

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2025

SUSTAINABLE  
**ZQN** 



## KIA ORA KOUTOU

We're pleased to present Queenstown Airport's Sustainability Strategy. We're really proud of the work we're doing to reduce our environmental impact, to support our community to thrive and to enable lower-emission aviation. Our Sustainability Strategy guides all our decisions and how we do business.

We recognise aviation is a significant source of greenhouse gases and is one of the most challenging sectors to abate. We have started with the things we can directly control but are also turning our attention to ways we can use our influence to make a positive difference.

Each year, we publish a Sustainability Report and provide a comprehensive update on our sustainability initiatives and our progress against our targets. It also includes our climate-related disclosures.

You'll find our most recent report at [queenstownairport.co.nz/sustainability-community](https://queenstownairport.co.nz/sustainability-community)

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



**ACA 4+ TRANSITION ACCREDITATION ACHIEVED**



**71% REDUCTION IN ABSOLUTE EMISSIONS SINCE 2019**



**ZON COMPOST PROGRAMME EXPANDED**



**CHARGERS FOR ELECTRIC GROUND SERVICE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED**



**WINNER OF INTERNATIONAL ACI GREEN AIRPORTS 'PLATINUM' AWARD**



**RECORD ANNUAL DIVIDEND PAID TO QLDC\***  
equating to \$485 per ratepayer in the Queenstown Lakes



**ZON CHAMPIONS COMMITTEE LAUNCHED**



**CHAMPIONING THE TIAKI PROMISE**



**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME CONTINUES**



**CERTIFIED 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**



**BIODIVERSITY PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WHAKATIPU REFORESTATION TRUST**



**ENHANCED OAC EMPLOYEE WELLBEING PROGRAMME**



**SUSTAINABILITY LINKED LOANS IN PLACE**



**PREDATOR CONTROL PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WHAKATIPU WILDLIFE TRUST**



**BIOSECURITY BUSINESS PLEDGE SIGNATORY**



**WASTE SORTING FACILITY ESTABLISHED**

\*Queenstown Lakes District Council is our majority shareholder holding 75.01% Of shares in QAC

# OUR STRATEGY

When developing our sustainability strategy, we incorporated feedback and guidance from a range of stakeholders including shareholders, community, and sustainability experts.

The insights gained enabled us to produce a sustainability strategy that prioritises three pillars – **people, planet and prosperity**, and is aligned to Local Government’s four wellbeing measures – social, economic, environmental, and cultural. We have also developed a roadmap to decarbonise our airport operations and set science-based targets, aligned to a 1.5-degree global warming pathway.

We support our majority shareholder, QLDC’s vision that our district sets the standard for regenerative, low impact living, working and travel.

We have identified key priorities under each pillar which will help drive initiatives and deliver results across the business.

Our Sustainability Strategy is updated annually and targets set for the coming year.



## PEOPLE

**ONE TEAM | ACCOUNTABLE | NOISE**



**BE AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE AND LIVE OUR VALUES** creating a safe, inclusive airport environment.



## PLANET

**CLIMATE | WASTE | BIODIVERSITY**



**BE NET-ZERO\*** by reducing organisational emissions by 85% by 2028 and offsetting residual emissions.

**SUPPORT THE GLOBAL FLY NET ZERO BY 2050\*\*** target through infrastructure planning, collaboration and advocacy.



## PROSPERITY

**CLIMATE RISK | ZON | COMMUNITY**



**BE RESILIENT AND PREPARED**, aware of and responsive to the risks and opportunities posed by climate change.



### COMMUNICATE OPENLY AND REPORT REGULARLY

demonstrating our commitment to achieving our sustainability goals.



**LEAD WASTE MINIMISATION AND COMPOSTING** across the airport campus to significantly reduce waste to landfill.



### EMBED SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS OUR AIRPORT

so that like health, safety and security, sustainability is what we do.



### PROVIDE CERTAINTY AND CLARITY TO THE COMMUNITY

around airport activity, mitigate the impact of aircraft noise and complete the residential noise mitigation programme.



