



Otago
Regional
Council

Pre-election report 2022

For voters and potential candidates
in the 2022 local body elections





Smalls Beach, Dunedin

About this report:

The future of the Otago Region is shaped by the decisions its elected Council of 12 people makes – decisions that affect the environment, waterways, land use and management, public transport, communities and much more.

In October 2022 you have an opportunity to shape the future of your Region, either as a candidate for election or by voting for the people you want to represent you and the interests of the environment and the communities of Otago.

This pre-election report is about the work of the Otago Regional Council and outlines some of the challenges facing the region and the Council, now and in the future. It includes information about our financial performance over the past three years, the activities that are underway and proposed for the next three years, as well as how we intend to pay for them.

Much of the financial information in this report is taken from audited documents including the Long-term Plan 2021-31 and Annual Reports.

These documents, along with Annual Plans, can be found at

www.orc.govt.nz/plans-policies-reports/corporate-plans-and-reports

Further information about Local Government in NZ and the Local Elections:

Vote 2022 Local Elections:
www.votelocal.co.nz

Local Government New Zealand:
www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz

Local Government in New Zealand
- Local Councils:
www.localcouncils.govt.nz

Contents

Interim Chief Executive's Introduction.....	2
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Setting the Scene **4**

Our Region	5
Our Role in the Region	5
Partnering with Mana Whenua	6
Strategic Directions	7

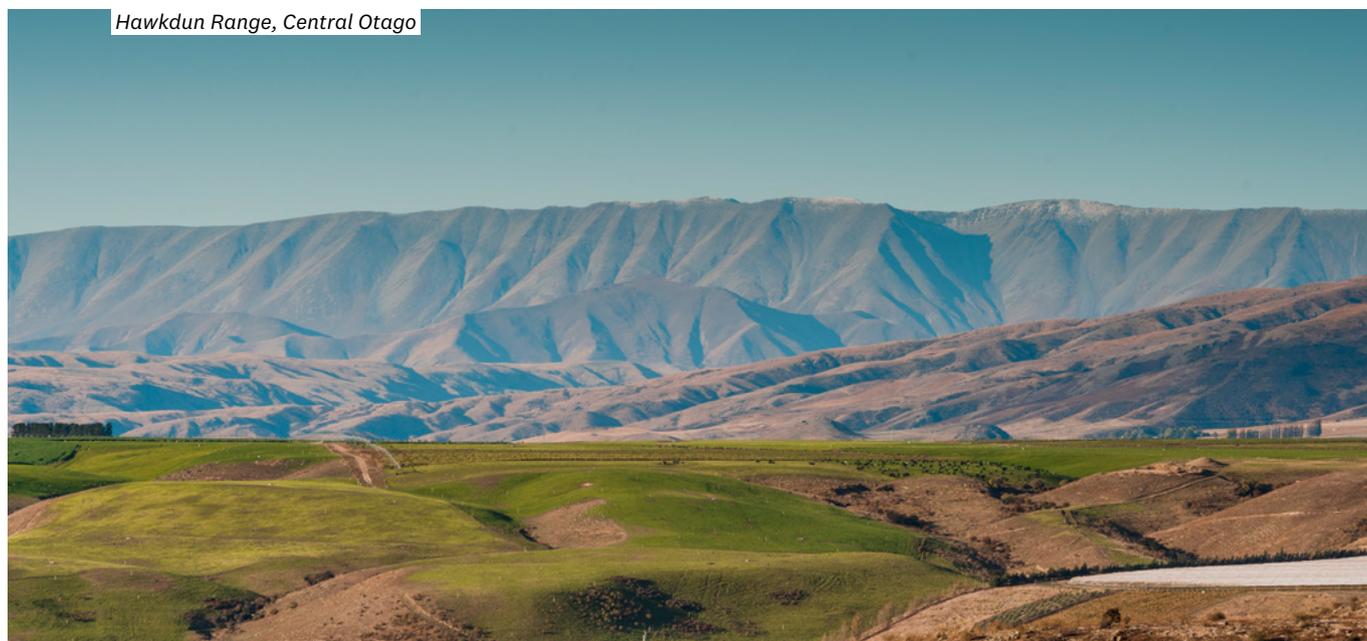
Looking Forward **9**

Key Challenges	10
Key Priorities and Projects for the Next Triennium	10

Financial Information and Performance **12**

Financial Strategy	12
Funding Impact Statement	13
Summary Statement of Financial Position	14
Rate Information and Borrowing	14
More Information:.....	16
Promoting Local Democracy:.....	17

