
Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin, on Wednesday 19 February 2025, commencing at 1:00 PM.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/TnRPl6O7uME?si=BgDTB6thKuAtzazS>

PRESENT

Cr Gretchen Robertson *(Chair)*
Cr Lloyd McCall
Cr Alexa Forbes
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Tim Mephram
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Alan Somerville
Cr Elliot Weir
Cr Kate Wilson

1. WELCOME

Chair Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1 pm. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), and Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning).

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Julian Doorey spoke to Council on behalf of Stormwater Justice for South Dunedin, after some questions Chair Robertson thanked Mr Doorey for attending.

Online, Suze Keith and Rob van der Mark on behalf of Sustainable Tarras spoke to Council, after an opportunity for questions, Chair Robertson thanked both for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There was an amendment to matter 9.1 noted.

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

***That** the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 4 December 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. The Chair noted the letter item to the Minister for the Environment is now completed.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

8.1. Chairperson's Report

Chair Robertson noted to council there was an erroneous double up of letters and an additional response letter also published to the ORC website now as a correction.

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Chief Executive's Report

Richard Saunders, Chief Executive responded to questions on his report.

Resolution: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Annual Plan 2025/26

[Youtube 40:54] This report formalised a draft position on changes to the financial forecast and work programme contained in the Otago Regional Council Long-Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP). Doing so provided a basis for consultation with the community and final decisions prior to approving the Annual Plan 2025-26 (AP) in June 2025. Nick Donnelly (General Manager Finance) and Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning) were available to respond to questions on the report. There were two additional recommendations from Cr Kelliher and one additional recommendation added from Cr Wilson. All were taken separately.

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

1. **That** the \$2 million Environmental fund is deferred by 12 months to allow for an appropriate management and consideration structure to be established.

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| FOR: | Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm. |
| AGAINST: | Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson, Chair Robertson. |
| ABSTAINED: | None. |

MOTION FAILED

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

2. **That** ORC staff numbers are reduced across the next two years to a base level maintained at 325.

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| FOR: | Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone. |
| AGAINST: | Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson, Chair Robertson. |
| ABSTAINED: | None. |

MOTION FAILED

Resolution CM25-101: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** the consolidated financial forecasts and key underlying expenditure and funding changes to the LTP 2024-2034 as presented in the 'Discussion' section of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against.

Resolution CM25-102: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

2. Agrees the proposed adjustments to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 work programme and associated financial forecasts as summarised in the discussion section of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-103: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

3. Agrees that the proposed changes to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 do not represent significant or material change.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-104: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

4. Approves the proposed changes to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 measures and targets for the purpose of consulting the Annual Plan 2025-26.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against.

Resolution CM25-105: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

5. Approves proposed changes to the Otago Regional Council 'Schedule of Fees and Charges' for the purpose of consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against.

Resolution CM25-106: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

6. Notes that a Communication Plan and draft consultation content for the Annual Plan 2024-25 process has been considered in Council workshops.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-107: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

7. Directs Council staff to begin community consultation on the proposed adjustments to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-108: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

8. Directs Council staff to begin community consultation on the proposed changes to the Otago Regional Council Fees and Charges.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Cr Robertson and seconded by Cr Malcolm

That Council adjourn from 2:55 pm to 3:10pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-109: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

9. Request a summary of expenditure and FTE and associated work programmes or deliverables for each group within ORC structure for a high level understanding in time for deliberations on 25/26 AP.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Order of Candidate Names on Voting Documents

This report outlined the three options available to order candidate names on voting documents for the 11 October 2025 election and any subsequent byelections that may become necessary. Amanda Vercoe (Manager Strategy and Customer) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-111: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report.

2. Approves the continued use of random order for candidate names on voting documents and any by-election voting documents for the 2025 triennial election.

MOTION CARRIED

9.3. Private Share of Public Transport Operating Costs

[YouTube 2:28:58] This paper updates Council on changes to central government requirements for public transport cost recovery, recommends private share targets, and mechanisms for achieving them. Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) and Anita Dawe (General Manager Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions. A PowerPoint was provided to recap details on the private share. There were amendments to the recommendations.

Resolution CM25-112: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report.

2. Notes requirements to increase private share of public transport operating costs as set out in the Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2024.

3. Notes the preferred timelines to set private share targets outlined by NZTA to include officer level agreement by 31 January 2025 and Council decision by end of March 2025.

4. Notes timeline for the Regional Public Transport Plan 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-113: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

5. Approve, for consultation as part of the RPTP, the inclusion of child concessions of 100%.

Approve, for consultation as part of the RPTP, the increase in an Adult Bee Card fare to \$2.50.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-114: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

6. Approves advising NZTA Waka Kotahi that fare changes, including changes to adult fares or the introduction of fare zones will be consulted on as part of the RPTP, and formal reporting of private share targets and projections will be provided to NZTA by 30 June 2025, after the RPTP process has concluded.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-115: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

7. Notes the requirement to increase private share funding of public transport services and the initial private share targets advised by staff to NZTA officials, which are to be confirmed through the RPTP process.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws left the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 4:12 pm.

