

## UPPER CLUTHA CONSERVATION TASKFORCE

### WANAKA/UPPER CLUTHA

#### 6 Other Comments

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

The Upper Clutha Taskforce were formed to progress priorities and concerns raised by local groups and individuals with an interest in conservation at the Shaping Our Future Conservation forum held in May 2014. The recent focus of the Taskforce has been finalising recommendations to local councils which will address the communities' key conservation priorities and concerns from the forum. The Taskforce are keen to be heard with regards to the Long Term Plan as there are many themes which are reflected in the pending recommendations to council. (which will follow later this year) Firstly; A concern of the Taskforce is the links between international, national, district and regional plans. The Biodiversity Convention informs the National Biodiversity Strategy and the National Priorities for Protection of Biodiversity on Private Land. These in turn should be given effect ('operationalised') at a regional and district level. The fact that QLDC are reviewing their 10 year plan before the ORC Long Term Plan is reviewed means that the opportunity for this flow on effect is lost. We would like the Long Term Plan to recognise this and establish the means through which the flow on effect from ORC planning will be established. As a biodiversity strategy and associated work is to be a key focus for the ORC in the next 10 years, we expect that some of the operational aspects will require a partnership with QLDC. Hence we wish to outline our recommendations to QLDC also. Biodiversity • We would like to see the council support, encourage and enable communities working on biodiversity by providing essential resources in the form of technical advice (eg consultants), facilitators for working with individual communities, administrative support and collaborative forums/ meetings. The engagement process needs to be planned in a collaborative way with ORC and others. • The Biodiversity Strategy should incorporate: o the management of ecosystems. o the establishment of ecosystem services. The biodiversity strategy should facilitate delivering science and best practice principals to the farm gate via an education and advocacy mechanism eg extension officers. o the value of ecosystems. Economic factors are an essential element in the future management of biodiversity – we would like to see the region prepared for this. o the sustainability of pastoral and horticultural systems in the region and their links to native eco-systems (eg bee populations from native eco-systems contribute to horticultural ecosystems) o tangata whenua and cultural heritage. o fresh water biodiversity. o a focus on mid to low altitude indigenous biodiversity. o moving beyond biodiversity protection to restoration. This should include putting biodiversity back into production lands. o alignment with the Otago CMS and collaboration with the Otago Conservation Board. o Collaboration with Ngai Tahu and alignment with their strategies regarding historical and cultural resources. The term "wilding pines" should be replaced with "wilding trees". The Long Term Plan should also flag the future threat of Douglas fir which is not currently formally recognised.