

## Arrowtown Village Association

### Submission to Otago Regional Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031

May 2021

#### Introduction

The Arrowtown Village Association (AVA) is a volunteer-run incorporated society that works in an energetic, co-operative and organised way for the benefit of the village of Arrowtown. The AVA is a recognised community association by the Queenstown Lakes District Council and is the appointed guardian of the Shaping Our Future Arrowtown (SOF) 2017 report. SOF is the most recent visioning document for the future in Arrowtown compiled following intensive community consultation.

The AVA firstly would like to thank the ORC for their ongoing work and contribution to the Otago region in particular Arrowtown and the surrounding Wakatipu and Upper Clutha districts. We understand the past 12 months have been challenging for individuals, business, local and national government alike.

Our submission to the LTP 2021-31 requests the consideration of the following issues that are important to the AVA members, being the residents of Arrowtown:

#### Air Quality

Direct SOF statements relevant to our submission include:

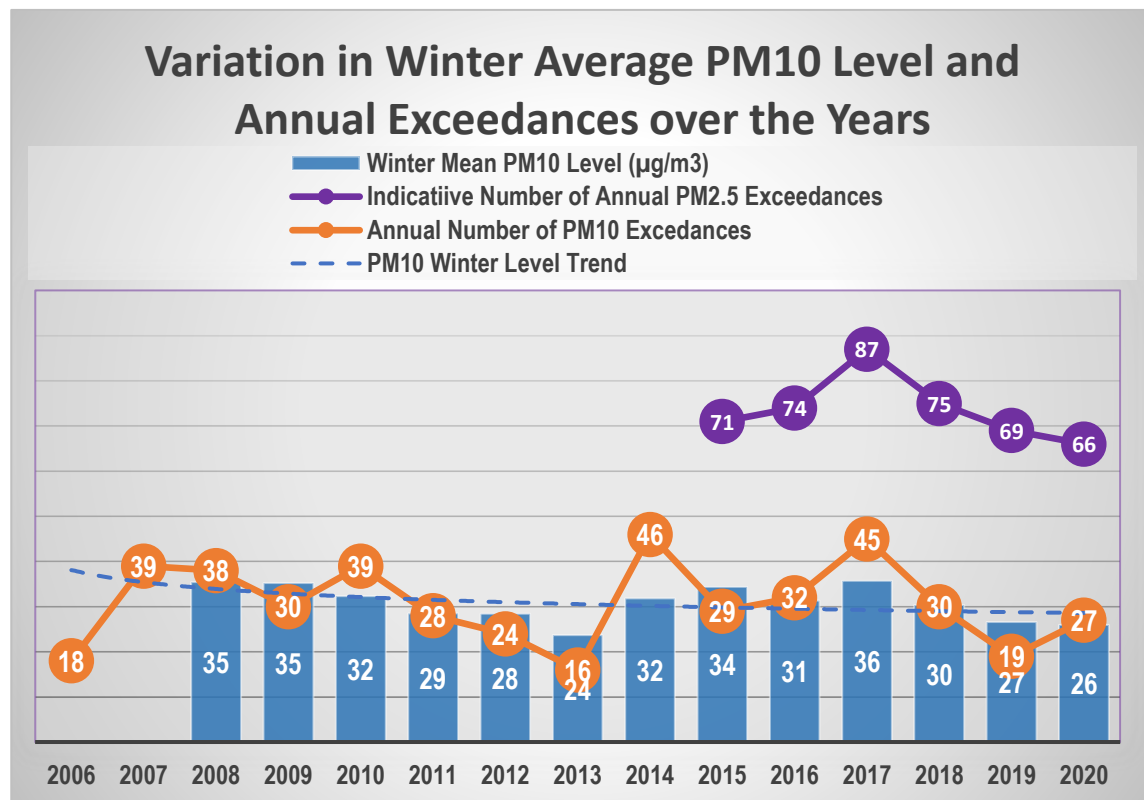
- Arrowtown is a vibrant, diverse community that is pro-active in managing its future in a way that values and sustainably protects its heritage, character, lifestyle and the natural environment.
- Environment vision: Arrowtown's natural environment is valued as a foundation of community well-being. We actively care for our town's drinking water, **clean air**, native flora/fauna, natural and heritage landscapes, town greenspaces, and we accept the shared responsibility to ensure these are sustained and enriched.
- Future air quality standards are achieved and exceeded.

The AVA has participated actively with ORC, NIWA and other community groups in their efforts to improve the poor winter air quality in Arrowtown, which is being caused mostly by particulate emissions from domestic log burners. The out-door air quality on certain days in Arrowtown during the winter months measures the poorest in Australasia! There has been no improvement in air quality in 10 years and last year the draft NESAQ 24-hour average PM2.5 level was exceeded on over 70 days compared with a permissible 3 days. The trends are shown clearly in the graph on the following page.

