

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 29 January 2014 following the Policy Committee meeting

Membership:	Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson)
	Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson)
	Cr Graeme Bell
	Cr Doug Brown
	Cr Louise Croot MNZM
	Cr Michael Deaker
	Cr Gary Kelliher
	Cr Trevor Kempton
	Cr Gretchen Robertson
	Cr Bryan Scott
	Cr David Shepherd
	Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 27 January.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES		Page Nos.
	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013, having been	
	circulated, for adoption	3 - 6

Matters arising from minutes



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ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1 2014/0572	Regulatory Report. DEMO, 8/1/14	7 - 14
	Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 19 October to 31 December 2013.	
Item 2		15 - 38
2014/0604	Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 17/1/14	
	Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 3 November 2013 to 17 January 2014.	
Item 3		39 - 42
2014/0565	RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DCS, 13/1/14	
	Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period.26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014.	
Item 4		43 - 44
2014/0591	Appointment of hearing commissioners. DPPRM, 17/1/14	
	Listing hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 17 January 2014.	

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OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 November 2013 commencing at 1.19 pm

Present:	Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson) Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson) Cr Graeme Bell Cr Doug Brown Cr Louise Croot MNZM Cr Michael Deaker Cr Gary Kelliher Cr Gretchen Robertson Cr Bryan Scott Cr David Shepherd Cr Stephen Woodhead
Leave of Absence:	Cr Trevor Kempton
In attendance:	Peter Bodeker Jeff Donaldson Fraser McRae John Threlfall Peter Taylor Marian Weaver Chris Shaw Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2013/1142 Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DRS, 8/11/13

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 3 August to 18 October 2013.

The last paragraph of the section relating to the Oceana Gold Ltd consent hearing was amended to read: *The proposed Coronation Pit consent hearing was held during this period. Assistance was provided to the*



Resource Management team during the <u>recommending report</u> consent writing process prior to the hearing to ensure <u>proposed</u> permits were in accordance with existing monitoring and reporting requirements.

The inspection of Ravensdown Fertiliser Works was noted and in response to a comment Mr Donaldson advised that a strategy group had been formed to manage the problem of dust being dropped into the harbour while ships were being loaded. He confirmed that consent conditions were being met.

It was noted that good progress was being made on water metering installation. Mr Donaldson commented that a number of takes were inactive, and there were also problems in some cases with identifying and locating owners.

In response to a question about new rabbit control methods, Mr Donaldson noted that it was unlikely that a new biological control tool would be introduced, and the cost and availability of suitable agents were also a barrier to accessing new controls. Staff were keeping up to date with RHD research in Australia but ORC was not assisting with funding. Central government was funding AgResearch to investigate rabbit control, and Mr Donaldson noted work being carried out on encapsulated cyanide. The main control tools were still pindone and sodium fluoroacetate.

It was noted that DoC was in breach of its rabbit control programmes in a number of areas. Mr Donaldson advised that the Good Neighbour rule affected government departments, and DoC would carry out control work when funding became available. He noted that in Central Otago DoC used pindone pellets, which reduced rabbit numbers but did not control the rabbit population.

Cr Woodhead moved Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2

2013/1150 Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DRM, 4/11/13

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 19 August to 1 November 2013.



Cr Croot moved Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 3

2013/1123 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.** DRM, 25/10/13

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The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 17 August to 25 October 2013.

Cr Shepherd moved Cr Scott seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4

2013/1160 Appointment of hearing commissioners. DRM, 7/11/13

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to November 2013.

Cr Shepherd moved Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 1.35 pm.

Chairperson





REPORT

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Subject:	Regulatory Report for the period 19 October to 31 December 2013
Date:	8 January 2014
	Sarah Ibbotson, Manager Environmental Data and Planning
	Scott MacLean, Manager Operations
Prepared By:	Martin King, Manager Environmental Services
Prepared For:	Regulatory Committee
Report No:	2014/0572

1. Water Quality and Quantity

A590873

1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

1.1.1 Water metering

Document Id:

Water meter installation information from consent holders and installers has been steady over the reporting period.



51% (up from 48% for the previous reporting period) of consents over 20l/s have now installed measuring equipment although some of these (primarily open channel takes) are still awaiting verification or need to supply correct documentation. There is still a shortage of qualified open channel verifiers in the Central Otago area, where the majority of open channel takes exist, however service providers are endeavouring to get as many sites verified as possible and are keeping the Council informed of progress. Site visits continue to be conducted as part of the consent audit process as equipment is installed. These visits provide an opportunity to confirm with the consent holder that they understand the conditions of their consent and the timing of when information needs to be provided to the Council.



33% of consent holders have provided information/contracts to the Council indicating that they have engaged a service provider; these are currently waiting to be installed. The Council is following up with a selection of these consent holders who supplied information some time ago to check that their timeframes provided are still on track.

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There are 51 consents out of 1075 with which exemptions are being processed. The majority relate to the Hawkdun Idaburn Irrigation Scheme. 4% of consents are due to be surrendered or cancelled, or have lapsed. 7% of consent holders have still not made contact with the Council to advise the progress of their installation. The Council has been contacting these consent holders, and in many cases progress has been made or the consents have not been in use for some time and are being assessed for cancellation. Site visits still need to be conducted at these locations to confirm that the water take is not in use.

1.1.2 Oceana Gold (NZ) Ltd

The Frasers Underground permits issued during the MPIII consenting process are now fully operative, with the old water take and discharge permits surrendered. Regular quarterly geotechnical monitoring was submitted and has been forwarded to Damwatch Engineering Ltd for review.

With the commencement of MPIII activities, there has been an associated increase in both monitoring sites, and sampling frequency. As a result some minor adjustments have been made to the sampling programme to ensure workloads are manageable.

