



PO Box 140  
Arrowtown 9351

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secretary@arrowtownvillage.nz

## **Otago Regional Council (ORC) Long Term Plan Submission**

This submission from the Arrowtown Village Association (AVA) committee is on behalf of all members, and highlights that we believe ORC should consistently be aware of decisions that may have particular relevance to the Arrowtown Community.

The AVA selects the following options as per your consultation form:

1. Preparing for Climate Change: OPTION #1
2. Water Monitoring: OPTION #1
3. Urban Water Quality: OPTION #1

In addition to these selections we wish to make the following submission based on issues of direct relevance to our community:

The ORC "For Our Future" 10 year plan key statements are:

- OUR PURPOSE
  - Caring for Otago's environment: enabling communities to thrive
- OUR VISION
  - For our Future – a sustainable and prosperous future for Otago

These statements are further reinforced with the following 'Goals for our Communities' in the document:

- A healthy environment
- A connected community
- An engaged and proud community
- A strong economy
- A future proofed region

These key statements and goals are directly relevant to the vision of the Shaping our Future Arrowtown (SOF Arrowtown) report. The AVA has the SOF Arrowtown final report as the guiding principal of the Arrowtown community and its aspirations. Intensive community input was undertaken to formulate the report. The guiding aim is:

***A vibrant, diverse community that is pro-active in managing its future in a way that values and sustainably protects its heritage, character, lifestyle and the natural environment***

The AVA requests that the key objectives of the SOF Arrowtown report are considered in every step as the ORC Long Term year plan for the Otago district is finalised. One such SOF report key objective is:

- *Arrowtown's natural environment is valued as a foundation of community well-being. We actively care for our town's drinking water, clean air, native flora/fauna, natural and heritage landscapes, town green spaces, and we accept the shared responsibility to ensure these are sustained and enriched.*

Arrowtown is a unique village with the need to balance the heritage, character, environmental and community needs of the village into the future. (Reference: SOF Arrowtown report).

The AVA wishes to see the following included in the ORC Long Term Plan as soon as possible:

#### **CLEAN AIR:**

##### **Commence strong enforcement action for air quality breaches**

- Arrowtown has one of the highest consistent breaches of clean air standards over the winter months.
- Note that in the short term the AVA is endeavouring to increase community education
  - A higher co-operation is requested of ORC to assist in such education and information for our community

#### **WILDING TREES:**

##### **An immediate and large increase in funding for Wilding Control is provided by ORC, both Otago wide and specifically to assist the Arrowtown Strategy.**

- An Otago wide issue, Arrowtown is one of the 'hot spots' of Wilding effect due to being the 'jewel in the crown' of New Zealand's Autumn Colour.
  - In addition to the spread of wilding conifers over the iconic high country surrounding Arrowtown, the world renowned autumnal colours are threatened by this conifer infestation.
  - Many of the autumn colours are themselves wilding species
- The AVA sub group, Arrowtown Wilding Group, has an intensive long term strategy for wilding removal and colour enhancement.

We request that ORC understands and recognises these statements and requests.

The AVA would like to congratulate the ORC on the transport initiatives taken over recent times in regard to the Queenstown Bus Service. The new system is widely appreciated by the community.

The AVA wishes to thank the ORC for considering this submission and welcomes the opportunity to be consulted as the plan finalises.

Noel Beggs  
Chairperson - Arrowtown Village Association  
2 May 2018