

Urban Growth Boundaries - the summary

Managing Growth

There is ongoing pressure for more housing, business and commercial development within our district. In the past some urban growth has occurred randomly and there has also been pressure to expand around the edge of settlements. This can affect how a place looks, feels and functions. One possible planning tool to define the limit of where urban development can take place is Urban Growth Boundaries. This can be done through a change to the District Plan. Before the Council goes down that path it wants to know what you think.

Urban Growth Boundaries

Urban Growth Boundaries can be used to achieve a number of things:

- Manage scale and location of growth
- Achieve good urban areas
- Best use of urban land
- Prevent urban sprawl
- Maintain accessible communities

How would it work?

The Council would need a clear and consistent approach to making Urban Growth Boundaries. It would also need to respond to local issues. A set of criteria would be prepared to guide the establishment of boundaries and this would be introduced through the public Plan Change process. This would involve further community consultation.

Progress so far

Some work has already taken place through community planning and Structure Plan exercises. This has identified preliminary ideas for Urban Growth Boundaries for Queenstown and Wanaka. However, other settlements are under development pressure and could benefit from having growth boundaries established. The Council has already committed to commence a Plan Change process to consider the Arrowtown boundary and some work has also been carried out in Kingston.

What other tools do we need?

Urban Growth Boundaries might not address all of the issues needed to ensure that sustainable development and good urban design are achieved. Here are some of the tools that we could develop:

- Density Standards for urban areas – promoting efficient urban development.
- Zone alignment – ensuring existing District Plan provisions (zones) are consistent with the Urban Growth Boundary policy.
- Future Urban Zone – identifying and safeguarding land for longer term growth, within the Urban Growth Boundary.
- Green belt – restricting development around the edge of settlements outside Urban Growth Boundaries.

What happens next?

In order to help consultation on this issue the Council will hold drop-in sessions at:

- Queenstown Memorial Hall – Tuesday 5 August 2008, from 3-6pm.
- Lake Wanaka Centre, Ardmore Street – Wednesday 6 August 2008, from 3-6pm.

Further information is available on the Council's website www.qldc.govt.nz. Once feedback has been received, it will be presented to the Council.

How can I provide feedback?

Please use the feedback form provided. Feedback should be made to: Urban Design Boundary, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Private Bag 50072, Queenstown 9348, or email: katem@qldc.govt.nz

Feedback should be received by 12 September 2008