

Our Ref A610586

Committee meetings Thursday 13 March 2014

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Thursday 13 March commencing at 9.00 am. The venue is the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin.

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OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee to be held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 9.00 am**

Membership:

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

Apologies: **Cr Graeme Bell**

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Tuesday 11 March.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0688 **Expiring Contracts and Corstorphine Services.** DCS, 26/2/14

The report notes that in order to ensure continuity of services and to obtain the necessary NZTA approval for changes to two Corstorphine bus services, Council needs to decide whether or not to proceed with any or all of the service improvements proposed. Options are included in the report.

Item 2

2014/0677 **2014/15 Draft Annual Plan.** DCS, 24/2/14

The proposed 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan has been completed and is submitted for consideration and approval for consultation by the Finance and Corporate Committee. The Draft Plan is circulated with the agenda. A Summary of Proposal is being prepared, which represents the key items from the full document.

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2014/0689 **Executive Report on Progress.** DCS, 26/2/14

The report describes significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

PART C - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subjects to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 4	Passenger Transport Operational Matters	To enable any local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations. LGOIMA S7(2)(i)	S.48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee
held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 29 January 2014 commencing at 2.42 pm**

Present:

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

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0607 **Managed Fund – Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives.**

DCS, 20/1/14

The Council's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives was attached for consideration and adoption by Council. Alex Newdick and Grant Batchelor, BNZ, were in attendance for this item.

In response to a query raised about the amount held in Council investments, Mr Scott pointed out that before the end of June a loan repayment of \$10m would be required, and he also noted the programmed considerable expenditure on the Leith Flood Protection Scheme.

It was noted that Council investments were detailed in the Annual Plan, and Mr Scott advised that a report on investments would be prepared for Council.

Mr Scott explained in response to a question about ethical investment of funds that fund managers provided information about classes of asset, not individual shareholdings.

A question was raised about the fixed interest target of 65% of the fund total, and Mr Scott explained that the SIPO was predicated on conservatism, and noted that cash formed a majority of the holding. He further noted that the managed fund now totalled \$17.7m, and all interest and dividends were transferred into reserves and to reduce the general rate.

In response to a question Mr Scott noted that the SIPO provided for an annual review, and also noted that the document formed part of the treasury management policy. A correction was needed to replace any reference to Forsyth Barr, Council's former fund manager, with the term 'managed fund'.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Croot seconded

- (1) *That the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives attached to report 2014/0607 be adopted.*
- (2) *That the adopted policy be incorporated into the Council's treasury management policy.*
- (3) *That any specific references in the Treasury Management Policy to Forsyth Barr be reworded appropriately.*

Motion carried

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 2

2014/0598 **Passenger Transport Operations Update – Patronage, Student Fare Concession Trial, and Journey Planner.** DCS, 17/1/14

The report provided an update on passenger trips for the Dunedin network, the tertiary student fare concession trial, and the implementation of the journey planner for Dunedin. Mr Scott explained that the report provided a comparison with the previous year's patronage, and information on the student fare concession and Saturday services, as requested by the Committee.

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 3

2014/0601 **Executive Report.** DCS, 17/1/14

The report described significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate section since November 2013.

The Draft Annual Plan was being prepared for consideration at the 11 February workshop.

Council's submission on the Local Government Amendment Bill would be presented to the 12 February Council meeting. A question was raised about the provision for people who presented views to a local authority to have access to a record of the relevant decisions made. Mr Scott explained that this related mostly to written submissions, and would allow staff to send out copies of the decision rather than having to respond individually to each point made by each submitter.

Mr Scott advised that completion of the new Cromwell depot was expected in early April, and he noted that being able to move staff to an alternative site during the construction period had allowed good progress on the build.

It was noted that Councillors had agreed to seek approval from the Remuneration Authority to amend the remuneration model in terms of the proportion of payments to committee chairs and deputy chairs. Mr Scott advised that in their recent letter the Authority had approved the expenses policy, and had advised that a separate reply would be sent relating to the regime issue.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Scott seconded

- (1) *That this report be received.*
- (2) *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule, totalling \$15,432,924.79, be endorsed.*

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A607030

Report No: 2014/0688
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee
Prepared By: Manager Support Services
Date: 26/02/2014

Subject: Expiring Contracts and Corstorphine Services

1. Précis

Two of Council's passenger transport service contracts expire 30 June 2014. Proposed changes to the services contained within these contracts were presented to a Council workshop on 29 January 2014. In order to ensure continuity of services and to allow staff to obtain the necessary NZTA approval for contract extensions and variations, Council needs to decide whether or not to proceed with any or all of the service improvements proposed. Options are included in this report.