Hawkdun Range, Central Otago





Introduction

Kia ora koutou,

Nau mai haere mai to the Otago Regional Council. Our pre-election report is an overview of the Council's work, finances and some of the challenges we face, to help inform your decision.

If you would like to make a difference and help manage Otago's beautiful rivers and lakes, public transport and you want to work for and with the community to achieve these goals, then you might be just the person voters are looking for to serve on the Otago Regional Council.

OUR MISSION - TE KAUPAPA

Enriching life in a way that ensures positive relationships between environment, people and place, now and for our future

Whakahaumakohia te ao kia whiria te taura ora ki waeka i te taiao, i te tai-takata, i te tai-whenua mō nāianei, mō te āpōpō hoki

The wellbeing of Otago's communities now and in the future is at the heart of our work. We strive to ensure communities can rely on the Council for knowledge about the region's environment and communities; to lead environmental management in Otago in partnership with mana whenua; to collaborate to create resilient and sustainable communities; and to advocate for Otago people on issues affecting the region.

In the next 3 years, ORC's work includes:

- Setting critical policies and rules to protect Otago's water, land and air
- Monitoring the environment – collecting data and knowledge to inform decision-making
- Responding to environmental incidents
- Taking the lead in pest management
- Minimising risks from natural hazards such as erosion and flooding
- Promoting, encouraging and regulating behaviour on waterways through the Harbourmaster role
- Civil Defence Emergency Management
- Providing public transport in Dunedin and Queenstown (Orbus)
- Supporting community groups for environmental enhancement
- Taking the lead responding to big Otago issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and urban development

ORC Councillors play a key role across governance in all these areas, providing direction, strategy, and oversight, leading a partnership with mana whenua founded in the Treaty of Waitangi, and engaging with Otago's communities.

During the 2019-2022 (current) triennium there were fortnightly meetings over two days, with discussions and decision-making in formal Committee and Council meetings, workshops, and briefings. ORC staff report to these meetings, aiming to inform councillors and the public, or provide specific detail and recommendations on which councillors can vote. There are regular councillor engagements across Otago, fronting formal public consultation processes, informal hui, and site visits around the Region to learn more and support ORC's work.

We are currently mid-way through an ambitious Long-term Plan 2021/31 period. In 2021, Council significantly scaled up work programmes with

strong recognition of this overdue need from the community. Rates rises mean public expectations for ORC to do better are high. At the same time, two years of COVID19 disruptions with online-only meetings has meant our connections with the community has been challenging at times.

What does this mean for you if elected? There will be ongoing pressure to balance the affordability of our work programme with the continued need for robust frameworks to regulate the use of our natural resources while also achieving 'on the ground' results via our operational activities. The pace of change is demanding with the ORC responding to Government reforms, all the while being mindful of community expectations. Tough decisions are often required and sometimes without the support of all residents. There is much important work to do.

At the same time the sector is facing unprecedented reform at Government level. The 2022-2025 triennium will also see the release of the Government's Future for Local Government Reform report, and more Resource Management Act reform. We need to continue with a business-as-usual approach, while remaining agile to changing legislation and priorities.

If you stand for Council, and are successfully elected, you can anticipate governing a high-performing organisation. As Interim Chief Executive, I have been struck by the commitment and passion of the team, and that of the organisations ORC works with. We are united in our commitment to Otago's environment, both for today and future generations.

If you are thinking of standing for council this year, or nominating someone, I encourage you to attend or watch online a Council or committee meeting (our schedule is on our website) to get a feel for it, and to attend one of the candidate briefing sessions taking place around the region in July (dates will be advertised on our website once confirmed).

