

Hydro Generation Zones

The five hydro generation zones are:

1. Lake Hawea
2. Luggate
3. Roaring Meg
4. Wye Creek
5. Oxburn (near Glenorchy)



Mayor Vanessa van Uden and Councillor Leigh Overton
(Chair of the Strategy Committee)

“A hotel built on the slopes of Cecil Peak?
A casino on Mount Iron?

Not every idea for development is a good one. That's why we have a District Plan. The District Plan helps us manage economic growth and development in a sensible way so that the unique nature and scenic values of the district are retained and protected and development happens in the places that are most appropriate.

This is your chance to help us improve the existing plan, so get involved and have your say.”

Hydro Generation Special Zone Issues and Options

The Hydro Generation Special Zone sets out the objectives, policies and rules that manage existing and new hydro generation activity in the five hydro generation zones.

We're currently reviewing the District Plan and looking at what works well and what needs to be changed. Monitoring of the existing Hydro Generation Special Zone provisions and feedback from applicants has helped us identify some areas we think can be improved.

We'd like to hear your opinions on these.

You can see the full monitoring report at www.qldc.govt.nz/monitoring.

The current situation

Here's an overview of the existing rules that manage hydro generation:

Operation, maintenance and enhancement of existing hydro generation facilities

Currently 11 common activities associated with operating, maintaining and enhancing existing hydro generation activities are permitted.

Refurbishment of existing hydro generation facilities

Refurbishment of existing facilities requires a 'controlled activity' consent. There are rules around this like the design and appearance of the structure.

Upgrade of existing hydro generation facilities

Currently upgrading existing facilities requires consent from the council, with the level of control depending on the scale of the upgrade.

New hydro generation activities

The establishment of any new hydro generation activity requires a resource consent from the council.



You can view all the rules online at www.qldc.govt.nz/district_plan

Proposed changes

Monitoring of the Hydro Generation Special Zone revealed a number of issues that can be addressed through the District Plan Review.



The proposed changes include:

1. Provide a clear definition of the term 'dam foundations footprint' which is currently undefined.
2. Consider providing for the construction and use of a helipad as part of the operation, maintenance and enhancement of existing hydro generation activities.
3. Clarify that the 'controlled activity' rule that exempts certain day to day activities from needing consent does not apply to the proposed hydro generation facility at Luggate, and that the existing facilities do not need a controlled activity consent.
4. Ensure the zone is consistent with the National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation.
5. Undertake formatting changes and update the notification provisions to reflect legislative changes.

What do you think?

- Are there any other issues we should consider?
- Should any other changes be made to the objectives, policies or rules of the Hydro Generation Special zone?



Please email services@qldc.govt.nz

Or send your comments to: Policy & Planning, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Private Bag 50072, Queenstown 9348

Comments should be received by 25 May 2012 although feedback on these issues will be welcome at any time during the review process.

For more information or to comment online visit www.qldc.govt.nz/district_plan_review

hydro generation special zone