2. Background

Two of the Dunedin Urban Contracts held by DPT/Citibus are scheduled to expire on 30 June 2014 being the Harbourside (Peninsula, Port Chalmers, and Waverley) and City Routes 1 (Garden Village/Glenleith, Ocean Grove/Bay Cemetery, Maori Hill/Prospect Park/University and Bradford/Belleknowes/City Rise/University) contracts.

Under normal circumstances these contracts would be tendered, however, due to the changes in the Land Transport Management Act and in the absence of a new Regional Passenger Transport Plan adopted under the revised legislation, Council is required to negotiate extensions for those expiring contracts with the incumbent operator. These legislative provisions were put in place by the Crown to provide protection to incumbent operators while Councils transition to the new Passenger Transport Operating Model.

Furthermore, Council will be required under NZTA's procurement manual to obtain NZTA approval for the extensions and any variations.

With the scheduled expiry of the contracts and the need to ensure there is adequate time to gain formal approval from NZTA, negotiate the extensions, inform the public, print timetables, and to formalise the funding requirements for the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan, we are now in a position where Council must decide if it wishes to either implement any service changes or just extend the existing contracted services as they are currently operated.

At a Council workshop on 29 January 2014, policy staff presented proposed changes to the timetable and network relating to services contained within the expiring contracts, and some suggested improvements to the Corstorphine services. The changes put forward by staff were developed as a result of public consultation resulting in an additional 114,000 service kilometres per annum being proposed. A summary of the proposed changes presented at the workshop is attached see appendix 1.

It is noted that the planned approach was that proposed changes have no or minimal changes to total service kilometres.

Planning staff estimate the cost of the changes and the market repositioning of the Harbourside contract will result in an annual increase on contract costs of approximately \$1M. Planning staff have indicated that they believe this increase can be partially offset in subsequent years by a rationalisation of the Southern Routes Contract services, however this work is yet to be completed or consulted on.

At the time of writing this report, discussion on the proposed changes has not occurred with NZTA. Preliminary discussions are scheduled for 28 February after which we will get a preliminary indication of the local office view on the proposed changes.

3. Corstorphine Services

Councillors are advised that a petition has recently been received from residents of Corstorphine, Kew and St Clair Park in relation to their services, which were changed with effect from 1 July 2013.

The petition contained 362 signatures and the vast majority requested that the services revert to those used in 2012 until routes and timetables that best suit all the residents of those suburbs are developed.

All three options include revised services similar to the 2012 service schedules, with a more simplified route structure.

4. Fare Box Recovery Rate

Planning staff have advised on the potential implication of the changes on the fare box recovery rate as a result of the changes proposed at the Councillor workshop.

The projected fare recovery for the Dunedin network is:

Year	Dunedin Network
2013/14	51%
2014/15	45.4%
2015/16	46.6%

It is noted there is a proposed fare increase in the Long Term Plan for the 2015/16 financial year, and further, that a full fare review is part of the RPTP planning currently underway.

5. Options

There are a number of options available to Council with regard to the extension of the existing contracts and proposed changes presented at Council workshop, all of which will require NZTA approval/endorsement. The options are as follows:

a. *Implement the changes as proposed.*

Positives: This option provides for changes to the network having considered community feedback. The public would receive the immediate benefits of the changes including simplified route structure, more frequent services and improved reliability.

Negatives: Existing contract value cannot be used as the base line for negotiations due to the substantive change in service kilometres. Contract value will be set in the absence of competition. Savings in service kilometres required in subsequent years may not come to fruition with an increased operating cost needing to be sustained for a longer period.

b. *Roll over existing contracts until new network design is complete to the extent that projected service kilometres can be confirmed, and implement the Corstorphine changes.*

Positives: Existing contract value can be argued as the basis for extensions of the expiring contracts. Corstorphine Contract price is able to be used as the base for the change in those services. New services will be able to be implemented by competition when new RPTP is in place. Entire network service kilometres will be known.

Negatives: 12 month delay in public receiving any benefit of the proposed changes other than Corstorphine. Community disappointment (expectation may have been created through public consultation process). Delay in any related patronage gains resulting from the improvements.

c. *Negotiate variations to implement proposed Corstorphine, Waverley, Garden Village, and Roslyn changes.*

Positives: Strong argument for using existing contracts as the basis for negotiations as there is a net reduction in service kilometres. Provides for many of the changes expected by the community from the consultation process. Allows time to confirm overall network kilometres before implementing substantive changes. Deals with existing operational timing issues. No delay in receiving benefits of patronage gains from the improvements implemented.

Negatives: 12 month delay in public receiving all the benefits of the proposed changes for Peninsula and Port Chalmers. Community disappointment (expectation may have been created through the public consultation process). Delay in any related patronage gains resulting from the improvements not implemented.

6. Costs and Funding

Provision has been included in the estimates for estimated cost increases for the renegotiation of the Harbourside and City Routes 1 contracts – options (b) and (c).