More detailed information on our work and estimates of the cost of this work can be found in several of our published documents, including the 2022-21 Annual Plan, the 2021-31 Long-term Plan and the 2020-21 Annual Report. These can be found on our web site at www.orc.govt.nz.

Dr Pim Borren
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Setting the Scene

Our region

Otago is New Zealand's second largest region, boasting a diverse landscape from rugged coastlines, vast central plains, spectacular mountains and alpine lakes.

- Otago makes up 12% of New Zealand's land mass; approximately 32,000 square kilometres.
- The Clutha River/Mata-Au at 338km is the second longest river in New Zealand and has the highest volume and largest catchment (21,960 square kilometres).
- Otago's lakes constitute about 23% of New Zealand's total lake surface area and include Wakatipu, Wānaka, Hāwea, Dunstan, and Roxburgh.
- 480 kilometres of coastline with environments ranging from pebble beaches, basalt formations, rolling farms, striking cliff heads and sandy beaches.
- Hydroelectric dams/generation facilities located in Central Otago, Clutha, and Queenstown Lakes districts.
- Urbanised areas in Otago cover about 1% of total land area.
- 87% of the regional population resides in urban settlements.
- Otago's population in 2020 was 245,300* (Statistics New Zealand subnational population estimates).
- Dunedin City has the largest population followed by Queenstown.
- In 2019, Otago's regional GDP was valued at NZ \$13,227 million.
- In 2019, Otago industries sustained 129,085 jobs.
- Otago has a strong and varied agricultural sector which includes market gardens, stone-fruit orchards and vineyards as well as sheep, beef, and dairy farms.

There are five territorial authorities in Otago: Dunedin City Council, Queenstown Lakes, Waitaki, Central Otago and Clutha district councils.

ORC's Role in Otago

We're responsible for sustainably managing the region's natural resources on behalf of our Otago community.

Like all councils in New Zealand, our responsibilities and powers are set by legislation. The Local Government Act 2002 is the overall empowering legislation that enables democratic and local decision-making for Otago. Other legislation, like the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, and the Land Transport Management Act 2003, give specific responsibilities to regional councils.

Our work is structured into four groups of activities:

Environment

- Land & Water
- Biodiversity and biosecurity
- Air

Environmental management is at the heart of the Otago Regional Council. We facilitate the

sustainable use of water, land, air and coasts. We do this in part by protecting our unique biodiversity, managing pests, and monitoring the state of the environment. We are also reviewing our regional plans and transitioning towards an integrated catchment management approach to protect freshwater, land, our coastal environment, and ecosystems.

Regional leadership

- Governance and community engagement
- Regional planning and urban development
- Regulatory

Our leadership work supports informed decision-making and an engaged community. Our regional plans set out objectives, policies and rules for the sustainable use of natural and physical resources in Otago, including water, land, air, and the coast. And our regulatory work supports the sustainable management of Otago’s natural resources. We also increasingly need organisational and functional strategies and plans to support regional regulation and implementation, promote regional wellbeing and build community capacity and resilience.

Safety & Resilience

- Emergency management
- Climate change and natural hazards
- Flood protection, drainage and river management

Risk management and building community resilience is a key focus for Council. We identify and monitor natural hazards and work to support communities to understand the implications of

risks and make informed decisions. Climate change is a critical issue and our work includes gathering information to better understand the challenges and risks to the region, as well as looking at adaptation planning. Our flood protection schemes help protect people and properties from floods; and our drainage schemes help maintain the productive capability of the land and waterways. We also respond to flood events and support Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management.

Transport

- Transport planning
- Public passenger transport

The Council is responsible for public transport in Otago and through contracted operators we provide public services in Dunedin and Queenstown. We also provide a region-wide Total Mobility scheme to assist eligible people who are unable to use public transport. We facilitate wider transport projects in Otago and prepare a Regional Land Transport Plan in collaboration with Environment Southland. We are responsible for maintaining three of Otago’s nine stock truck effluent disposal sites. (STEDs).

