

**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 Tuesday 9 December 2025, at 1:00 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2CK1yeCwtS8?si=-1jIA9WWJ2k5lE3k>

PRESENT

Cr Hilary Calvert *(Chair)*
Cr Kevin Malcolm *(Deputy Chair, online from 3:33 pm)*
Cr Robbie Byars
Cr Chanel Gardner
Cr Neil Gillespie
Cr Matt Hollyer
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Alan Somerville
Cr Kate Wilson

1. WELCOME

Cr Matt Hollyer said a reflection to open the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:

That the apologies from Cr Malcolm for lateness be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 Jacqui Eggleton a volunteer from CCS Disability Action Waitaki spoke online, on Total Mobility, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Calvert thanked Jacqui for attending.

3.2 Mary O'Brien spoke on behalf of Access Coordinator at CCS Disability Action, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Calvert thanked Mary for attending.

3.3 Chris Ford spoke on behalf of Disability Person's Assembly, online, there was an opportunity for questions, Chair Calvert thanked Chris for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded:

That the agenda be confirmed as published.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of their need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises.

Cr Gardner noted that she would sit back from item 8.2 Navigational Safety Bylaw.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There was an apology for early departure to be added to the minutes for Cr Wilson.

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. No changes were noted.

8. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1. Local Government Reform

[YouTube 37:20] This report provided an overview of the Government's Simplifying Local Government. A draft proposal, summarised the key elements of the reform package, outlined the implications for regional governance, and sought direction from elected members on how the Council wishes to engage in the consultation process. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-240: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Confirms** its preferred approach for engaging with the Government's Simplifying Local Government consultation, and approves the following option to guide Otago Regional Council's response to the draft proposal:
 - c. **Option 3:** Undertaking a Whole-of-Council process, including a Councillor Workshop and the preparation of a full Council submission with input from all Councillors.

MOTION CARRIED

At 2:48 pm Cr Wilson moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council adjourns until 3:00 pm

MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Navigational Safety Bylaw

[YouTube 1:28:15] This paper sought approval to undertake public consultation on an updated Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and delegate authority to three Councillors to hear submissions and make recommendations to Council on the updated Bylaw. Cr Robbie Byars introduced the paper. Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Steve Rushbrook (Harbourmaster), and Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), were available to respond to questions.

Cr Gardner sat back from the table for this item.

Resolution CM25-241: Cr Byars Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** the report, the proposed amendments to the Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw, the Statement of Proposal, and the draft communications plan.
- 2) **Approves** public consultation on the updated Navigation Safety Bylaw under the Local Government Act 2002, subject to any changes discussed (options 1A, 2A and 3A).
- 3) **Delegates to the Chief Executive** the authority to correct any minor typographical errors in the proposed Navigation Safety Bylaw or Statement of Proposal as needed prior to notification.
- 4) **Delegates** authority to Cr Byars, Cr Wilson and Cr Kelliher to hear submissions on the proposed Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw and make recommendations to Council on adopting the Bylaw.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gardner abstained from the vote.

8.3. Consideration of Meeting Schedule for 2026

[YouTube 2:05:40] The paper sought to adopt a meeting schedule for the Otago Regional Council for 2026. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) was available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-242: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** the meeting schedule for 2026, with or without changes.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4. Non-Financial Activity Performance as at Quarter 1 2025-26

[YouTube 2:13:34] This paper presented the Council's Activity Performance Reports for the 3-month period ended 30 September 2025. Councillor Chanel Gardner introduced the paper, Vanessa Vidallon (Corporate Planning Business Partner) Joanne Greatbanks (Manger Organisational Planning and Performance) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-243: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Notes** that the attached Activity Performance Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 being a quarter one of the 2025-26 financial year.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:33 pm Cr Malcolm joined the meeting.

8.5. Quarter 1 Financial Report (July-September)

[YouTube 2:25:35] This report presented Council's Financial Reports for the 3-month period to 30 September 2025 being Quarter 1 of the 2025-26 financial year. Cr Gardner introduced the paper and Nick Donnelly, GM Finance, was available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-244: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report and the attached Financial Reports for September 2025 (Quarter 1 of the 2025-26 financial year).

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:36 pm Cr Hollyer left the meeting.

At 3:39 pm Cr Hollyer returned to the meeting.

8.6. Queenstown Lakes Housing and Business Capacity Assessment 2025

[YouTube 2:41:04] The purpose of this report was to seek Council approval to adopt the Queenstown Lakes District Housing and Business Capacity Assessment 2025 that has been jointly prepared by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC). Cr Neil Gillespie introduced the paper, Julia Briggs (Senior Policy Analyst), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), were available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-245: Cr Gillespie Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Adopts** the Queenstown Lakes Housing and Business Capacity Assessment 2025.
- 3) Delegates** to the General Manager Regional Planning and Transport the authority to finalise the Housing and Business Capacity Assessment pending feedback from the Ministry for the Environment.
- 4) Notes** that the key findings of this assessment indicate that there is insufficient infrastructure-ready development capacity over the short term (residential) and medium and long term (commercial and industrial).

- 5) **Notes** that in accordance with 3.7(1)(a) of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, Queenstown Lakes District Council and Otago Regional Council will notify the Minister for the Environment that there is insufficient development capacity.
- 6) **Notes** that in accordance with 3.6(2) of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, Otago Regional Council will update the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement with the following Housing Bottom Lines:
 - a) Short-Medium Term (10 years, 2023-2033): an additional 9,100 dwellings.
 - b) Long Term (20 years, 2033-2053): an additional 18,000 dwellings.
- 7) **Notes** the key findings of this assessment will inform any future work required under the Resource Management Act 1991 or subordinate national direction or the new legislative framework that is currently being developed to replace the Resource Management Act 1991.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gardner left the meeting at 4:09 pm.

Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 4:11 pm.

8.7. Total Mobility

[YouTube 2:53:00] This paper sought direction from Council on options for managing expenditure on Total Mobility services through to the end of year 3 of the Long-Term Plan. Cr Matt Hollyer, Laura Faulkner (Transport Officer) Julian Phillips (Transport Operations Lead) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-246: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Directs** staff to maintain status quo and wait for further guidance from Ministry of Transport.
- 3) **Notes** the forecasted overspend for Total Mobility services, in 2026/2027 irrespective of the option chosen.

MOTION CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

None received for this meeting.

At 4:16 pm Cr Laws left the meeting.

At 4:17 pm Cr Byars left the meeting.

At 4:18 pm Cr Laws returned to the meeting.

At 4:19 pm Cr Byars returned to the meeting.

10. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

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

- 1.1 Award of Unit 1 and 2 Bus Contracts.

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
1.1 Award of Unit 1 and 2 Bus Contracts	<p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – Section 7(2)(i)</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.

This resolution is made in reliance on [section 48\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) of that Act or [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) or [section 9](#) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

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.

MOTION CARRIED

11. CLOSURE

There was no further business, and Cr Hollyer gave thanks to staff and councillors and the public meeting closed at 4:20 pm.



Chairperson

__11 February 2026__
Date