The Frasers Waste Rock Stack extension consented as part of MPIII is scheduled for commencement in 2014. In accordance with consent requirements the Operations and Management Plan was submitted prior to construction for review. The new areas of rock stack are awaiting building consent, with further development on hold until this has been issued by the Waitaki District Council. Other performance monitoring requirements have been discussed with OGL and these plans are nearing completion.

1.2 State of the Environment Monitoring

Weekly water sampling of bathing beaches for contact recreation levels started at the beginning of December. Water samples at Lake Waihola are also being taken to assess toxic algae levels. These results are reported through the Technical Committee.

Fortnightly monitoring of Lake Hayes for trophic levels began in December. The electric fishing project to assess biological levels at key water quality monitoring sites began in December.

The region experienced low river flows during December with some rivers approaching water abstraction restriction levels.

A new flow monitoring station was established on the Owaka River at Katea Road. A replacement monitoring site for the Water of Leith at University Footbridge recorder which will be disestablished during the river channel works was installed at Leith Street.



A new permanent station for minimum flow monitoring was established on the Cardrona River at Albert Town.

Telemetry equipment was installed at the Morven Ferry groundwater monitoring station in the Wakatipu basin.

An external audit of the Environmental Services and Operations Quality Management System was carried out on 16th December, and the system was approved, with some minor recommendations, for another 12 months.

2. <u>Air Quality</u>

2.1 State of the Environment Monitoring

Monitoring programmes continued over the reporting period in Dunedin, Mosgiel and Alexandra.

2.2 Clean Heat project

Reduced level of installations, as expected at this time of year. 12 ORC subsidised installations of new approved clean heating appliances were completed for the Air Zone 1 towns of Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell.

3. <u>Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance</u>

3.1 Animal Pests

Inspections for compliance with the Pest Management Strategy for rabbits have been ongoing through this period for compliance with the maximum allowable level (MAL) which is 3 on the modified McLean Scale (MMS).

These inspections are both initial property inspections and also post operative compliance inspections following the 2013 poison season. Indications are that poisoning has been largely successful at bringing non compliant properties in line with the MAL and ongoing work will be required by landholders to maintain these gains. A small number of properties will be required to do additional work to become fully compliant and requests for amended rabbit control plans have been required in these instances.

Overall 7,698ha has been inspected covering 199 properties using both ground based inspections and aerial techniques. This includes the post operative inspections in Queensberry area (including the subdivision), initial inspections in the Lake Hayes area, and continuation of a systematic approach in the block Dublin Bay which includes areas between Albert Town and Hawea on the true right of the Hawea River.

A total of 34 rabbit control plans have been submitted during this period. There are also a large number of rabbit control plan requests in the administration process as a result of this work. Only one notice of direction has been required during this reporting period. Rabbit numbers are increasing in many of the more prone areas.



3.2 Plant Pests

3.2.1 Nassella Tussock Control

Monitoring of Nassella tussock was undertaken in the Cardrona and Roxburgh areas during this period. At this time of the year plants move into their reproductive stage with seed heads evident on mature plants, consequently this is a vitally important time for landowners to undertake control work and for monitoring by Council staff to be completed.

Roxburgh properties were inspected with few mature plants found which is a good result and a reflection of ongoing control being effective. Several properties in the Cardrona Valley were found to have moderate numbers of tussocks ranging in age from juveniles to mature seeding plants.

Several historic sites were revisited where plants had been removed previously. Of note at these sites was the number of small plants had germinated in the disturbed soil left by the grubbing of old plants.

A day was spent ranging the known property in North Otago. All areas were inspected on the property. No plants were found although the inspection was made difficult and visibility was hampered with very long grass present.

3.2.2 Gorse and Broom Surveillance

This period traditionally is the busiest in relation to complaints regarding boundary issues with gorse and broom flowering and becoming highly visible. This season has so far seen very few complaints and all have been in urban areas where we do not have any jurisdiction under the RPMS.

A decision was made not to undertake the aerial survey of the gorse and broom free area this year. Instead resources will be concentrated on known areas or properties where control work has been requested and requires follow up inspections.

The vast majority of landowners are aware of their obligations and have ongoing control operations in place. The focus will now be to concentrate on the historical problem areas which are mostly on the boundaries of the gorse and broom free zones.

3.2.3 Bomarea

The annual inspection programme for Bomarea is underway. While recent years' inspections have targeted non compliance, this year's inspections will be targeted across the complete database of known historical locations.

To date, 188 inspections have been completed with extremely positive results thus far. 76% of locations inspected have been found to be compliant. Non compliance remains at very low levels.

The inspection programme is scheduled to continue into early 2014 with all incidences of non compliance scheduled for re-inspection to check for successful Bomarea control.



Environmental Incident Response

4.1 **Environmental Incidents**

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Air

A total of 280 incidents were reported. The following is a summary of the incidents received by activity type.

11



84

Water

38

Other

The majority of the air incidents can be attributed to burnings, domestic chimneys and odour. The coastal incidents were to do with marine pollution and complaints about marine oil spill (road run off during storm events). The land incidents were attributed to land contamination. Concerns about fresh water quality were the cause of the majority of water incidents. The other types of incidents were a menagerie of concerns including navigational hazards, dead livestock, concerns from other authorities and proposed activities.

12

Land

22

Coast

4.



5 **Operations**

5.1 Contract Management

Three TBFreeNZ possum control contracts commenced during this reporting period (Millers Flat, Roxburgh and Naseby) and one contract was completed (Mosgiel). This contract was performance monitored upon completion and passed on the first monitor. One other contract (Crookburn) commenced prior to this reporting period and is due for completion at the end of January.

