintain amenity and open space, and design standards that limit the visual prominence of buildings
- Facilitates a diversity of housing supply to accommodate future growth in permanent residents and visitors
- Maximises the efficiency of existing infrastructure networks and avoids expansion of networks before it is needed for urban development
- Supports the coordinated planning for transport, public open space, walkways and cycleways and community facilities
- Does not diminish the qualities of significant landscape features
- Rural land outside of the Urban Growth Boundary is not developed until further investigations indicate that more land is needed to meet demand.