9.4. Te Korowai Evaluation Report

[YouTube 3:12:53] This report provided Council with a summary of the Evaluation Report from Otago Regional Council's participation in LGNZ's Te Korowai programme. Amanda Vercoe (General Manager Strategy and Customer) and Jasmin Lamorie (Project Lead Business Transformation) were present to respond to questions on the report. There was an amendment to the recommendations.

Resolution CM25-116: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report.

2. Notes that progress on implementation of actions to address the priority recommendations will be included in business transformation updates to Council quarterly.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-117: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Council:

3. Asks the Chief Executive to present a programme of business transformation to the July Council Meeting that will include options for prioritised areas of improvement listed in Te Korowai Evaluation report

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Robertson voted against.

Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 4:26 pm.

Cr Malcolm returned to the meeting at 4:28 pm.

9.5 New Fast Track Act Requirements

[3.32.25 YouTube] This report provided Council with an overview of the new Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024, the proposed process for involvement and provided recommendations on delegations to staff under the Act. Alexandra King (Manager Consents) and Jo Gilroy (General Manager Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-118: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report and the new legislative requirements under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 4:26 pm.

Cr Malcolm returned to the meeting at 4:28 pm.

Resolution: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

2. Endorses the proposed process (option 2) for responding to applications under the Fast Track Approvals Act

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| FOR: | Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir Cr Wilson. |
| AGAINST: | Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Mephram, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson. |
| ABSTAINED | None. |

MOTION FAILED

Resolution CM25-120: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

3. Endorses the proposed process (option 1) for responding to applications under the Fast Track Approvals Act.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-121: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

4. Nominates Cr Robertson, Cr Noone as the representatives to sit on the Fast Track working group and provide governance input into ORC's fast track responses.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-122: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

5. Approves new delegations under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 as outlined in this report.

6. Approves the amendment of the Delegations Manual to reflect changes outlined in this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone left the meeting at 4:57 pm.

Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 5:01pm.

9.6. Port Otago Letter of Expectation

[YouTube 3:51:08] This paper was brought to consider and approve a Letter of Expectation to Port Otago Limited (Port Otago) regarding Otago Regional Council's (Council) expectations for inclusion in Port Otago's Statement of Corporate Intent for the years ended 30 June 2026 to 30 June 2028. Nick Donnelly (General Manager Finance) was available to respond to questions.

Cr Malcolm and Cr Somerville both submitted changes for the grammar and wording for the letter.

Resolution CM25-123: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report and the draft Letter of Expectation 2026-2028.
2. **Provides** feedback and amendments to the draft Letter of Expectation 2026-2028.
3. **Approves** the Port Otago Letter of Expectations 2026-2028, subject to any amendments approved in (2) above, and the sending of that letter to Port Otago Limited.
4. **Approves** the payment of a donation of \$350,000 to the Otago Southland Rescue Helicopter Trust to be funded from General Reserves.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That Council endorses Port Otago's goal of influencing others in the supply chain also to reduce their contributions to climate change and would like these efforts to be reported to Council and the wider community.

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| FOR | Cr Forbes, Cr Mepham, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir |
| AGAINST | Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcom, Cr McCall, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson. |
| ABSTAINED | Cr Wilson. |

MOTION FAILED

10. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10.1. Recommendations of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee

Resolution CM25-124: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council adopts the recommendations of the 5 December 2024 Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

MOTION CARRIED

10.2. Recommendations of the Environmental Science and Policy Committee

Resolution CM25-125: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council adopts the recommendations of the 4 December 2024 Environmental Science and Policy Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

10.3. Recommendations of the Regional Leadership Committee

Resolution CM25-126: Cr Weir Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council adopts the recommendations of the 21 November 2024 Regional Leadership Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded:

It was moved to adjourn the public excluded portion of the meeting until the conclusion of the Finance Committee on 20 February 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

13. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.



Chairperson

19/03/2025
Date

Council reconvened on 20 February at 10:10 am.

It was moved by Cr Wilson, seconded by Cr Forbes

That the public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):

1. Confidential Minutes of Council 4 December 2025
- 3.1 Business Case for Queenstown Depot for Electric Buses

MOTION CARRIED

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under [section 48\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Confidential Minutes of Council 4 December 2024 | To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a) To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h) | Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist. |

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| <p>3.1 Business Case for Queenstown Depot for Electric Buses</p> | <p>To protect information where the making available of the information—would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information – Section 7(2)(b)(ii) To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)</p> | <p>Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</p> |
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