Several other TBFreeNZ possum contracts are due to commence in the coming weeks.

5.2 Engineering Field operations

The vacant Balclutha Engineering officer position was filled during this reporting period. Neville Gardner was appointed to the role, with commencement in January 2014.

All drain invert spraying and pest plant spraying throughout the region commenced during this reporting period. The on-going wet weather has meant progress is not as fast as at this time last year, however the programme is still on track. Several night shooting operations for rabbits throughout the floodbank network occurred during this reporting period.

A number of stock holes and erosion points in the floodbank network were repaired as necessary.

The willow clearing programme commenced prior to the Christmas break around the Middlemarch and Maniototo areas. A number of large debris dams were removed from various waterways in South Otago during this reporting period.

6 Recommendation

That this report be noted.

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Jeff Donaldson Director Environmental Monitoring & Operations

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Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)	
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REPORT

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A593250

Subject: Consent Processing, Consent Administration and Building Control Authority Update for the period 3 November 2013 to 17 January 2014

1. Project E.1 – Resource Consent Application Processing

1.1 Consents whose status has not changed since the last report are summarised in Appendix 1.

Applications

Document Id:

1.2 Publicly Notified Applications

RM13.024 – Dunedin City Council

The applications are to reclaim part of the coastal marine area to widen Portobello Road and Harington Point Road along the Otago Peninsula. The works are to complete the pedestrian and cycle path between Vauxhall and Harington Point. Applications are sought to reclaim, disturb, occupy and deposit rock material within the coastal marine area, erect a new seawall and to relocate a number of boatsheds and jetty's to accommodate the road widening. The existing seawall is to be entombed along both roads except in 3 locations where board walks are to be erected out from the existing wall to preserve the original wall. This has been agreed to by the Historic Places Trust. The application was notified Saturday 18th January 2014.

1.3 Pending Applications of interest.

RM13.423 – Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCWSG)

A working party has been established comprising MCWSG, Golder Associates and ORC staff. The aim of the working party is to develop a consenting strategy giving regard to existing mining privileges, individual water takes and irrigation options within the Manuherikia catchment.

RM13.428 – Dunedin City Council – Ocean Beach erosion protection

Pre-application discussions have been held with DCC and their consultants to discuss consent requirements for proposed coastal protection works and the potential disturbance of a contaminated site at Ocean Beach



1.4 Limited Notified Applications

RM12.436 - N S Moore - to construct a bridge across Waipori River

Written approval could not be obtained from Council's Engineering Unit (potential effects on the flood protection network in the area) and so the application was limited notified. Council's Engineering Unit provided a submission opposing the application. The application remains on hold to allow for mediation between the two parties.

RM13.299 – Pacific View Limited

To transfer the point of take and amalgamate two permits to take and use water from the Waikouaiti River. To install a gallery intake structure within the river. A hearing is set for this application on 14 February.

RM13.443 – Clutha District Council

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Heriot WWTP to the Heriot Burn. DoC, F&G, KTkO, PHS and adjoining neighbouring landowners were given limited notification at the applicant's request. Submissions close on 28 January 2014.

RM12.512 – James Peter Robertson

Application to replace water permits from the Cardrona River catchment in the Cardrona River main stem. Unconditional written approval from Otago Fish and Game Council could not be obtained. The application was limited notified on 22 October and submissions closed on 21 November 2013. A submission in conditional support was made by Fish and Game and agreement reached by all parties on conditions of consent. A decision was made be delegated Staff Panel authority on 25 November 2013.

RM13.445 – Opiki Cropping Limited

Application to replace a consent to take and use groundwater from the Pisa Alluvium Aquifer for the purpose of irrigation. The applicant requested limited notification of affected parties. Submissions close on 28 January 2014.

1.5 Decisions Pending

RM13.233 – Central Otago District Council

Applications to replace consents for the Bannockburn and Cromwell Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) including discharges to water, air and land (sludge). The applications were publicly notified on Wednesday 5 June 2013 and when submissions closed on Wednesday 3 July, six submissions had been received. One late neutral submission was received. A hearing was held in Cromwell on 16 December 2013 and a decision is pending.

RM12.378 – Oceana Gold Limited

Application for various consents related to the proposed Coronation Pit and associated waste rock stack. This application was publicly notified on 3 August in a joint process with both DCC and WDC. There were eight submissions: five neutral, one opposed and one in support. The applications were heard by a joint hearing panel between 9 and 14 October; the hearing closed on 1 November and the decision was released on 22



November 2013. The decision was appealed based on conditions on the associated TLA permits.

2. Objections

97544 - Buchanan

This is an objection to the cancellation of a water permit in Letts Gully, Alexandra. A report is being prepared for CE consideration.

3. Appeals to Environment Court

RM11.153 – Port Otago Limited

Port Otago Limited (the applicant) applied to replace Coastal Permit 2000.472 which expired on 1 December 2011. The proposal is to continue to dispose of dredge material at three existing inshore disposal sites for a further three years to allow monitoring of the effects of the discharge to occur. A decision was given on 17 July 2013 to grant the application subject to conditions. The decision was appealed by the Surf Break Protection Society, and mediation took place on 2 December 2013. The Environment Court issued a consent order on 18 December 2013 and the consent was issued by Council on 15 January 2014.