The AVA is deeply concerned by statements in the ORC LTP that, despite health concerns, ORC intends no activities on air pollution other than monitoring until 2023-24, and no funding is earmarked for air quality improvement initiatives. Reality would see no solutions being offered until after 2025.

From the monitoring work to date we understand the main source of the issue is wood burners, both compliant and non-compliant.

AVA also notes a lack of NZ information to demonstrate that even compliant burners can assist the situation owing to the quality of fuel being burnt and the method of operation.



Data for this graph has been extracted from the LAWA website and from detailed daily PM10 and temperature records provided by ORC based on monitoring at Arrowtown School until 2015 and at the reserve near Norfolk St from 2015.

AVA believes that the eventual phasing out of wood burners in our village needs to be recognised as a possible solution but this requires justification and careful planning. In particular, the ORC needs to make the case for change based on balancing the impact of damaging health effects from particulates with the harmful health effects of cold houses, using local Central Otago data. A ban without affordable, reliable alternative heating and a transition strategy is not an option.

AVA request for inclusion in the LTP 2021-31 for air quality measures by the ORC include:

- Continuing and enhancing air monitoring both outdoors and indoors as per NIWA research.
- Continued funding for air quality education programmes and best practice heating solutions, and enforcement of fines for repeated offenders.
- Work with local Health Authorities to identify and quantify respiratory issues caused by air pollution and the lack of adequate home heating. There is currently insufficient research data for Arrowtown to be definitive on the impact of poor air quality on the health of the inhabitants. Until this is made public there is likely to be continued resistance from the community to make any changes in heating preferences and the actual effect of wood-burners will be unknown.
- Implementing a roadmap to achieving clean reliable heating alternatives in a reasonable timeframe. This can be done in collaboration with the residents of Arrowtown who are passionate about improving the air quality where we live and improving our quality of life. There is an expectation taken from the Draft LTP that there will be significant consultation

with the Arrowtown community to develop strategies for the way forward. We believe that this needs to begin now – it cannot wait until 2023.

- Working with the QLDC, the QLCHT and Arrowtown residents on a village wide solution to efficient, reliable, clean heating that is mandatory for all new housing developments. The solution would cover:
  - Improving insulation to reduce heating needs.
  - A resilient electricity grid to ensure heating sources are available when they are really required.
  - Permitting the use of existing log burners in an emergency and how the potential for mis-use is avoided.
  - The proposed Community Housing area in Jopp St would be in the worst affected part of town.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Direct SOF statements relevant to our submission include:

- Community Key Objective: A regular cost-effective public transport system that enables easy access between Arrowtown and other districts in the region

The AVA extends our thanks to the ORC in providing the highly subsidised public transport bus service for Queenstown and surrounding areas including Arrowtown. We are further thankful of the extended generosity during our national lockdown periods (and beyond) when our bus services were free of charge. The significant increase in patronage since the subsidies were introduced is proof enough that a well-priced public transport offering is a valued service to our residents. We do feel there is more that can be done to improve the public transport network that services Arrowtown and the greater Queenstown area.

AVA request for inclusion in the LTP 2021-31 for public transport measures by the ORC include:

- Increased funding and initiatives to encourage a modal shift and step change to improve usage of the public transport network including education on the benefits of a highly utilised public transport network (environmental, economic, social)
- Expansion of the current public transport networks to include:
  - A direct bus service via Malaghan's Road from Arrowtown to Arthur's Point - the current circuitous route is deemed too long for direct work purposes
  - Increased bus services and routes to and from Arrowtown, including designated services from Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country. We would also like to see a stop at Ladies Mile in each direction.
  - Improvement of the wait time for interconnections at Frankton. These are often 45 – 60mins when commuting from the airport or Five Mile.
  - Buses keeping to the time schedule at Frankton where certain buses are known to depart early.

- Later services to be introduced on weekend evenings to encourage residents and visitors to enjoy Arrowtown's restaurants, bars and other entertainment options
  - Introduction of bus services to the ski fields during the ski season at a reasonable price on a convenient schedule
- Improvement of safety initiatives for bus drivers. Our wider district has undergone widespread speed limit changes over the past 12 months, the bus drivers should be ambassadors of safety and adherence to the new speed limits, especially in the Arrowtown CBD where our speed limit is 30 km/hr as well as adhering to the wider 40 km/hr
- The AVA supports the signalled introduction of a ferry service on Lake Wakatipu, the sooner the better.

### **LAKE HAYES WATER QUALITY**

The AVA were encouraged to see the signalled investment in the water quality improvement for Lake Hayes. The AVA supports this project, it is of the utmost importance to our community that Lake Hayes remains a usable, safe community asset for future generations to enjoy.

The AVA respectfully requests that the issues raised in this submission are considered in the LTP as it is finalised. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to our submission.

Susan Rowley

Chairperson

Arrowtown Village Association

May 2021