**ACTIVELY RESTORE OUR NATIVE HABITAT**, working with key partners, for the benefit of future generations.



**SUPPORT OUR REGION TO THRIVE** by connecting with, and contributing to, our community socially and economically.

\* For scopes 1, 2 and limited scope 3 emissions compared to our 2019 baseline year. Local native reforestation credits are applied to scope 1 and limited scope 3 emissions. Renewable energy certification is applied to scope 2 emissions.

\*\* The four commercial airlines operating at ZQN have committed to International Air Transport Association’s target.



**INCLUSIVE**  
**DYNAMIC**  
**PROACTIVE**  
**SUPPORTIVE**  
**ENCOURAGING**

# PEOPLE

We are proud to be part of this community and recognise the important role we play in connecting our home with New Zealand and the world.

It's important to us that we balance our activity with the desire to preserve what makes our region a special place to live, work and visit, and provide certainty and clarity to our community around airport activity.

At Queenstown Airport we have a 'one team' philosophy which encourages working together to create a diverse, inclusive, dynamic and welcoming environment where people feel safe and valued. We are committed to being an employer of choice and investing in our team's wellbeing and development.

More than 60 businesses employing more than 700 people are based at Queenstown Airport, the majority of which are locally owned, and combined are a major employer in the district. Our airport community enable us to deliver a world class airport experience and play an important role in our sustainability journey, so we're working collectively to reduce our impact and enhance our region.

## OVER THE YEAR WE WILL:

Publish a sustainability report, including climate-related disclosures

Continue to deliver our Noise Mitigation Programme

Tell our airport stories and proactively engage with our community

Contribute to the wellbeing and resilience of the region and the country

Continue our commitment to staff wellbeing and engagement, and strive to be an employer of choice

Support the personal and professional development of our people by providing training and education opportunities

Continue to build our partnership with mana whenua

Continue to roll out the ZQN Sustainability Pledge across the airport campus

Host regular 'Kai and Korero' learning sessions

# RESPONSIBLE STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE COMMITTED FOCUSSED



## PLANET



Responding to Climate Change and understanding the risks to our business is vital to building a resilient future.

Our priorities are providing leadership in the transition to a lower-carbon economy, supporting local biodiversity, and robust reporting, as members of the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

Planning for and enabling the decarbonisation of aviation is embedded in our Sustainability Strategy and long-term planning. We measure the impact of our operations and map our carbon footprint in accordance with the GHG Protocol. In 2024, we progressed to Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) – an industry-specific programme administered by the Airports Council International (ACI) – which allows us to benchmark our progress against other airports worldwide. Between 2019 and 2023 we and were audited annually by Toitu were pleased to progress from Toitu carbonreduce certification to Toitu net carbonzero certification in 2023.

The ACA programme is robustly verified and requires us to track emissions from a wider range of activities beyond our direct control, including aircraft emissions.

Our decarbonisation targets to date have focused on the Scope 1 and 2 emissions over which we have direct control. However, it is important to report Scope 3 emissions and to continue to work with our partners to address those emissions.

Since our initial carbon audit in 2019, we have achieved a 71% emission reduction in organisational emissions, compared to the baseline year. We are targeting an 85% absolute reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2028.

The progress is based on a commitment to electrification transition to a certified renewable electricity supply, upgrading of assets and infrastructure to increase efficiency, and a decision to stop using a diesel generator for supplementary power during periods of peak demand.

An upgrade of the terminal heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is progressing in stages. We plan to decommission the diesel boiler within the next two years which will considerably reduce Scope 1 emissions.

This commitment to sustainability and progress towards decarbonisation has resulted in the achievement of Level 4+ 'Transition' Airport Carbon Accreditation in 2024, our first year. Our next target is to achieve Level 5 by 2028, which is the highest tier in the ACA programme.

To achieve Level 4+ accreditation, we provided extensive documentation of Queenstown Airport's carbon management plan, collaboration with other stakeholders to measure and reduce emissions, and a policy commitment to absolute emissions reduction in line with the Paris Agreement. We were also required to offset residual scope 1 and limited scope 3 emissions using internationally recognised carbon credits. The results are available in our Sustainability Report 2024.

We are committed to maintaining net-zero for our organisational emissions, while striving to achieve further emissions reductions. All four airlines using Queenstown Airport have signed up to Fly Net Zero – the International Air Transport Association's commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. This pledge brings air transport in line with the objectives of the Paris

Agreement to limit global warming to less than 2°C. To succeed it will require significant advances in technology and a concerted effort by the entire aviation industry.