4. Consent Statistics

		Lodged			Decision Given						
			ations			Variations					
Reporting Period	Consents	Regular	Water reporting date	Rejected	Consents	Regular	Water reporting date				
2011/2012 Year Total	501	70	N/A	51	419	21	N/A				
2012/2013 Year Total	473	57	303	22	461	31	368				
2013/2014 Year Total	8	0	0	0	20	2	7				
8 July - 16 Aug 2013	50	4	7	3	36	4	11				
19 Aug - 1 Nov 2013	104	1	24	1	62	5	26				
3 Nov 2013 – 17 Jan 2014	117	7	1	3	119	6	1				

Table 1. Consents Statistics Summary

*Water permits are being varied to change the reporting date for measurement information, as the regulations have a reporting date that is different to that required in many water permits.



5. Consent Administration

Table 2. Consent Administration Statistics

Reporting Period	Transfers Received	Transfers Issued	S417 Certs Received	S417 Certs Issued
2011/2012 Year Total	141	189	8	4
1012/2013 Year Total	130	156	3	0
8 July to 16 August 2013	12	36	3	1
19 Aug to 1 Nov 2013	41	34	0	0
3 Nov 2013 to17 January 2014	17	12	5	0

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6. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

In Progress

Dam Building Consents	4
Code Compliance Certificates	5
PIM	0
Certificate of Acceptance	0

7. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 267 enquiries were received by the Consents Units during the reporting period.

Table 3. Public Enquiries Statistics

Period	Consent Public Enquiries
2011/2012 year	1866
2012/2013 year	1778
8 July to 16 Aug 2013	191
19 Aug to 1 Nov 2013	329
	267
YTD 13/14	787

8. Legislation

9. Matters of Interest

The Consents Department received two independent audits during December 2013. The first was undertaken by Hill Young Cooper Limited on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment to monitor the implementation of the RMA. The second was by Verification New Zealand to reassess the departments ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management accreditation. Good results were received for both audits. Copies of the audit reports are attached in Appendix 3 (note that the MfE audit is still a draft document).



10. Recommendation That this report is noted.

PP PCW Docl

Fraser McRae Director Policy Planning & Resource Management

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Appendix 1: Summary of applications that have not changed since the last report to the Committee

Applications

RM13.215 - Queenstown Lakes District Council

The applications are for the discharge of odour to air, and treated effluent to the Shotover River and then later, to land from the Queenstown waste water treatment plant in the Shotover delta. QLDC already holds permits for these activities but wishes to change the timing and method of the disposal to land. The applications were lodged on 17 May and publicly notified on 1 June. When submissions closed on 28 June there were four submissions; one in support and three opposed. A hearing was set down for 28/29 August but has been postponed while the applicant continues to negotiate with submitters. The Hearing Panel did a site visit on 22 August.

RM13.108 & RM13.251 – Southern Clams Limited

Applications have been lodged and rejected for the proposal by Southern Clams Limited (SCL) to establish a marine farm within Otago Harbour. SCL intends to occupy three locations or, approximately 12 hectares at any one time, of Otago Harbour (near Portobello and Goat Island) with piles, moorings, shellfish baskets and floatation buoys. It is intended that Bluff Oysters will be transported to Otago Harbour where they will be stored and settled in the baskets. Neither RM13.108 nor RM13.251 contained sufficient information to be able to process the application and were returned under Section 88 of the Act. Ongoing discussions with SCL continue regarding the re-lodgement of a third application. A draft pre-application document was expected for review by Council staff by mid September 2013. To date nothing has been received from Southern Clams Limited.

RM12.138 – Fish & Game - to dam water on the Takitoa Swamp.

Fish and Game have applied to place a structure and dam water on the Takitoa Swamp, which is a Schedule 9 Regionally Significant Wetland under Plan Change (PC) 2. Under PC2, the activities proposed are non-complying. Additional information is being sought before a decision on notification is made. The application is on hold under S.92.

RM12.066 – Environment Canterbury - to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River.

Environment Canterbury has applied for consents to allow them to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River. Numerous erosion protection measures are proposed over a 3 km stretch of river. DoC, Iwi, Fish and Game and owners of land on which the works are to take place are all considered to be affected parties. The application is on hold while other affected parties are identified. A decision on notification is pending.

RM12.051 – Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC)

QLDC have applied to take $30,000 \text{ m}^3$ (total) gravel from Moke Creek over 25 years. An affected landowner provided a submission in opposition in response to limited notification. The application is on hold to allow for mediation between the applicant and the submitter.



Objection

2000.264 – J K McArthur - Objection to cancellation

This permit was cancelled as it had not been used for more than five years. An objection has been lodged to the cancellation decision. A report has been drawn up and sent to the objector who is deciding their options. The objector's lawyer has put options before the objector to consider and a response is awaited.

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Appendix 2



Resource Consent Public Enquiry Report

For period 3 November 2013 to 16 January 2014

Report generated on 16 January 2014 at 4:16:55 p.m.

Total Number of 267 Enquiries

Enquiry Type	No.	% of Total
Current Consents	133	49.8 %
Mining Privileges	3	1.1 %
Other	19	7.1 %
Permitted Activities	50	18.7 %
Pre-application	44	16.5 %
Property Enquiries	15	5.6 %
TLA Enquiries	1	0.4 %
Transfers	2	0.7 %

Enquiry Location	No.	% of Total
Central Otago District Council	96	36 %
Clutha District Council	15	5.6 %
Dunedin City Council	38	14.2 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	43	16.1 %
Throughout Otago	4	1.5 %
Unspecified	42	15.7 %
Waitaki District Council	29	10.9 %

Enquiry Method	No.	% of Total
Counter	22	8.2 %
Email	130	48.7 %
Letter	1	0.4 %
Telephone	114	42.7 %



Appendix 3

Report

Audit of the Otago Regional Council responses to the 2012/13 Resource Management Act survey

23

November 2013



Disclaimer

Hill Young Cooper Ltd. Has prepared this report in accordance with the usual care and thoroughness of the consulting profession and for the use by the Ministry for the Environment. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report. It is prepared in accordance with the scope of work and for the purpose outlined in the signed contract dated **insert contract date**.