Our work is different from city and district councils, who focus on the day-to-day needs of communities through services like roading, water, wastewater, building regulations, libraries, and city/town planning. ORC’s work covers all Otago and our focus is on the environment. We are responsible for the sustainable development and enhancement of natural resources such as Otago’s waterways and air for present and future generations. We also provide public transport in Dunedin and Queenstown.

Partnering with Mana Whenua

Working with mana whenua, Kāi Tahu, is a key part of any C council triennium.

We have a treaty-based partnership embedded in the Long-term Plan 2021/31. Highlights of the work at governance level this triennium include a strengthened Mana to Mana forum, a partnership approach to the Land and Water Regional Plan and having iwi at the table for the Strategy and Planning Committee. Also, adopting He Mahi Rau Rika, which explains the nature of the partnership in more detail and is available on our website (He Mahi Rau Rika). A partnership hui at Ōtākou Marae will be one of the newly-elected Council’s first engagements following the inaugural Council meeting, which underscores the strong significance and importance of the partnership.

ORC's strategic directions

Our Strategic Directions document helps to set the direction for the regional council and guide us to deliver our priorities for the good of the region. Our strategic directions were updated in 2021.

Our Mission — Te Kaupapa

Enriching life in a way that ensures positive relationships between environment, people and place, now and for our future.

Whakahaumakohia te ao kia whiria te taura ora ki waeka i te taiao, i te tai-takata, i te tai-whenua mō nāianeī, mō te āpōpō hoki.

Our Values — Ō mātau uara

- Accountable
- Caring
- Creative
- Collaborative
- Trustworthy
- Open and honest

Vision For ORC — Te Whāika Ki ORC

Otago's communities, through engagement, trust us to make well-informed decisions and enable solutions.

What we will do — Ka aha mātau

Protect, Connect, Enhance, Enable

Ka tāwharau, ka whakahono, ka whakaniko, ka whakamana

The wellbeing of Otago's communities – now and in the future - is at the core of what we do. We strive to ensure communities can rely on the Otago Regional Council for knowledge about the region's environment and communities; to lead environmental management in Otago in partnership with mana whenua; to collaborate to create resilient and sustainable communities; and to advocate for Otago communities on issues affecting the region.



Kawarau River, Frankton



Communities that connect with, and care for, Otago's environment



Communities that are resilient in the face of natural hazards, climate change and other risks



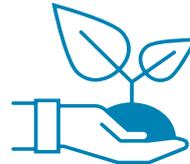
Sustainable, safe and inclusive transport



An environment that supports healthy people and ecosystems



Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Kāi Tahu are embedded in Otago Communities



A sustainable way of life for everyone in otago

Community outcomes describe what is valued for good quality of life in Otago. In our 2021-31 Long-term Plan the Otago Regional Council identified these six Community Outcomes which the Council seeks to achieve through the delivery of our ten activities. For more information on the Community Outcomes and Strategic Directions, please see the Long Term Plan or the ORC website.

www.orc.govt.nz/our-council-our-region/our-council/strategic-directions



Port Chalmers, Dunedin

Looking Forward



Key challenges

Climate change:

This is an issue of international importance and the subject of emerging national direction. The scale of climate change demands a unified approach across all government. At the Otago Regional Council, the issue touches everything we do from flood protection to urban development and public transport, to natural hazards and science, and all our decision-making. Working in partnership with local territorial authorities will be critical for a cohesive response to ensuring Otago's community is informed and prepared. Managing risk associated with natural hazards increasingly associated with climate change is an ORC activity that has grown, reflecting the need to adapt.

Affordability:

Following two years of COVID-19, the New Zealand economy is facing headwinds impacting many households and individuals. Otago is not immune. This presents a real challenge when balancing the budget and our rates bills. ORC rates have been historically low, leading to a lot of catch-up work for ORC to meet Government rules and policies.

Environmental challenges:

Freshwater quality and quantity, air quality, biodiversity protection and promotion, pest management and flood protection; achieving good environmental outcomes is a long-term investment. But we must look ahead to future generations, even if it means costs today.

Reform:

A Government programme of reform has significant implications for ORC's work. Maintaining the delivery of our services, while adapting, adjusting and involving our communities is difficult but essential.

