

# Harrison, Ruth

## UPPER CLUTHA TRACKS NETWORK

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### Other Comments

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

See attached submission

## **Submission to QLDC Long Term Plan April 2015**

### **Background**

A strategy to guide the development, maintenance, communication and information for the Upper Clutha track network for the next 10 years (2015-2025) is currently under development. The strategy will be completed by the end of May 2015.

Development of the strategy has been a collaborative work of the Upper Clutha Tracks Trust, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Department of Conservation, Bike Wanaka and Lake Wanaka Tourism.

There was extensive consultation in preparing a draft strategy. That consultation said strongly that Upper Clutha residents view the existing extensive track network as a major nationally recognised, highly valued, community asset. There was significant agreement that a key function of the tracks network is linking our communities. This network needs to be maintained and developed further by adding some new specific infrastructure and information to the network.

The draft strategy has been circulated for consultation to all interested community groups. Most respondents used the online survey to provide very positive feedback on the draft strategy that is now being finalised. At the same time an implementation plan is being developed. These two pieces of work will form the strategy document going forward.

There are opportunities to use the tracks for tourism and economic development promoting the standard of living and the economic health of Wanaka. We may also want to collaborate with adjoining networks as part of the national network. Some potential commercial benefit from the track network is recognised, however, one of the challenges the Steering Group is keen to tackle is to balance commercial use with wider community use so that everybody continues to have open use of the tracks.

### **Goals of the Upper Clutha Tracks Strategy**

**Connected Upper Clutha Communities.** The tracks network will connect the communities of the Upper Clutha. Work to complete the tracks network and link all our communities and will continue to be key.

**Enable biking and walking.** The tracks network will offer a viable alternative to vehicle use. Specific commuter tracks will be developed. In addition, Wanaka is a visitor destination and there is a demand for the commercial use of the tracks network because of the growing numbers of walkers and bikers wanting to access the tracks network with assistance.

**Needs of an active community.** The tracks network will offer a variety of recreational opportunities in Wanaka for residents and visitors. People can

choose the degree of challenge from the range of tracks. There is something for everybody in the tracks network.

**Management, development and maintenance.** The tracks network will be linked so that development of the tracks network is accompanied by identified maintenance planning and funding provision. Standards for development and maintenance are identified and agreed.

**Collaborative Planning.** Collaboration going forward will maximise development of infrastructure and information for the tracks network. Land ownership and the mandate of various organisations make planning for the tracks network across interest groups essential. This strategy is a guiding document for all interested organisations in the Upper Clutha.

### Mapping the LTP Outcomes with the Tracks Strategy Goals

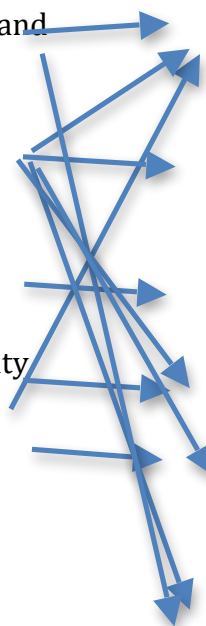
As expected, there is a strong correlation between the LTP outcomes and the goals of the Tracks Network Strategy. These relationships are represented visually below.

#### Upper Clutha Tracks Network Goals

Management, development and maintenance of the tracks network  
Connected Upper Clutha Communities  
Enable biking and walking  
Needs of an active community  
Collaborative planning

#### LTP Community Outcomes and Objectives

Sustainable growth management  
Quality landscapes and natural environment with enhanced public access  
A safe and healthy community that is strong, diverse and inclusive for people of all age groups and incomes  
Effective and efficient infrastructure that meets the needs of growth  
High quality urban environments, respectful of character of individual communities  
A strong and diverse economy  
Preservation and celebration of the district's local cultural heritage



### Recommendations

It is recommended that QLDC

- Acknowledge QLDC is a party to the development of the Upper Clutha Tracks Network Strategy 2015-2025 in the Long Term Plan and will continue to support its rollout.

- Commit in the Long Term Plan that all funding, development and maintenance decisions affecting the existing and future Upper Clutha Tracks Network should be consistent with the strategy.
- Tracks in the Long Term Plan will include all cycle trails, walking track, horse trails and commuter tracks.