

# McLeod, Bruce

## QUEENSTOWN MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB (QMTBC)

### WAKATIPU

#### 6

#### Other Comments

##### Would you like to comment on any other aspect of this draft 10 Year Plan?

Submission on the 10 year plan The QMTBC have been working together with Council for many years, enhancing and developing mountainbike trails in the Wakatipu basin for the benefit of the community. We are a volunteer group (two time recipient of the Community Volunteer award) and feel we achieve a lot and have contributed significantly. Over recent years the popularity of mountainbiking has increased exponentially, which brings with it associated pressure to improve our trail network and ensure our existing trails are well maintained. If we are to continue to be a leading locality for biking and compete with other regional centres that are developing rapidly, then we need to continue our trail enhancement and maintenance activity. In the past we have been grateful for Council support, but if we are critical we might be inclined to say it lacks consistency. Last year we received no funding from QLDC. Some of the club's local biking areas are world renowned, with some of the biggest names in the sport having made the long journey to our little community, simply to experience our trails. Examples of this are the Gorge Road Jump Park, Wynyard Freestyle Park, the Rude Rock trail and the Fernhill Loop trail (upgrade under construction). These trails get a significant amount of filming and publicity that in turn generates interest, visitors, and economic benefits. While these areas are iconic, they are costly to maintain to the standards necessary (the jumps and trials need to be looked after so the rider has confidence in the construction). That said, "costly" for the club means \$10,000 per area, but we know that sort of value is pretty small in comparison to other maintenance budgets for trails in our community. It is difficult to put a value on the benefits to our community that our work brings, and we would like to gain a better understanding of that. We are confident that such an economic review will justify our request for a minimal level of support from the community. So in summary, for all our hard work, we seek little from the Council (but it would be significant for us as a club):

- An economic impact study to review the benefits that mountain biking brings to our community, estimated cost \$12K
- An annual maintenance budget of \$20,000 to go towards our world renowned mountainbike facilities (specifically Gorge Road Jump Park, Wynyard Free Style Park, Rude Rock, Fernhill Loop and 7 Mile Trail network).

Thank you for considering our submission.