In the coming years, there will be an incremental annual increase in aviation-related emissions as passenger and aircraft activity grows at Queenstown Airport. While QAC is not directly responsible for aircraft emissions, we recognise aviation is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the most challenging sectors to abate. Airports have an important role to play in facilitating the changes required to successfully decarbonise aviation.

### OVER THE YEAR WE WILL:

**Complete a comprehensive climate-related risk and opportunity assessment**

**Finalise sustainable building guidelines and procurement criteria to support the infrastructure delivery programme**

**Continue to implement our Decarbonisation Roadmap focussing on:**

- Waste
- Energy
- Transport

**Introduce initiatives to reduce our own and our customers' emissions across the Queenstown Airport campus including:**

- An improved airport-wide recycling programme
- Waste reduction campaigns

**Complete a feasibility assessment on a local carbon sequestration project**

**Work with our airport community to support their sustainability journey**



# ZQN'S RUNWAY TO NET-ZERO



## ENERGY

We are committed to maintaining net-zero for our organisational emissions, while striving to achieve further emissions reductions.

We recognise the biggest impact we can have, is to plan for and enable the decarbonisation of air travel. Our planning will anticipate and allow for the infrastructure required to achieve this.

Reducing our organisational emissions is our immediate priority. We've prioritised three key areas of focus that contribute significantly to our emissions: Energy, Waste and Transport.

Improve energy efficiency across the airport.

Committed to using only renewable energy.

Electrify our airfield.

Provide EV charging facilities.

Phase out and replace infrastructure that relies on diesel or CFCs to operate.



## WASTE

Introduce waste sorting on site to reduce contamination of recycling

Reduce waste to landfill.

Improve our waste management facilities.

Expand our composting programme.

Include recycling and waste management requirements in procurement policies and service contracts.



## TRANSPORT

Transition company vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

Facilitate and enhance active and public transport connectivity to and from the airport.

Support active and public transport for staff commuting.

Offset flights and have preferred suppliers for company travel.

## UNDERSTANDING THE AIRPORT'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

### 2019 - 2021

- **First carbon audit completed (2019 baseline year)**
- Toitū carbonreduce certification
- Set emissions reduction target, aiming to reduce absolute emissions by 60% against baseline year by 2030
- Began replacing operational vehicle fleet with hybrid and electric vehicles
- Offset all company travel with Air New Zealand
- The Queenstown Lakes District Council installed a gas capture and destruction system at the Victoria Flats landfill, resulting in a reduction in Scope 3 emissions associated with waste

### 2022 - 2024

- **Achieved 71% reduction in absolute emissions and progressed from Toitū net carbonzero certification to Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 4+ 'Transition'**
- Switched to 100% certified renewable electricity supply
- Upgraded to more efficient lighting across the airport terminal
- Completed first phase of terminal heating and cooling upgrade
- Ended use of diesel generator to supplement electricity supply during peak demand
- Improved waste and recycling management across the whole airport
- Established onsite composting facility
- Invested in local native reforestation carbon credits to offset emissions from all our compulsory emission sources measured in accordance with the GHG Protocol
- Introduced universal equipment charging stations for use by ground handling operators

### 2025 - 2028

- **Revised target to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 85% by 2028, compared to our 2019 baseline year**
- Achieve Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 5 and increase the range of emissions we report on
- Second phase of terminal heating and cooling upgrade
- Replace Park & Ride shuttle with an electric vehicle
- Explore options for renewable energy generation on site
- Complete transition to electric operational vehicle fleet
- Investigate electric options for emergency vehicles and set replacement timeline
- Introduce energy efficiency targets
- Decommission diesel boiler
- Continue to offset residual organisational emissions through local native reforestation projects