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The methodology adopted and sources of information used by HYC are outlined in this report. HYC has made no independent verification of this information beyond the agreed scope of works and URS assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies for omissions.

This report was prepared between October 2013 and December 2013 and is based on the information available at the time of preparation. HYC disclaims responsibility for any changes that may have occurred after this time.

This report should be read in full. No responsibility is accepted for use of any part of this report in any other context or for any other purpose or by third parties. This report does not purport to give legal advice.

Project name:	Audit of the Otago Regional Council responses to the 2012/13 Resource Management Act survey		
Document reference:	Otago Regional Council	Otago Regional Council Draft Report	
Date of this version:	22 November 2013		
Status of report:	Final Draft		
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1. Introduction

The Ministry for the Environment (MFE) commissioned Hill Young Cooper Ltd (HYC) to undertake an audit of council responses to the 2012/13 Resource Management Act (RMA) survey. This survey is undertaken by MFE every two years and is used to monitor the implementation of the RMA. It is an important part of a number of programmes that endeavour to measure the success of the RMA, including State of the Environment reporting initiatives. The purpose of the audit was to:

- Assess the extent to which key survey information was accurate
- Identify examples of good practice
- Identify opportunities for improvement

The survey information chosen by MFE to audit was:

- Resource consent application, including the number of consents processed, category (e.g. subdivision, discharge), type (e.g. notified, limited notified and non-notified), and number of further information requests.
- Timeliness, specifically the number of resource consents processed on time by consent type.
- Timeframe extensions, with the use of sections 37A(2)(a) and 37A(2)(b).
- Charges discount, including the number of consents subject to a discount and total value of discounts provided.
- Compliance monitoring, including the number of consents that required monitoring, number that were monitored and the number of monitored consents that did not comply with consent conditions.
- Plan changes and variations, including the number of local authority and privately initiated changes to operative plans.

In addition MFE sought the identification and quantification of the amount and type of costs and time incurred by each council responding to the survey. This includes costs and time required to



prepare systems and processes ahead of the monitoring year, and costs and time required to capture and report information at the end of the monitoring year.

The eight councils audited by HYC were:

- Ashburton District Council
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Hurunui District Council
- Kapiti Coast District Council
- Nelson City Council
- Otago Regional Council
- Ruapehu District Council
- Waikato Regional Council

This report is specific to the Otago Regional Council (ORC) audit. There are seven other individual council audit reports and an integrated main report that incorporates the results from all eight of the council reports.





2. Methodology

The methodology for the audit process is detailed in the main report. In summary the audit process involved the following steps:

- 1. Council selection for audit
- 2. Resource consent files selection
- 3. Audit of councils involved two principal processes:
 - Interviews with council staff to understand the processes used at each council, and
 - Auditing of selected files and associated consents database information.

The councils were selected by MFE using a number of criteria including geographical spread, whether they had been subject to a recent audit, and the need to have a representative selection of councils across the six groups identified in the survey (four territorial authority groups based on the number of resource consents processed, regional councils and unitary councils.

Prior to visiting each council, MFE obtained a list of all resource consents issued in the 2012/13 time period, which identified the type of consent (subdivision and land use for territorial authorities; and each of the regional council consent types), notification status (non-notified, public and limited notification), any requests for further information under section 92, and whether any extensions had been applied under section 37A.

HYC randomly selected 20 consent files from the list reflecting a representative sample the various types of regional council consents (i.e. water, discharge, coastal, land use). The number of consents audited reflected the scale and complexity of the applications and how consents were filed. A minimum of 10 files were audited at every council, and where available, included a minimum of 3 notified and 7 non-notified consent files. Also included in the sample were a range of consents where further information had been requested (section 92) and/or time extensions applied (section 37A).

Two days were spent at each local authority to undertake the audit. Structured interview questions and templates for data collection provided consistency. This information was not provided to councils prior to the audit visits. Local authorities were, however, informed of the nature of the questions to allow them to prepare for the audit visits.

A standard template was used to obtain information from the files reviewed and this information was checked against the consents record management database. Generally the database information was provided as a summary print out by consent, or in other cases information relating to the specific questions was obtained from the resource consents/IT administrator.

A number of staff were interviewed at each council to gain an understanding of their procedures for processing routine resource consents, compliance monitoring and plan changes. Interviews with council staff provided the opportunity to ask any outstanding



questions not already answered through the discussion on the various council processes. It also provided for clarification or reasons for any discrepancies found while auditing consent files.

Copies of procedures manuals, delegations manuals, templates, and additional policies were obtained from the councils at the time of the visit to assist in understanding of council processes.

The auditor 'shadowed' staff from the point of when a resource consent was lodged with the council, through to when a decision was sent to the applicant following granting of the resource consent. This ensured that when auditing the consent files the documentation required at each stage of the process could be identified on the file.





3. Individual council audit results

16 consent files were audited out of the total 359 resource consent applications processed (as defined by section 87 of the RMA) through to a decision in the 2012/13 period, making approximately 4 per cent of the total.

The survey information tables are included in Appendix 1. The information from those tables has been summarised and grouped in accordance with the MfE project brief requirements in the following sections.

3.1 Overview of council processes

Electronic files are identified as the primary and complete repository for all documents. This electronic filing system (Accela (Consents Database) and Objective (Documentation Management System)) was accessed for the audit. There are no hard copy files.

ORC processed 481 section 127 variations during the 2012/13 survey period. 451 of those variations were for water meter reporting in conditions of existing consents that were required to be varied as a result of the Water Metering Regulations 2010. These applications were processed by the Council free of charge.