Key priorities and projects for the next Council triennium:

Otago Regional Council's strategic priorities include aligning with national direction on freshwater reform; strengthening our leadership on strategic issues such as climate change, urban development and community wellbeing; and ensuring our operational response to maintaining and improving Otago's natural environment and public transport is appropriate.

Land & Water:

- Progressing the Land and Water Regional Plan with a notification target of December 2023
- Environmental monitoring network and operational work is growing in scale and complexity, in part in response to increased monitoring needs of central government as part of the 2020 National Policy Statement-Freshwater and the pending National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.
- Increased Science work supporting the Land and Water Regional Plan and informing the monitoring programme (e.g., Coastal programme, Impact of land activity)
- New grant-funded enhancement programmes, some of which originated through the COVID Jobs for Nature funding (e.g., Te Hākapupu/Pleasant River restoration).

Biodiversity and biosecurity:

- Improving knowledge of Otago's biodiversity to inform monitoring and future work
- Supporting catchment initiatives through Eco Fund and government grants (e.g., Jobs for Nature; and Wallabies Pest Contract Management); and education awareness integrated into farm support programmes.
- Strengthening the regional partnerships with councils, other agencies and Kāi Tahu.
- Implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan with improved IT systems and work practices including inspections and compliance checks.
- Continued regional-scale pest and predator projects (e.g., Predator Free Dunedin).
- Air quality
- Reviewing our Air Regional Plan, with an issues and option paper(s) completed by June 2023.

Regional Leadership

- Once adopted, implementing the Provisional Otago Regional Policy Statement
- Providing support to Otago's elected regional councillors to perform their role
- Council's communication and engagement with the community
- Regulatory work educating and ensuring regional and national rules are followed
- Overarching strategic planning largely focused on the implications of, and giving feedback on, national direction, policy and key issues.

Transport planning and public passenger transport

Dunedin:

- Continuing service improvements aligned with contract renewals with operators.

Queenstown:

- Queenstown Ferry service ongoing 2022-23.
- Considering infrastructure development and the associated business case (year 7-8 LTP).

Flood protection, drainage and river management

- Climate change adaptation investigations
- Taieri and Clutha flood protection scheme reviews
- Flood damage repair and government subsidised resilience works
- Pump station and technology improvements
- Fish passage adaptation investigations
- Core river management functions - control of channel erosion, willow maintenance, vegetation control, removing obstructions, and repairing key erosion works.

Infrastructure Strategy

Council's Infrastructure Strategy is included in the 2021-31 Long-term Plan and provides the rationale for the 10-year programme of work in flood protection, drainage and river management activities. It provides detail on the schemes, associated infrastructure assets, issues, service standards, work programmes and funding. Six significant issues have emerged for Otago Regional Council's infrastructure work programme over the next 10 years:

- Condition of Infrastructure
- Funding
- Climate Change
- Legislation and Regulatory environment
- Natural Hazards
- Growth & development

Each of these issues will impact on a scheme's overall performance. To find out more visit the Policies and Strategies section of the Long-term Plan.



Financial Information & Performance

The financial information in this report comprises actual amounts from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 annual reports, estimates from 2021-22 and forecast amounts from the 2022-23 Annual Plan, with future years drawn from the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP). The annual reports and the LTP have been audited. However, the 2022-23 Annual Plan is not subject to audit and amounts are estimated.

Financial Strategy

The Council's financial strategy is included in the 2021-31 Long-term Plan and sets out how Council will manage its finances over the 10 years from 2021. It outlines the financial direction Council wishes to take on levels of future rating, borrowings and investments and discusses factors that influence those areas. These matters have a significant influence on Council's ability to deliver on its strategic priorities including aligning with national direction on freshwater reform and strengthening our leadership on strategic issues such as climate change, urban development and community wellbeing. And ensuring our operational response to maintaining and improving Otago's natural environment and public transport is appropriate. Delivering on our priorities must be done in consideration of what is affordable to the community and the financial strategy sets out a path for prudent and sustainable funding.

