

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2024



SUSTAINABLE  
**ZQN** 

  
Queenstown  
airport

## 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 will 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



**RECORD ANNUAL DIVIDEND PAID TO QLDC\***  
equating to \$390 per ratepayer in the Queenstown Lakes




**CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
assessment completed




**TOITŪ NET CARBONZERO CERTIFICATION**



**65% REDUCTION IN ABSOLUTE EMISSIONS SINCE 2019**



**ZON COMPOST PROGRAMME EXPANDED**



**PUBLIC EV CHARGERS INSTALLED**



**WINNER 2019 NZ AIRPORT'S SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD**



**LIVING WAGE ACCREDITED SINCE 2019**



**ZON SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE LAUNCHED**



**CHAMPIONING THE TIAKI PROMISE**



**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME CONTINUES**



**CERTIFIED 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**



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



**ENHANCED QAC EMPLOYEE WELLBEING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED**



**INAUGURAL SUSTAINABILITY LINKED LOAN ACHIEVED**



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



**BIOSECURITY BUSINESS PLEDGE SIGNED**



**SOLAR POWERED AIRCRAFT ACCESS RAMPS INTRODUCED**

\*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 2028** by implementing our decarbonisation roadmap for airport operations.

**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.

\* 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
- Maintain our Living Wage Aotearoa accreditation
- 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 roll out the ZQN Sustainability Pledge across the airport campus
- Host regular 'Lunch & Learn' 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.

Queenstown Airport is a member of the Toitū Envirocare Programme. This year, we are pleased to have progressed from Toitū carbonreduce certification and achieved Toitū Net Carbonzero certification. We are audited annually by Toitū\*, enabling us to benchmark and measure our progress.

Since our initial FY19 audit, our net greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 65%, meaning we have surpassed our target to reduce absolute emissions by 60%, compared with our baseline year, by 2030. In FY23 we achieved an absolute reduction of 16% compared with FY22.

Our progress can be credited to our commitment to electrification, the transition to a certified renewable electricity supply, replacement of assets and infrastructure to increase efficiency, and our decision to stop the use of the diesel generator for supplementary power supply during peak demand periods.

We measure the impact of our operations by mapping and measuring our carbon footprint in accordance with international best practice. For our last audit, this means we measured our scope 1 and 2 emissions, and scope 3 emissions in accordance with the GHG Protocol.

During FY24, we will transition from Toitū Envirocare to Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA). ACA is an industry specific programme administered by the Airports Council International (ACI).

Our transition will allow us to monitor and report our progress against other airports globally and ensure readers of our report can compare us with other entities within our industry. In accordance with the programme standards, we will begin to track emissions from a wider range of activities beyond our direct control, including aircraft emissions.

An integral element of the company's 10-year Strategic Plan and Sustainability Strategy is to plan for and enable the decarbonisation of aviation. To achieve this, sustainability and decarbonisation have been key considerations in our planning processes. During FY23, a draft Master Plan was completed and made public for consultation. During FY24, a final Master Plan will be prepared.

For the near term, our focus areas are energy, waste, and transport because of their contributions to our emissions. We have set science-based targets to help reach our goal of Net-Zero emissions by 2028.

