

National Policy Statement Assessment

1.1 National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management

The National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 (**NPS-FM**) sets out the objectives and policies for freshwater management under the RMA. The NPS-FM applies to all freshwater including groundwater.

The sole objective of the NPS-FM is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

- a. First, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems.
- b. Second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water).
- c. Third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

The effects on the health and well-being of water bodies will be appropriately managed by the project design, with appropriate monitoring proposed to ensure effects are as predicted.

The proposal will not affect the health needs of people. Effects on people's drinking water supplies are appropriately mitigated by project design and monitoring conditions.

In regard to the third priority, the proposal enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

Policy 1 gives effect to Te Mana o Te Wai, which is detailed in section 1.3 of the NPS-FM. The hierarchy of obligations in Te Mana o Te Wai are reflected in the Objective of the NPS-FM. The proposal's design and mitigation strategies are crafted to minimise impacts on freshwater, with appropriate containment and treatment of contaminants, to provide confidence that the proposal will adequately protect water and give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai.

Policy 2 requires the active involvement of tangata whenua and that Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for. Māori freshwater values are defined in the NPS-FM however these values have not yet been identified in this area as the NPS-FM establishes a prescribed process through which this must be achieved. However, consideration has been given to Māori freshwater values identified by tangata whenua based on direction provided in the Regional Plan: Water, relevant iwi resource management plan and consultation with tangata whenua.

Policies 9 and 10 protect the habitat of indigenous freshwater species and the habitat of trout and salmon. This is achieved by ensuring that works are isolated from surface waterbodies, and that discharges are treated sufficiently to ensure less than minor adverse effects. The proposal is consistent with these Policies.

Policy 15 enables communities to provide for social, economic and cultural wellbeing. The proposal is consistent with this by enabling a development which may contribute to social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

Overall, the proposal is consistent with the NPS-FM.

1.2 National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD)

The NPS-UD took effect on 20 August 2020 and is a relevant consideration under s104(1)(b) of the RMA.

At 1.3 (1) of the NPS-UD, it states the NPS-UD applies to:

- a) all local authorities that have all or part of an urban environment within their district or region (i.e. tier 1, 2 and 3 local authorities); and
- b) planning decisions by any local authority that affect an urban environment.

The proposal will contribute to the district maintaining a well-functioning urban environment by servicing existing and future development. Having regard to the relevant provisions of the NPS-UD, the proposal will help achieve its outcomes through its objectives and policies and will overall be consistent with it.

1.3 National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (NPS-HPL)

The site has not been identified or classified in any Regional Policy Statement (RPS) or District Plan as Highly Productive Land (HPL). Section 3.5(7) sets out criteria for identifying HPL, prior to maps of HPL being included in an operative RPS.

Part of the site is zoned Gibbston Character Zone, which is not a rural zoning, rather it is a lifestyle zone. The NPS-HPL does not apply to this part of the site.

1.4 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2022 (NPS-IB)

The NPS-IB seeks to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction nationally, being the sole Objective. Consistency with the respective Policies, provide the basis for consistency with this Objective, and the NPS-IB more generally. It is noted the site is not located within a Significant Natural Area (SNA).

This NPS is not relevant.

2 National Environmental Standards

This assessment addresses the following documents:

- National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NES-F)
- National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS)
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (NES-AQ)

2.1 National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NES-F)

The NES-F applies to works within freshwater bodies inclusive of rivers and wetlands. No natural wetlands have been identified within the project area. The proposal does not involve the installation of any structures affecting fish passage. For these reasons, no consent requirements under the NES-F will be triggered.

2.2 National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS)

There is no known HAIL activity on the application site, nor any other reason to consider that the site may be contaminated. There are no records of contamination nor HAIL activities having been undertaken on site.

In consideration of the abovementioned, it is reasonable to conclude that the site is not defined as a 'piece of land' under Clause 7 of the NESCS.

2.3 Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (NES-AQ)

The NES-AQ defines thresholds for five air contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, PM10, ozone, and sulphur dioxide stating, "*The ambient standards are the minimum requirements that outdoor air quality should meet in order to guarantee a set level of protection for human health and the environment*".

The only contaminant that may arise from the proposal is PM10, as a small proportion of dust. However, with appropriate control practices, the discharge of PM10 to air is expected to be negligible. Hence consent is not required under the NES-AQ.