Section 88 reviews are undertaken in a two stage process by administration staff and resource officers. Written approval requests are usually separated from section 92 requests. Note that written approvals are requested using section 88E.

ORC applies discounts in accordance with the Discount Regulations. The Council has an internal policy that all resource consent applications are processed within statutory timeframes. As such the Council, with the applicant's agreement, uses section 37 to assist in ensuring that the time frames are met. A formal decision template is used for this purpose. This is often used when draft conditions are sent to an applicant prior to issuing the final decision. During the 2012/13 survey period 57 per cent of s37A(4)(b)(ii) instances were at this draft condition stage.

3.2 Council data management systems

ORC used "Accela" during the 2012/13 period that resourced the information needed to respond to the RMA survey information.

This database is designed to collect information on the statutory timeframes to ensure resource consents are processed in accordance with the RMA. Consent monitoring is part of the same system and therefore, the audit was able to assess the accuracy of the survey responses by reviewing the material within the database.

ORC provided responses to the survey by primarily querying Accela and running various reports.

Plan changes are tracked using the Work Programme System, and plan change pages on the Council's website that update the stage of the process (e.g. submissions).



The key issues identified in individual files and from the overall resource consent information management systems were:

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- Sequential processing of stages (s91 followed s92 followed by 88E) with clock going on and off has the appearance of delaying process.
- Although section 37A decision documented and records applicant's agreement, in some cases only one delegated officer's signature.
- Similarly only one signature on s104 decision.
- Re-issuing of consents with technical errors should be done using section 133A.

3.3 Accuracy of the information provided to the survey

The following table summarises the estimated accuracy of information provided as part of the RMA survey based on the audit sample. In determining accuracy, the auditors also considered council policies, processes, and systems that could affect whether councils were correctly applying the RMA. The implications of any inaccuracies were then considered in terms of their significance in terms of RMA requirements, consent applicant and community expectations, wider RMA good practice and wider council risk management considerations.

Information audited	Level of accuracy identified from audit sample	Level of significance of any inaccuracies*
Resource consent information – number, category, type and number of further information requests	As all resource consent process data extracted directly from inputted data to Accela, data accurate. Accela has reporting programme to provide responses to RMA survey.	Not applicable
Timeliness – resource consents processed on time	Council has internal policy that all applications processed within statutory timeframes and section 37A used to comply with this policy. One consent audited consent was outside the statutory timeframe by 3 working days. All files audited appeared to have accurate timeframe recordings.	Minor
Timeframe extensions – use of section 37A(2)(a) and 37A(2)(b) of the RMA	Audit of the files indicate that use of s37A(4)(b)(i) and s37A(4)(b)(ii) appears to be applied accurately and documentation in the form of the signed decision report and reasons is documented. Absence of one of the two required signatures on decision report was only issue noted.	Minor
Charges discount – number of consents subject to a discount and the total value of discounts provided	Discount was applied to one consent at a value of \$8. This aligns with the one consent that was recorded as being processed out of time. While the application was on hold during s92 requests, s88E requests, and period to allow	Minor



Information audited	Level of accuracy identified from audit sample	Level of significance of any inaccuracies*	
	mediation between applicant and submitter, it appears that delay occurred in getting final decision out.		
Compliance monitoring – number of consents that required monitoring, number of consents that were monitored, and the number of consents that did not comply with conditions	Compliance monitoring by site not individual consent, and according to risk matrix. Of 615 consents reviewed by the Council, this equated to only 415 sites. Of all the files audited, all consents requiring inspections had been carried out, information to be supplied by consent holder (e.g. management plan) or timeframes entered within the database, for when inspections would occur in the future.	Not applicable	
Plan changes and variations – number of plan changes, number of private plan changes	No council initiated plan changes/variations or private plan changes were made operative in the time period. Plan changes are updated on the website as they go through the process.	Not applicable	

* The level of significance was determined to provide an indication for both MfE and the council of the significance of the issue. A rating of 'High' indicates that this should be a priority for action.

3.4 Examples of good practice

The Otago Regional Council demonstrated many examples of good practice, including the following:

- Applications scanned and electronic file set up and link emailed to processing officer enabling process to begin immediately as it does not rely on a hardcopy.
- Bring-up on written approvals at 20 working days.
- Accela produces daily updates (warning system) on outstanding tasks per consent and timeframes remaining used as management tool.
- Comprehensive consent processing manual. Includes training and practice note modules.
- Panel of four for all major resource consent decisions, requiring sign-off from two of that panel.
- Acknowledgment of receipt of application sent out for each application with reference to being accepted under s88 and completed within 5 working days of lodgement.



- Formal decision report for s37 extensions with required delegated authority for sign-offs and reasons.
- Development of specific process to deal with large number of applications associated with variation of conditions on water permits due to changes in NES.
- Proactive management of processing timeframes.
- Provision of draft conditions to applicants prior to issue of consent. Delegations on s357 to CEO for sign off, so assists in avoiding this process.
- Risk based assessment on compliance monitoring frequency.

3.5 Costs and Time for responding to Survey

Total costs for responding to the survey were estimated by the Council to be approximately \$2000 excluding GST, including staff time. Four staff were required to provide input to the response:

- Procedural Manager Consents
- Policy Manager
- Manager, Environmental Data and Planning
- Manager, Accounts

3.6 Council opportunities for improvement

The following opportunities for improvement are identified:

- At review of consent at the end of processing prior to final invoicing, include review of sign-offs by appropriate delegated officers to each decision stage to ensure they have been completed.
- Amend Accela to include the consent category "innominate".
- Review sequential use of s91, s92, s88E or 95E to ascertain if it is possible to address these matters concurrently.