Funding Impact Statement

The council is required to include Funding Impact Statements in its annual reports in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

	2019/20 Actual \$000	2020/21 Actual \$000	2021/22 Estimate \$000	2022/23 Annual Plan \$000	2023/24 Long Term Plan \$000	2024/25 Long Term Plan \$000	2025/26 Long Term Plan \$000
SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDING							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	11,762	11,768	20,567	23,127	25,016	24,497	23,917
Targeted rates	15,191	15,814	20,555	24,101	27,882	30,311	33,308
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	12,235	19,007	16,133	22,102	17,760	22,837	22,813
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	10,572	12,060	5,455	9,128	15,373	13,124	13,594
Fees and charges	2,894	2,748	2,988	6,861	7,451	7,631	7,839
Interest and dividends from investments	10,393	10,576	13,606	14,750	15,750	16,750	17,750
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDING (A)	63,047	71,973	79,304	100,069	109,231	115,149	119,221
APPLICATIONS OF OPERATING FUNDING							
Payments to staff and suppliers	63,447	81,443	75,349	98,547	101,963	105,717	109,421
Finance costs	-	-	29	350	367	376	385
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	424	547	842	936
TOTAL APPLICATIONS OF OPERATING FUNDING (B)	63,447	81,443	75,378	99,322	102,887	106,935	110,742
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF OPERATING FUNDING (A – B)	(400)	(9,470)	3,926	748	6,354	8,214	8,479
SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	72	1,610	250	420	7,430	440	451
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING (C)	72	1,610	250	420	7,430	440	451
APPLICATIONS OF CAPITAL FUNDING							
Capital expenditure –							
• to meet additional demand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
• to improve the level of service	3,616	2,660	3,582	2,813	1,901	2,321	4,495
• to replace existing assets	1,308	2,886	970	10,295	6,195	7,918	3,680
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(5,252)	(13,406)	(8,728)	(11,940)	5,688	(1,584)	756
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL APPLICATIONS OF CAPITAL FUNDING (D)	(328)	(7,860)	(4,176)	1,168	13,784	8,654	8,930
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING (C – D)	400	9,470	(3,926)	(748)	(6,354)	(8,214)	(8,479)
FUNDING BALANCE ((A – B) + (C – D))	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary Statement of Financial Position

The balance sheet shows a summary of what the council owns (its assets) and what it owes (its liabilities) at the end of the financial year.

	2019/20 Actual \$000	2020/21 Actual \$000	2021/22 Estimate \$000	2022/23 Annual Plan \$000	2023/24 Long Term Plan \$000	2024/25 Long Term Plan \$000	2025/26 Long Term Plan \$000
CURRENT ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	7,898	4,380	11,285	2,049	(2,759)	5,661	3,058
Other financial assets	23,436	25,313	23,995	36,796	35,744	36,638	42,554
Related part loan from Port Otago	-	-	100,000		-	-	-
Other current assets	9,926	9,016	16,995	10,002	13,897	13,889	13,882
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	41,260	38,709	152,275	48,847	46,882	56,188	59,494
NON-CURRENT ASSETS							
Shares in subsidiary	536,364	612,330	633,265	657,795	608,713	632,262	656,752
Other non-current assets	112,690	114,712	115,081	126,955	132,303	128,297	130,820
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	649,054	727,042	748,346	784,750	741,016	760,559	787,572
TOTAL ASSETS	690,314	765,751	900,621	833,597	787,898	816,747	847,066
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Borrowings	-	-	(115,000)	-	-	-	-
Other Current liabilities	(12,133)	(19,957)	(21,215)	(20,957)	(16,133)	(16,133)	(16,133)
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	(12,133)	(19,957)	(136,215)	(20,957)	(16,133)	(16,133)	(16,133)
Other financial instruments	-	-	-	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-	-	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(12,133)	(19,957)	-	(45,957)	(41,133)	(41,133)	(41,133)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	678,181	745,794	764,406	787,640	746,765	775,614	805,933
EQUITY							
Reserves	557,650	635,622	656,114	666,120	612,779	636,782	660,896
Public Equity	120,531	110,172	108,292	121,520	133,986	138,832	145,037
TOTAL EQUITY	678,181	745,794	764,406	787,640	746,765	775,614	805,933

The revaluation of shares in subsidiary is unknown at the time of completing this report and the estimate made in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan has been used in the Summary Statement of Financial Position estimate in the table above

Rate Information and Borrowing

The information in the following section compares rates, rate increases, borrowing and return on investments with quantified limits and targets specified in the ORC's financial strategy.

