

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 29 January 2014 commencing at 4.02 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2013/1105 **2013 Air Quality Results.** DEHS, 16/1/14

The report presented Otago's ambient air quality monitoring results for 2013 and examined them in relation to these milestones. Deborah Mills, Resource Scientist Air Quality, was present for this item.

It was noted that air quality targets in a number of Otago towns had not been met, due to climate, environmental and economic factors and to the time needed for behavioural change to take place. Communities were aware of the impact of poor air quality on people's health. It was suggested that education and communication campaigns needed to be reviewed.

It was pointed out that that there had been some progress, although not as much as had been hoped, and it was suggested that discussions be held with other South Island councils, with a view to making an approach to government.

Ms Mills agreed that it was disappointing that the targets had not been met. She suggested it would be appropriate to review and update the projections and assumptions made in 2006/07, and different scenarios could then be presented to Council for consideration.

A question was raised about levels of assistance for installing compliant heat sources. Mr Donaldson explained that there were two scales of subsidy – those with community cards and those without. He also noted the example of Arrowtown, where financial support was provided through a local trust with some QLDC input. It appeared that there was a misunderstanding that the only options were heat pumps or gas or pellet fires, and more education was needed on this aspect of the project.

Cr Robertson suggested it would be useful to revisit information on the health effects of poor air quality, and also suggested that an approach be made to central government to reinstate the subsidies. Ms Mills noted current discussions with Public Health South on this issue, and stated that specific links between air quality and health would be included.

The quality of fuel used in wood burners was noted as a potential problem.

Cr Bell suggested it would be useful for this report to be presented to the Alexandra and Cromwell community boards, and the Central Otago, Queenstown Lakes and Clutha district councils. The support of the district councils was important if an approach was to be made to central government. In response to a question about approaches used by centres with similar topography to Alexandra, Ms Mills advised that other

countries looked at improved technologies which would result in improvements but possibly not meet the NES.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the state of air quality in Otago be noted.*
3. *That the information in this paper be used to inform the planned review of the current air quality management strategy.*

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1
2014/0587 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 14/1/14

The report described progress with Council's flood protection, land drainage and river management programmes, and the management of natural hazards and civil defence and emergency management, and provided an overview of surface water and groundwater science programmes.

ORC attendance at A&P shows was discussed, and Mr Bodeker suggested that an eye-catching display was needed to attract people to the ORC stand. It was agreed that attendance at A&P shows was a good idea, in alternating years.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kempton seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 4.37 pm

Chairperson