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ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Assessment Report

Otago Regional Council – Policy Planning & Resource Management 17 December 2013



Regulatory Committee Agenda 29 January 2014



Executive Summary

General Conclusion on System Performance and Compliance with the Standard

This report summarises the findings of a triennial reassessment audit of the quality management systems in-place for the Otago Regional Council consents department. Since the last audit the council has undergone a minor restructure which has included the amalgamation of policy, building consent and resource consent teams. As such the official name for the department has changed to reflect the integrated elements: "Policy Planning & Resource Management". The scope of the certification has not changed as a result of the amalgamation; and continues to cover the limited scope of consents and consents advice. The audit reviewed all aspects of the management systems covered under the current scope including a review of consent processing procedures relating to consent #RM13.464. The department continues to implement and maintain its' mature management systems in accordance with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008 standard except where noted in this report.

The department has maintained certification for a number of years. A mature system is now in-place. Despite this, senior management continues to be proactive in the ongoing development of the system. In the past three years of certification this is most notably reflected in the development and implementation of the ACELLA electronic consents processing tool. This tool continues to function within the department and ensures that every aspect of the consent workflow is managed appropriately; including but not limited to the management of any statutory requirements. Other significant improvements over the past three years have been realised within aspects of internal systems auditing, objective setting and the recent move towards "open data" for the online access of live consent and other resource management related information by the public.

Overall a good result from this audit. Two minor conditions of certification have been raised. These represent maintenance type issues within the system, whereby, procedures have not been actively maintained or implemented. These conditions may be cleared within the timeframes provides within the assessment scope section of this report.

Achieving Objectives and Improvement Processes

The department establishes as set of objectives through its annual business plan. The objectives supplement the overarching council business planning process. In the past, objectives have often been general in nature and not easily measured. A focus on ensuring the effectiveness of objectives has been made over the past year and has resulted in more specific measurable targets having been established within the 2012/13 and 2013/14 plans.

Management Review and Internal Audit Performance

Review of the management system is completed through a range of meetings (annual management review, annual full team meeting and fortnightly review). Collectively these meetings ensure that all mandatory inputs within the ISO 9001:2008 standard are covered. Records of minutes were readily available for review and indicate the consistent implementation of management review procedures.

A documented audit programme has been established within the department. This process has, in more recent times, been simplified with an annual systems audit and six monthly consent audits (operational audits) now planned. This has removed confusion between manual reviews and critical audits of the systems in-place. A schedule was available for review along with audit records. The systems audit for 2013 appears robust and has highlighted a number of issues. This is a positive result for the department as it highlights the value which may be gained from this process in ensuring the ongoing implementation and delivery of the management system. It is recommended, that in future; these audits not only review the implementation of the quality manual elements but also include a review of the systems against the ISO 9001:2008 standard itself. This will further enhance the systems audit process. Audits of consent processing activity continue to function; some delays

Verification New Zealand

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against the audit schedule were noted, however, this has been rectified and the programme now back in-line with documented requirements.

Changes to the Organisation, Key People or Processes

There have been no major changes to key people or processes since the last audit. A minor restructure has led to the name change for the department (now known as Policy Planning & Resource Management). This has meant that a number of function already present within the council such as building consent and policy development have been merged. These elements remain outside the scope of this certification.

Complaints, Corrective and Preventive Action Processes

All instances of non conformance (as well as improvements) are captured within the departments IIF system. This process ensures that records of actions taken in-relation to non-conformance are maintained as required by the ISO 9001:2008 standard. The majority of items within the system reflect procedural change or improvements, however, where relevant non conformances have been identified and clear records of corrective and/or preventive actions taken maintained. This process continues to provide value to the department in optimising its operations and the management systems in-place.

Sites, Departments or Shifts Assessed

This audit reviewed all system elements in addition to a review of consent processing procedures relating to Consent #RM13.464).

Use of Certification Logo

An older version of the Verification NZ logo is in-use. The logo is typically found on letter documentation/forms held within the ACELLA software system. An updated logo pack will be provided to the council.

Previous Audit Report

The previous audit report was reviewed and confirmed the appropriate closure of the conditions raised.

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Conditions/Corrective Action Request

Critical

No.	Detail of Non-Conformity	
	NIL	

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Major

viajor		
No.	Detail of Non-Conformity	
	NIL	

Minor

No.	Detail of Non-Conformity
C 1	The departments training record has not been maintained and, as such, no longer reflects the competencies held by some staff. In some cases, senior consent officers are shown as not having been assessed against any of the key competencies/training modules identified by the department (e.g. Natasha Pritchard). Implement training procedures for the training of staff against identified competency requirements. Maintain records as required by the ISO 9001:2008 standard.
C2	Document control procedures within the quality manual require that a description of the changes made to documents (as a result of version updates etc) is recorded within the Objective system. A review of a number of procedures within the consents procedures manual indicated, that whilst version numbers had advanced, no description of the changes made had been retained as required by current procedures (e.g. Ch.16, 19 & 32). Implement document control procedures (2.2 QM) or review for adequacy.

Recommendations

- R1 A number of older IIFs remain open within the system. Some of these date back to 2012. In most cases these issues are no longer relevant or have been resolved. It is strongly recommended that a review of open items is undertaken and IIFs closed to ensure this system remains current.
- R2 It is recommended, that in future; internal systems audits not only review the implementation of the quality manual elements but also include a review of the systems against the ISO 9001:2008 standard itself.
- R3 The staff training record includes a number of staff which no longer work for the department. It is recommended that these records are removed from the matrix.