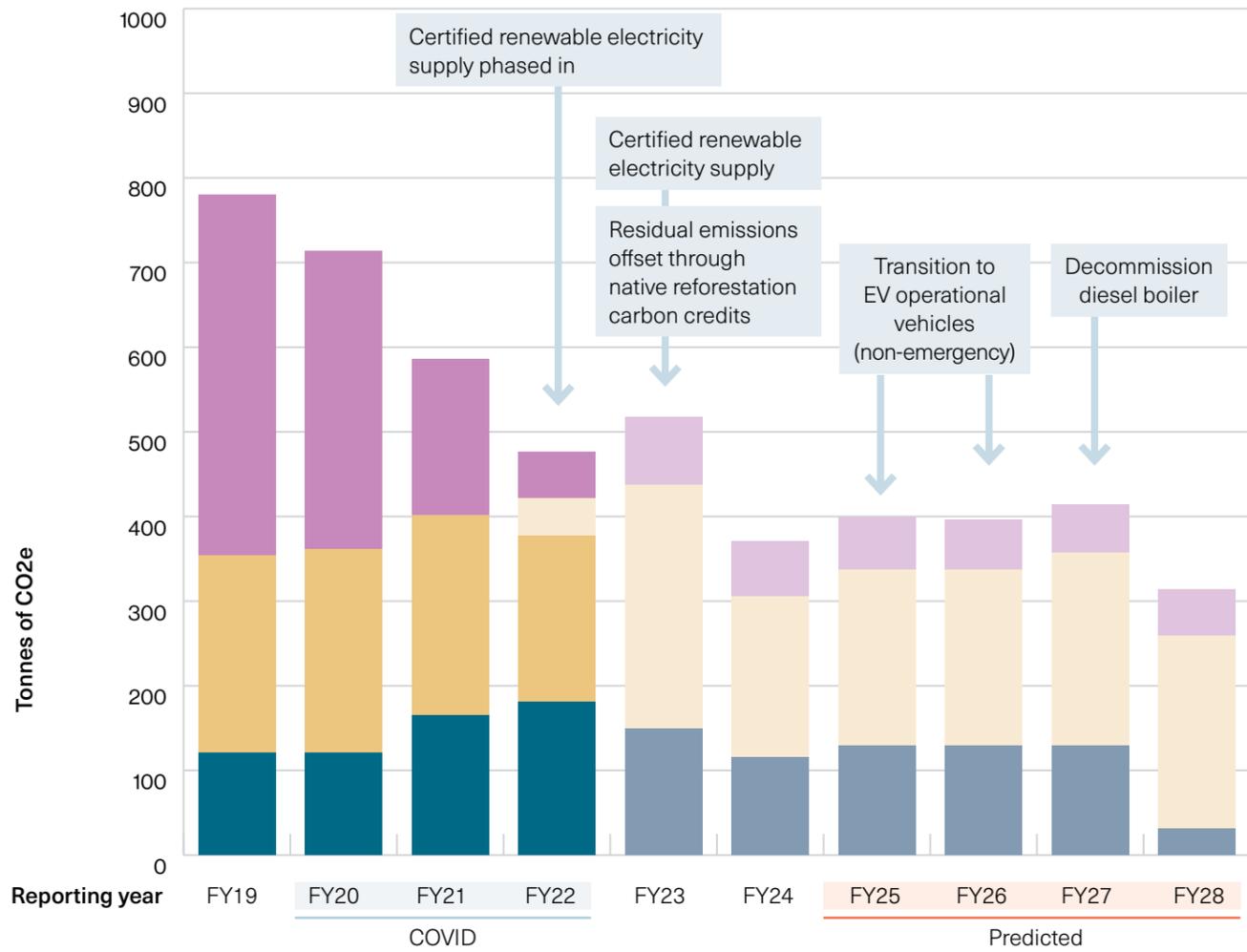


## USING OUR INFLUENCE

We will:

- introduce power plug-in units for aircraft on the ground
- support transition to electric vehicles by businesses operating at the airport
- review procurement processes to reduce supply chain emissions
- improve cycling facilities for passengers and staff
- implement sustainable construction guidelines, reducing embodied carbon emissions for all new construction projects
- develop infrastructure to support decarbonisation of air travel

