



SUBMISSION ON OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

TO: Otago Regional Council
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Name of submitter: Shaping Our Future Inc

This is a submission on the Otago Regional Council ("the Council") Air Quality Strategy and applies to the Queenstown Lakes District.

Shaping our Future Inc was founded in 2011 by a group of leading Queenstown Lakes residents. Our Board and Taskforce members are volunteers working towards achieving our 2011 created long term community vision of *"Spectacular environments, enterprising people, exceptional solutions"*

We aim to give every person in the community a voice in shaping the future of our district for future generations, not just our children, but grandchildren and beyond. We are independent and apolitical with a process not constrained by single interest groups.

The Shaping our Future process includes public forums and online engagement, the formation of a volunteer taskforce to refine and establish a vision, goals and objectives within a strategic report that is then taken back to the public for ratification prior to being implemented.

Applications and Reference (engagement numbers in brackets):

1. Shaping our Future Glenorchy Community Visioning (110)
2. Arrowtown Community Visioning 2017 (130)
3. Shaping our Future Upper Clutha Conservation Report 2015 (80)

Arrowtown Community Report included an overall vision for their environment and key goals for air:

- A target of zero pollution from heating by 2050
- Better housing design and energy efficiency for housing to reduce emissions
- Air quality targets are achieved and exceeded.

The Upper Clutha Conservation Report included a section on air quality that included recommendations on emissions, open air burning and education (see below for full details):

AIR

VISION – 2030

Pollutants from human sources are minimal.

KPI'S

Regular monitoring shows high standards of air quality are being met.

The number of complaints are minimal and reducing.

Breaches are dealt with in a timely efficient manner.

Establish clarity around regulatory responsibilities and who to contact regarding enforcement

GAP WITH TODAY

Several times a year the air is visibly polluted through burning from human activity – it impacts on health, tourism, biodiversity, aesthetics, local business.

RECOMMENDATIONS to ORC and the Otago Rural Fire Authority (ORFA)

Air Plan:

Rural burning issues are addressed regularly with the Upper Clutha Vegetation Control Group.

When open air permit applications are being considered, the effects on human health, environment and tourism are fully measured and accounted for.

Emissions regulations are tightened and enforced.

Prohibit open air rubbish and building waste burning. (Encourage mulching of tree waste instead of burning)

Step up education regarding responsible burning.

Work is done around what standards of air quality we should be meeting to achieve the 2030 vision.

In addition the Glenorchy Community Report included two key recommendations for:

- ORC to monitor air and water quality and share results with the community.
- Facilitate a more in-depth community discussion on our environment – including fossil fuels, carbon emissions, biodiversity, soil health, chemical alternatives, global warming.

Summary:

Shaping our Future supports the development of a comprehensive air quality plan for the Queenstown Lakes District with a focus on:

- Cleaner heating
- Reduced reliance on outdoor burning
- No nuisance from emissions and dust
- No toxic emissions impacting on people and ecosystems.

Relief: The timelines included within the strategy have very little activity until 2020. Shaping our Future requests that the timelines are reviewed. The Shaping our Future reports from 2015-17 show a desire for action from within our communities to address our air quality, research and take action towards improvement.

Shaping Our Future

Alastair Porter, Chair, Shaping our Future

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