2.4 Other National Environment Standards

No other National Environmental Standards are relevant in respect of this proposal.

3 Regional and District Plans

3.1 Otago Regional Policy Statement 2019 (RPS)

The objectives and policies under consideration aim to promote the sustainable use of resources while ensuring economic, social, and cultural wellbeing, including the protection of Kāi Tahu values and human health. The proposal is designed to respect these values and mitigate environmental impacts, with appropriate mitigation measures in place for dust management, soil protection, maintenance of indigenous biodiversity, and protection of freshwater and landscape values. Additionally, the proposal ensures an appropriate approach to waste management, ensuring that waste materials do not harm human health or the quality of the environment.

The project is not located in sensitive areas, avoids significant community health impacts, and employs a precautionary approach, ensuring that the development is consistent with the principles of sustainable management and environmental stewardship.

The proposal is consistent with the RPS.

3.2 Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (PRPS)

The project will ensure the appropriate management of waste in Queenstown Lakes District, protecting human health, Kāi Tahu values and the environment. The proposal provides for recycling of waste, minimising landfill volumes, consistent with provisions that seek to apply the principles of the waste management hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, residual waste management) to the management of all waste streams. Policies provide for the development and operation of facilities and services for the storage, recycling, recovery and treatment of waste materials, which this project is ideally situated to provide.

The proposal is consistent with the PRPS.

3.3 Regional Plan: Waste (RPW)

The RPW identifies that waste reduction and recycling occurs in an uncoordinated manner within Otago and this proposal seeks to address this critical issue. Recycling provided at the project will assist with waste minimisation to landfill and maximise opportunities for higher uses of waste, in accordance with the waste management hierarchy. The proposal is consistent with the RPW.

3.4 Regional Plan: Water (RPW)

The project is consistent with regional groundwater management objectives and policies by ensuring sustainable use and quality maintenance of groundwater resources. It prioritizes avoiding long-term environmental impacts, aligns with policies for responsible management to prevent aquifer contamination, and supports local economic and social wellbeing. The project's commitment to high quality design and environmental monitoring demonstrates its harmony with the objectives and policies, ensuring minimal adverse effects and preservation of valued natural and cultural resources.

3.5 Regional Plan: Air (RPA)

The objectives and policies for air quality management in Otago aim to preserve high air quality, enhance degraded areas, and prevent adverse effects on health, ecosystems, and cultural values. The project will construction phase will be temporary, with dust managed in accordance with industry good practise. Odour from waste management practises on the site will be subject to appropriate controls to minimise odour effects, noting that the site is isolated from residential and recreational activities, ideally positioned to have minimal effects on the quality of the environment. The project will contribute to the local community's economic and social wellbeing, aligning with the set objectives and policies.

3.6 Queenstown Lakes Proposed District Plan (PDP)

The proposal aims to diversify land use in a rural area while preserving landscape values and ensuring compatibility with existing policies. It involves a non-residential subdivision and land use development on rural land with low productivity, offering affordable solutions for industrial and service activities. The proposal aligns with Objective 3.2.1 and Policy 3.2.1.8 by maintaining environmental quality and amenity values.

It is situated in an area with marginal agricultural potential, partly due to the presence of a landfill, making it suitable for non-agricultural activities. The proposal is consistent with adjacent land uses and policies, notably Policy 3.3.25, which encourages compatible development.

Chapter 6 (Landscapes) does not significantly apply due to zoning directives, as outlined in Policy 6.3.1.3. The proposal ensures no compromise to landscape values or conflicts with Chapter 4 objectives.

Urban development density policies are adhered to, as the proposal does not reach urban densities, in line with Policy 6.3.2.1. Lighting and landscape impact are managed according to relevant policies (6.3.2.2, 23.2.1.6).

The proposed resource recovery park, addressing a local waste issue, aligns with Policy 23.2.1.3 by promoting sustainable waste management. It minimizes adverse

effects on the landscape and economic values, as required by Policy 23.2.1.5, and integrates with the surroundings (Policy 23.2.1.6).

Fire risks are addressed in accordance with Policy 23.2.1.13 and 23.2.1.14, ensuring proper firefighting measures. The site's unsuitability for productive land uses is recognized, justifying the park's location and emphasizing its community value (Objective 23.2.2, Policies 23.2.2.1 and 23.2.2.2).