# OUR ORGANISATIONAL DECARBONISATION ROADMAP – TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

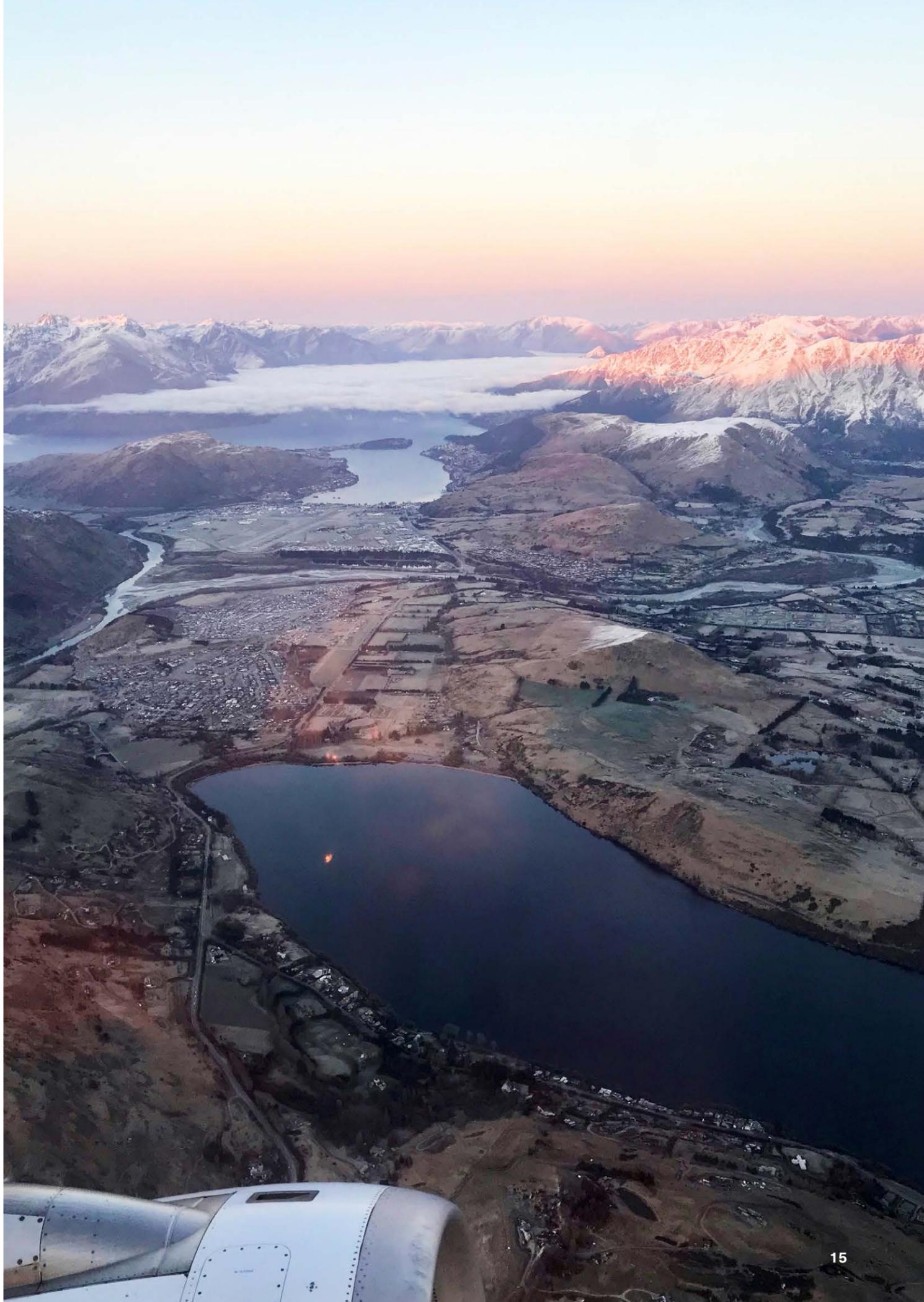


- Scope 1 – Emergency vehicles, Operational vehicles, Boiler**
- Scope 1 – Organizational emissions offset through local native reforestation**
- Scope 2 – Electricity**
- Scope 3 – Organizational emissions offset through local native reforestation**
- Scope 3 – Staff Business Travel, QAC Waste + Staff Commuting**
- Certified renewable electricity (zero emissions)**

**Over the next five years we will continue to reduce absolute organisational emissions, and to offset residual emissions using local native reforestation carbon credits.**

\* As electricity requirements increase, we will continue to use a certified renewable electricity supply.