### OVER THE YEAR WE WILL:

#### 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:

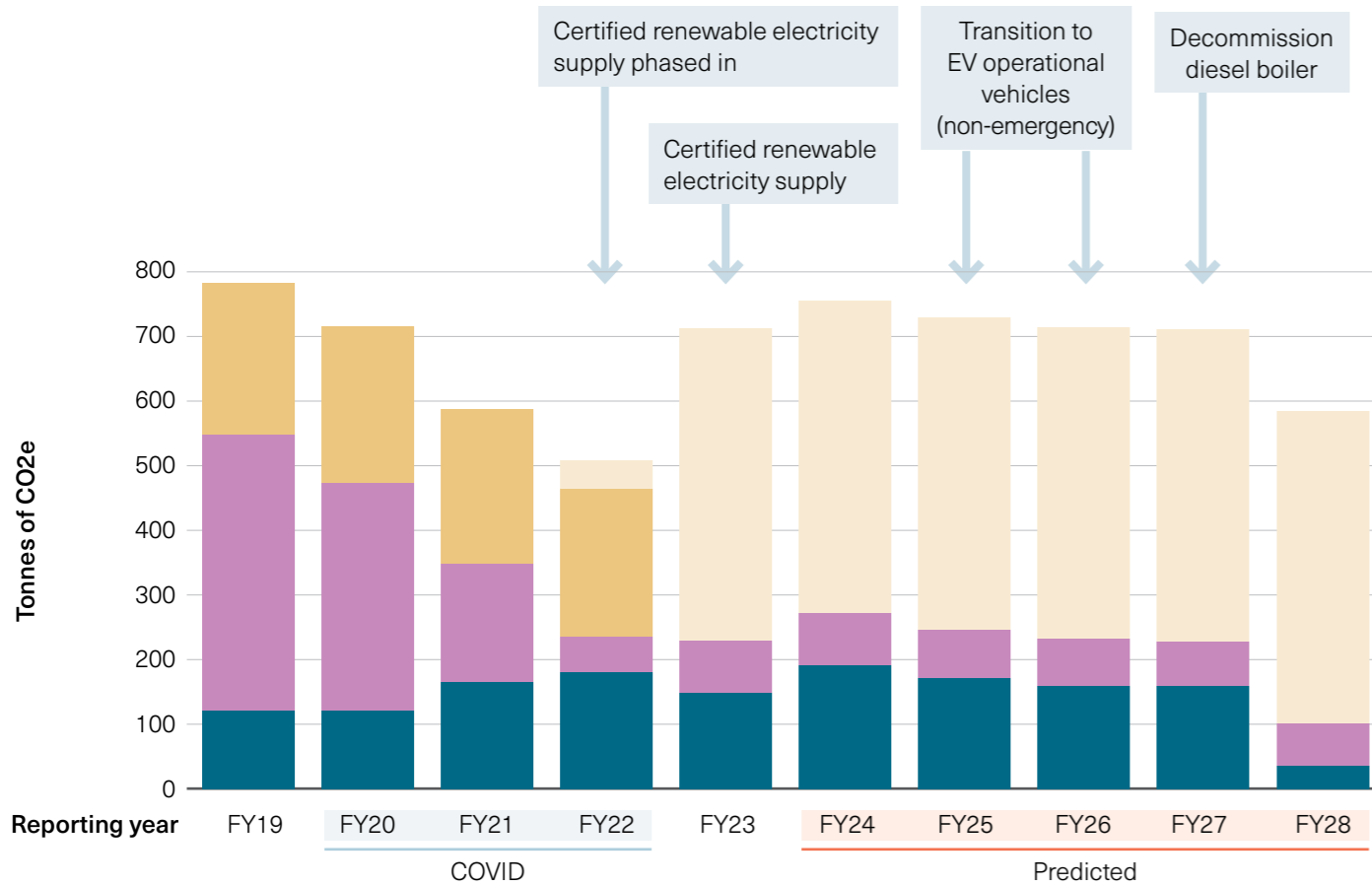
- Airside ground service equipment (GSE) charging stations
- An improved airport-wide recycling programme
- Waste reduction campaigns

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

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

\* We use the operational control approach as recommended by ISO standard 14064-2018. In accordance with the ISO standard, we measure emissions from all compulsory emission sources