Rating base information

The projected rating base information for the Otago region is as follows:

Financial Year	Projected Rating Units
2022/23	121,312
2023/24	123,132
2024/25	124,979
2025/26	126,853

Rate amounts and rate increases

The following information compares rate levels and rate increases with quantified limits for the three years from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022

Borrowing

Council joined the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) in 2021. Council as at 31 May 2022 has \$90 million borrowing from the LGFA. \$75 million of borrowing was loaned to Port Otago Limited and is recorded as an asset and liability on the Council balance sheet.

Council may borrow for the following primary purposes:

- To fund special one-off type projects
- To fund expenditure for items of an intergenerational nature
- Short-term borrowing to manage timing differences between cash inflows and outflows
- To replace an unexpected loss in dividend or investment income

Key Funding and financing Parameters

		Annual Report		Forecast
		2020/2021	2020/2021	2021/2022
Rates income (\$million)	Limit	\$35	\$35	not assessed
	Actual	\$26.5	\$27.0	\$40.2
Rates increases	Limit	12%	7%	49%
	Actual	14%	2%	49%
Borrowing (group debt to revenue)	Limit	10%	10%	10%
	Actual	0%	0%	0.1%

Return on Investments

Council holds 100% ownership of Port Otago Limited and an investment managed fund.

The following information compares the return on investments with the quantified targets identified in the Financial Strategy - for the three years from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Port Otago Limited shares

The return on investment is expressed as the amount of dividend received for each year. The following table summarises the returns for the three-year period:

FINANCIAL YEAR	Targeted dividend \$000	Actual dividend \$000
2019/2020	\$7,900	\$9,500
2020/2021	\$10,100	\$10,100
2021/2022 (estimate)	\$13,000	\$13,000

Managed funds

Managed Funds comprises a portfolio of interest-bearing and equity investments.

FINANCIAL YEAR	Targeted return \$000	Actual return \$000
2019/2020	\$1,500	\$893
2020/2021	\$1,000	\$477
2021/2022 (estimate)	\$750	\$536

More information

Dunedin office - Philip Laing House

Monday to Friday. 8.00am to 5pm
Closed on public holidays.
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www.orc.govt.nz

Source documents and Otago Regional Council links:

Corporate planning documents such as annual reports, annual plans and the long-term plan 2021-31, which includes the Infrastructure Strategy and the Finance Strategy:
www.orc.govt.nz/plans-policies-reports/corporate-plans-and-reports

ORC's Local Government Statement 2020:

www.orc.govt.nz/our-council-our-region/our-council/local-governance-statement

Other information is available on our [website](#) including agendas and minutes of meetings; news and media releases; strategic directions; plans and strategies; and the draft Regional Policy Statement.

Bendigo, Central Otago



Promoting local democracy:

The Otago Regional Council needs people with enthusiasm, capability and commitment to the wellbeing of their community and region, and with a positive vision for the future. Will you stand to represent your fellow Otago residents and lead our region to a sustainable future? If you know someone with these qualities, please encourage them to put their hand up?

Local government elections will be held in October 2022. The people elected as councillors will lead Otago for the next three years, making pivotal local decisions that will affect our environment and communities in the years to come.

This is an opportunity to make a genuine difference for the place that you care about. Visit [VoteLocal](#) for more information about standing as a candidate in the 2022 local elections.

Key dates for 2022 local elections

**NOMINATIONS
OPEN**

**Friday
15 July**

**NOMINATIONS
CLOSE**

**Friday
12 August - noon**

ELECTION DAY

**Saturday
8 October - noon**

**FINAL RESULTS
BY**

**Saturday
19 October**

Will you stand for what matters to you?

STAND FOR THE OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

