

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
FOR THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing Stream 2 –
Rural, Rural Residential
and Rural Lifestyle,
Gibbston Character
Zone, Indigenous
Vegetation and
Biodiversity, and
Wilding Exotic Trees

**REPLY OF CRAIG ALAN BARR
ON BEHALF OF QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

CHAPTER 34 - WILDING EXOTIC TREES

3 JUNE 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My name is Craig Barr. I prepared the section 42A report for the Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter of the Proposed District Plan (**PDP**). My qualifications and experience are listed in that section 42A report dated 7 April 2016.
- 1.2 I have reviewed the evidence and submissions filed by other expert witnesses and submitters both in advance of and during the Rural hearing, and attended the hearing except on 25 May 2016 where I was provided with a report of the information from submitters and counsel presented on that day.

2. REPLY

- 2.1 Having considered the submitter evidence and the presentation of evidence and submissions on wilding exotic trees including those from Real Journeys (#621), Mr Willsman of the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Group (#784), Rachael Brown (#352), Forest and Bird (#706) and the Department of Conservation (#373), I maintain that the recommended revised version tabled with the section 42A report is the most appropriate way to meet the purpose of the RMA for this chapter.
- 2.2 Prohibiting identified species, while providing for the ability for Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) to be planted through the scrutiny afforded through a discretionary activity resource consent, will allow the ability for the tree to be utilised while ensuring potential wilding matters are appropriately managed.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The revised chapter in **Appendix 1** is the same version as attached to my section 42A report. Overall, I consider that the revised chapter is the most appropriate way to meet the purpose of the RMA.



Craig Barr
Acting Policy Planning Manager
3 June 2016

APPENDIX 1
34 WILDING EXOTIC TREES REVISED CHAPTER

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Key: Recommend changes to notified chapter are shown in underlined text for additions and ~~strike through text~~ for deletions. Dated 6 April 2016.

34 Wilding Exotic Trees

34.1 Purpose

The purpose of these provisions is to prevent the spread of wilding exotic trees. Wilding is the term used for the natural regeneration or seedling spread of exotic trees, occurring in unintended locations and not managed for forestry production.

The District values and relies on its distinctive landscapes, open spaces and rural productive land for its social, cultural and economic wellbeing. Wilding trees are spreading across parts of the District and have visually degraded parts of the landscape, biodiversity values and can threaten the productive values of the soil resource. The spread of wilding trees has left other areas vulnerable to landscape and biodiversity degradation.

The Council manages existing wilding trees through the non-statutory document, 'The Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy'. The District Plan also has a role in reducing the potential for wilding tree spread by controlling the planting of wilding potential species.

34.2 Objective and Policyies

34.2.1 Objective – Protection of the District's landscape, biodiversity and soil resource values from the spread of wilding exotic trees.

Policy

34.2.1.1 Avoid the further spread of identified wilding tree species by prohibiting the planting of identified species.

34.2.1.2 Ensure that any planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) is effective and can be practicably managed to avoid the adverse effects of the spread of wilding trees and degradation to the landscape.

34.2.1.3 That any proposal for the planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) shall satisfy the following to ensure the spread of wilding trees can be contained:

a. The location and potential for wilding take-off, having specific regard to the slope and exposure to wind.

b. The surrounding land uses and whether these would reduce the potential for wilding spread.

c. The ownership of the surrounding land and whether this would constrain the ability to manage wilding spread.

d. Whether management plans are proposed for the avoidance or containment of wilding spread.

e. Whether a risk assessment has been completed and the results are favourable to the proposal.

Comment [CB1]: Grammar to reflect recommended new policies.

Comment [CB2]: Grammar so the objective is more like an outcomes/goal statement

Comment [CB3]: Submitters 9,117, 286, 332, 386, 458, 600, 784, 829, FS1091, FS1209

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34.3 Other Provisions and Rules

34.3.1 District Wide

Attention is drawn to the following District Wide chapters. All provisions referred to are within Stage 1 of the Proposed District Plan, unless marked as Operative District Plan (ODP).

1 Introduction	2 Definitions	3 Strategic Direction
4 Urban Development	5 Tangata Whenua	6 Landscapes
24 Signs (18 ODP)	25 Earthworks (22 ODP)	26 Historic Heritage
27 Subdivision	28 Natural Hazards	29 Transport (14 ODP)
30 Utilities and Renewable Energy	31 Hazardous Substances (16 ODP)	32 Protected Trees
33 Indigenous Vegetation	35 Temporary Activities and Relocated Buildings	36 Noise
37 Designations	Planning Maps	

34.4 Rule – Planting of wilding exotic trees

Rule	Table 1: Planting of wilding exotic trees	Activity Status
34.4.1	Planting of the following: a. Contorta or lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>) b. Radiata Pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>) be. Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylestria sylvestris</i>) ce. Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) de. European larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>) ef. Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>) fg. Bishops pine (<i>Pinus muricate</i>) gh. Ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus Ponderosa</i>) h. Mountain pine (<i>Pinus uncinata</i>) i. Dwarf Mountain pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>) j. Maritime pine (<i>Pinus pinaster</i>) k. Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) l. Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) m. Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>) n. Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) o. Grey willow (<i>Salix cinereal</i>)	Prohibited No application for resource consent can be accepted.

Comment [CB4]: Submitters 9, 117, 286, 332, 458, 829

Comment [CB5]: Submitter 373

Comment [CB6]: Submitter 373

Comment [CB7]: Minor grammatical clarification

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	<p>p. Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)</p> <p>q. Cotoneaster (<i>Simonsii</i>)</p> <p>r. Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)</p> <p>s. Spanish heath (<i>Erica lusitanica</i>)</p>	
34.4.2	<p>Planting of the following:</p> <p>a. Radiata pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>)</p>	Discretionary

Comment [CB8]: Submitters 281, 289, 339, 706

Comment [CB9]: Submitter 281

Comment [CB10]: Submitters 9, 117, 286, 332, 386, 458, 600, 784, 829, FS1091, FS1209

34.4.3 Exemption

34.4.3.1 For avoidance of doubt, any tree identified and scheduled in the District Plan as a protected tree shall be exempt from this rule.

34.5 Rules – Non-Notification of Applications

The provisions of the RMA apply in determining whether an application needs to be processed on a notified basis. No activities in this chapter have been identified for processing on a notified basis.

Comment [CB11]: Consequential drafting addition of this section required on the basis prohibited status removed for Pinus Radiata.