## OUR DECARBONISATION ROADMAP – ABSOLUTE EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS FOR QAC OPERATIONS



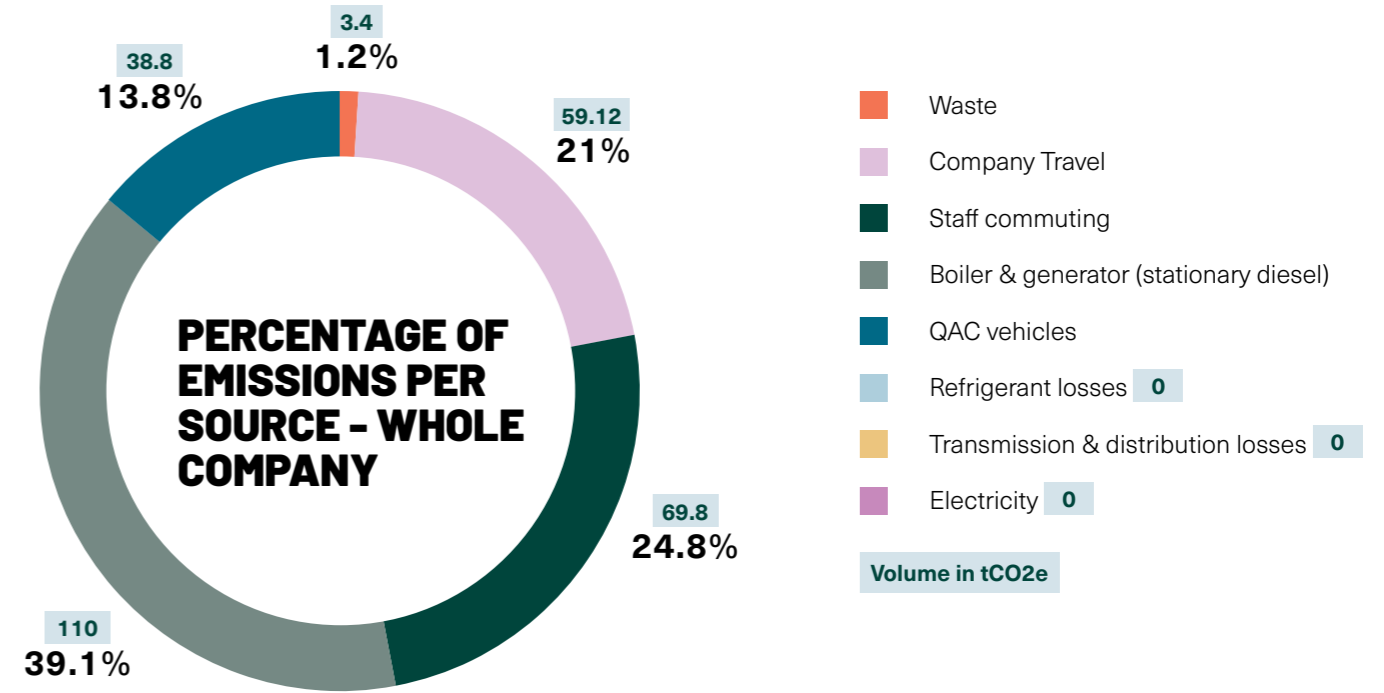
- Scope 1
- Scope 2
- Scope 3
- Certified renewable electricity (zero emissions)

Over the next five years as we work towards our net-zero carbon target we will continue to reduce absolute operational 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
Direct emissions within our operational control	Indirect emissions from energy generation	Emissions from sources we do not directly control or own but which are enabled by our activities
On-site boiler, operational vehicles including emergency vehicles	Purchased electricity supply	QAC waste and company travel

## OUR CARBON AUDIT RESULTS



We are proud to have achieved Toitū net carbonzero certification in FY23.

This year we are pleased to have progressed from Toitū carbonreduce certification to Toitū net carbonzero certification for FY23, meaning that we have accurately measured our greenhouse gas emissions and put in place strategies to manage, reduce and offset the impacts of our operations.

For the reporting period, our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were down 16% on last year and we achieved a 'high-quality data' ranking. Since our initial audit in FY19, we have reduced our GHG emissions by 65%.

The intensity of emissions has decreased compared to FY22. Activity, revenue and the number of full time equivalent staff employed have all increased during the reporting period.

- Emissions per fulltime equivalent staff have decreased by 50%.
- Emissions per \$1 of revenue have decreased by 76%.
- Emissions per passenger movement have decreased by 34%.

We will continue to reduce absolute operational emissions each year and offset remaining emissions through verified carbon credits to achieve a neutral balance. This year we invested in native reforestation in the lower South Island.



**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 the Wakatipu High School Foundation's Awhi Fund and a number of smaller events and community initiatives and groups that align with our core values.

Overall we contribute around \$120k 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**

**Complete our second climate risk and opportunity assessment**

**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 4 by 2025



**NET-ZERO  
EMISSIONS**  
by 2028



**85% ABSOLUTE  
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**  
& maintain living  
wage accreditation



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



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

\*From our baseline year of 2019  
<sup>^</sup>Queenstown Lakes District Council is our majority shareholder holding 75.01% of shares in QAC