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Standard Matrix ISO 9001:2008

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CLAUSE	COMPLIES	CLAUSE	COMPLIES
QMS GUIDELINES		7.2.3 Customer communication	~
4.1 General Requirements	~	7.3.1 Design and development planning	NA
4.2.1 General	1	7.3.2 Design and development inputs	NA
4.2.2 Quality Manual	~	7.3.3 Design and development outputs	NA
4.2.3 Documentation Requirements	C2	7.3.4 Design and development review	NA
4.2.4 Control of Records	1	7.3.5 Design and development verification	NA
MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY		7.3.6 Design and development validation	NA
5.1 Management Commitment	1	7.3.7 Control of design and development changes	NA
5.2 Customer Focus	~	7.4.1 Purchasing process	~
5.3 Quality Policy	1	7.4.2 Purchasing information	~
5.4.1 Quality objectives	~	7.4.3 Verification of purchased product	~
5.4.2 Quality management system planning	1	7.5.1. Control of production & service provision	~
5.5.1 Responsibility & authority	~	7.5.2 Validation of processes for production and service provision	~
5.5.2 Management representative	1	7.5.3 Identification and traceability	~
5.5.3 Internal Communication	~	7.5.4 Customer property	1
5.6.1 Management review – General	~	7.5.5 Preservation of product	~
5.6.2 Review Input	~	7.6 Control of monitoring and measuring equipment	~
5.6.3 Review output	4	MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS & IMPROVEMENT	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		8.1 General	~
6.1 Provision of resources	×	8.2.1 Customer satisfaction	1
6.2.1 General	~	8.2.2 Internal audit	R2
6.2.2 Competence, awareness & training	C1,R3	8.2.3 Monitoring and measurement of processes	~
6.3 Infrastructure	1	8.2.4 Monitoring and measurement of product	~
6.4 Work Environment	~	8.3 Control of nonconforming product	~
PRODUCT REALISATION		8.4 Analysis of data	~
7.1 Planning of product realisation	~	8.5.1 Continual improvement	~
7.2.1 Determination of requirements related to product	~	8.5.2 Corrective action	R1
7.2.2 Review of requirements related to product	~	8.5.3 Preventive action	R1

Verification New Zealand

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REPORT

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Document Id:	A590167
Report No: Prepared For: Prepared By: Date:	2014/0565 Regulatory Committee Peter Kelliher, Legal Counsel 13 January 2014
Subject:	Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014

1. Précis

This report details Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council during the period 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014.

2. Enforcement Action under the Resource Management Act 1991

a) Consent Auditing (Project C4)

No enforcement action taken.

b) Consent Performance Monitoring (Project C4)

No enforcement action taken.

c) Permitted Activity Rules - Inspections (Project C4)

Table 1. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	1	1
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule	4	4
TOTAL	5	5

Table 2. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	1	1
TOTAL	1	1



d) Incidents (Project S5)

Table 3. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	0	11
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	1	2
Failing to provide details as required by section 22 of the RMA	0	1
Occupation of the common marine and coastal area	0	1
Disturbing the bed of a river - pugging	1	1
TOTAL	2	16

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Table 4. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Disturbing the bed of a river – mechanical excavation	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	2
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials; and – burning at a landfill	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water - effluent	0	2
TOTAL	0	6

Table 5. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
To remove obstructions from a dam overflow inlet structure	0	1
To undertake remedial works on a dam	0	1
To cease the display of advertising signage in the common marine and coastal area	1	1
TOTAL	1	3



3. Biosecurity Act 1993

One Notice of Direction was issued during the period. The Notice required rabbits on the occupier's property be destroyed.

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4. Building Act 2004

One Notice to Fix was issued with respect to earth embankment dams in the Otago region. The Notice was issued for building work that did not comply with the New Zealand Building Code.

5. Recommendation That this report be noted.

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Fraser McRae Director Policy Planning and Resource Management





REPORT

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Subject:	Appointment of hearing Commissioners to 16 January 2014
Date:	17 January 2014
Prepared By:	Committee Secretary
Prepared For:	Regulatory Committee
Report No:	2014/0591
Document Id:	A592589

1. Précis

Under the Resource Management Act, consent hearing commissioners must be appointed by the Council. The Commissioner Appointment Subcommittee has this function and reports to the Regulatory Committee. The appointments made in this reporting period are set out in this report.

2. Meeting 9 to 15 January 2014 (by email)

Present	Crs Woodhead and Robertson, Mr Bodeker
Applicant	Otago Regional Council
Appn. Nos. /	Water of Leith:
activity	RM13.441 - to vary conditions relating to how normal working hours
	are defined
	RM13.476 - to place a temporary bridge over the Water of Leith
Motion	Moved Cr Woodhead, seconded Mr Bodeker
Appointment	Cr Shepherd

3. Meeting 9 to 15 January 2014 (by email)

Q	
Present	Crs Woodhead and Robertson, Mr Bodeker
Applicant	Pacific View Ltd
Appn. No.	RM13.299
Activity	To change the point of take of Water Permit 2001.783 and to install a gallery intake structure within the bed of the Waikouaiti River, for the purpose of irrigation.
Motion	Moved Cr Woodhead, seconded Mr Bodeker
Appointment	Crs Robertson (Chair) and Neill



4. Meeting	g 17 January 2014
Present	Crs Woodhead and Robertson, Mr Bodeker
Applicant	Otago Regional Council
Appn. No.	RM14.004
Activity	To drill over the Kakanui-Kauru Alluvium Aquifer for the purpose of carrying out groundwater investigations.
Motion	Moved Cr Woodhead, seconded Mr Bodeker
Appointment	Cr David Shepherd

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4. Recommendation That the report be noted.

PP

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Fraser McRae Director Policy Planning and Resource Management