

Craig Barr for QLDC – Summary of evidence 02 May 2016 – Chapter 34 Wilding Exotic Trees, Hearing Stream 2

1. The purpose of the Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter is to prevent the spread of wilding trees over the District, as wilding trees visually degrade the landscape and compromise biodiversity.
2. Overall, I consider that the best method to manage the spread is through prohibiting identified wilding tree species. In response to submissions, additional wilding trees species have been added to the list of prohibited species.
3. Having considered a range of submissions, mostly from rural living and also larger rural property owners, introducing the ability to obtain a resource consent to plant Radiata Pine (which was a prohibited activity under the ODP) is appropriate because this species:
 - (a) Has a lower wilding potential than other identified species.
 - (b) Is commonly utilised for firewood, shelter and commercial forestry.
 - (c) Is resilient and grows well in the Queenstown Lakes District.
4. A management regime is recommended that will enable the ability to assess the potential implications of planting Radiata Pine including:
 - (a) Potential for seed take off arising from wind and slope of planting sites.
 - (b) Surrounding land uses and whether these would reduce the potential for wilding spread.
 - (c) The ownership of surrounding land and whether this would constrain the ability to manage wilding spread.
 - (d) The merits of any risk assessment undertaken.
5. Overall, the recommended changes better promote sustainable management because they recognise the potential positive uses and benefits associated with Radiata Pine, and that there will be locations and circumstances where the managed planting and maintenance is appropriate.