SCOPE 1	SCOPE 2	SCOPE 3
<b>Direct emissions within our organisational control</b>	<b>Indirect emissions from energy generation</b>	<b>Emissions from sources we do not directly control or own but which are enabled by our activities</b>
On-site boiler, operational vehicles including emergency vehicles	Purchased electricity supply	QAC waste and company travel





**RESILIENT  
CHAMPIONS  
COLLABORATIVE  
ADAPTABLE  
THRIVING**

# PROSPERITY

Queenstown Airport is an important majority community-owned asset and is uniquely positioned to serve the needs of the community, the regional economy, and connect people to our district and the broader region.

It's vital that we operate a sustainable and resilient business for the long term, and a key priority for us is to understand, plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the business.

As Government policy and legislation changes, we will pay close attention to ensure our strategic planning and risk frameworks are aligned.

We play a critical role as a key infrastructure asset and lifeline utility for the region in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, so will continue to build and focus on resiliency across ZQN. This includes continuing our support of Coastguard Queenstown as one of our legacy partnerships.

Partnerships with the community and stakeholders are important to us.

Through our partnerships programme we continue to support our region to thrive by investing in meaningful change through positive connections and financial collaborations.

Our two legacy partnerships are with local organisations the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust and Coastguard Queenstown.

We also support a number of smaller events and community initiatives and groups that align with our core values.

Overall we contribute around \$150k to various community groups and events through our partnerships programme.

## OVER THE YEAR WE WILL:

**Support the economic and social prosperity of the region through the airport's contribution to GDP and by returning an annual dividend to our majority shareholder, QLDC**

**Champion the Tiaki Promise (kaitiaki) and embed our sustainability strategy across the business**

**Continue our partnerships programme by contributing to our community socially and economically**

- Continue our legacy partnerships
- Ensure all our sponsorships and partnerships align with our values and the three pillars of the Sustainability Strategy

**Ensure we fulfill our important role as a lifeline utility, building operational readiness and resilience**

### Contribute to:

- Queenstown Lakes District Destination Management Plan projects
- Sustainable Aviation Aotearoa
- NZ Airports Sustainability Working Group
- The Aotearoa Circle Transport Sector Adaptation project
- Central and local government consultation processes

# OUR TARGETS



Complete a  
**ZON SOLAR  
FEASIBILITY  
ASSESSMENT**



Support  
**NATIVE  
REGENERATION**  
through a local carbon  
sequestration project



Support the  
aviation industry's  
**NET-ZERO  
2050 TARGET**  
by planning for and  
enabling the continued  
decarbonisation of aviation



**AIRPORT  
CARBON  
ACCREDITATION**  
Level 5 by 2028



**MAINTAIN  
NET-ZERO  
EMISSIONS\***



**85%  
ORGANISATIONAL  
EMISSIONS  
REDUCTION**  
by 2028\*\*



Complete a  
**QAC CLIMATE  
RISK  
ASSESSMENT**



**SINGLE USE  
CUP FREE ZON**



**ELECTRIFY**  
our airfield to reduce  
fuel consumption



**100% CERTIFIED  
RENEWABLE  
POWER**  
on airport campus



**REDUCE WASTE  
TO LANDFILL**  
from the Queenstown  
Airport terminal



Complete  
**NOISE  
MITIGATION  
PROGRAMME**  
by 2028



Continue our Partnerships Programme  
including our legacy partnerships with  
**WHAKATIPU REFORESTATION TRUST  
& COASTGUARD QUEENSTOWN**



Be an  
**EMPLOYER  
OF CHOICE**



Continue to support  
the Queenstown Lakes  
District by delivering a  
**SUSTAINABLE  
ANNUAL  
DIVIDEND TO  
SHAREHOLDERS^**



Publish  
**ANNUAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
REPORT**  
including XRB aligned  
climate-related  
disclosures

\* For Scope 1 and 2 organisational emissions, by reducing organisational emissions and offsetting residual emissions.  
\*\* For Scope 1 and 2 emissions, compared to our 2019 baseline year.  
^ Queenstown Lakes District Council is our majority shareholder holding 75.01% of shares in QAC