Additional costs and rating would be required to implement the full suite of changes – option (a).

This financial modelling of all three options includes a \$100,000 rates smoothing input from the transport reserve.

(The current 2013/14 financial period rating for Dunedin passenger transport is \$3,204,000).

Option (a) – Targeted rates requirement \$3,482,000. Rates increase 8.64%.

Options (b) and (c) – Targeted rates requirement \$3,232,000. Rates increase 0.84%.

6. Recommendation

- (1) This report be received.
- (2) That the Council implement:
 - i. The network changes as presented to the Council workshop on 29 January 2014 through negotiated contract extensions and variations – option (a); or
 - ii. Negotiated extensions for the continued provision of the existing contracted services for those contracts expiring 30 June 2014 and the variations required to implement the changes to the Corstorphine services presented to the Council workshop on 29 January 2014 – option (b); or
 - iii. Negotiated extensions and variations to the contracts expiring 30 June 2014 including the variations to the Waverley, and Garden Village, Roslyn and the variations to the Corstorphine contract as presented to the Council workshop on 29 January 2014 – option (c).

(Note: NZTA approval required for whichever option is adopted.)

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

Appendix 1

Summary of Proposed Changes presented at workshop 29 January 2014

Harbourside Contract

Port Chalmers – Option (a) only

- Paired with Peninsula
- City terminus changed from New World to the Exchange using Princess and George Streets instead of Cumberland and Castle Streets
- Regular frequency - 30/60
- One route, no variations
- Saturday extension beyond Stevenson Ave in Sawyers Bay removed
- Poorly patronised evening services have been rationalised – i.e. 2 services become 1 service
- Ravensbourne has a separate service
- Approx. 40% increase in annual service km
- Services per week increases from 65 to 82.

Peninsula – Option (a) only

- Paired with Port Chalmers
- City terminus changed from New World to the Exchange using Princess and George Streets instead of Cumberland and Castle Streets
- Regular frequency - 30/60 min
- All services go to Harwood
- Harington Point retains existing services, but on a better timetable
- One variation – Marion St
- Approx. 35% increase in annual service km
- Services per week increases from 56 to 69

Waverly – Option (a) and (c) only

- Route change
 - Musselburgh Rise in lieu of Portobello Road
 - No link to Highcliff Road
- Simplify the end terminuses
- Removes a safety concern
- Add more time in the timetable
- 30 min peak, hourly off peak services
- Approx. 15% increase in annual service km
- Services per week increase from 77 to 89

City Routes 1 Contract

Garden Village/Ocean Grove – Option (a) and (c) only

- To be re-named Ross Creek
- The route remains the same
- Buses will not wait up at Garden Place, only in Ocean Grove
- A new hourly Saturday service
- Approx 20% increase in service km
- Services per week increase from 48 to 73

Roslyn – Option (a) and (c) only

- To be operated as 2 alternating loops using Stuart, Arthur, Rattray and Ross Streets
- Sat services change to Evening/Sunday loop
- Sat services reduced to hourly, not half hourly
- Approx. 21% decrease in annual service km
- Services per week reduce from 102 to 68

City Routes 3 Contract

Corstorphine – Option (a) (b) and (c)

- Similar timetable to that pre July 2013
- Remove Murray/Skibo/Lockerbie St variation
- Remove Hillhead Rd extension (introduced July 2013)
- Reduce frequency around St Clair Park
- Start the 6.20am service at Corstorphine
- Retain Sutcliffe Street extension (introduced July 2013)
- Approx. 13% decrease in annual service km's
- No change in the number of services per week

REPORT

Document Id: A606046

Report No: 2014/0677

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee

Prepared By: Corporate Analyst

Date: 24 February 2014

Subject: 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan

1. Précis

The proposed 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan (“the draft plan”) has been completed and is submitted for consideration and approval for consultation by the Finance and Corporate Committee. It has been enclosed separately with the agenda. A Summary of Proposal is being prepared, which represents the key items from the full document.

2. Draft Annual Plan

The project sheets and estimates have been discussed at Council workshops, and details are now incorporated into the draft plan. The draft plan generally provides for a continuation of the Council’s activities as proposed in the 2014/15 year of the 2012-22 Long Term Plan (“LTP”). Discussed below are significant items included in the plan.

2.1 Implementing Regional Plan: Water, Plan Change 6A – Water Quality

A number of initiatives are proposed in the draft plan to assist land owners with implementing the provisions of Plan Change 6A. Proposals include the following:

- undertake region wide promotion and education about the plan change,
- work with the dairy and forestry industries to assist identifying key water quality issues and encouraging implementation of best practice,
- establish monitoring farms to measure compliance, and
- identify tools and develop techniques to enable land owners to measure water quality.

This is a significant project and will be undertaken by staff across a number of Council directorates.

2.2 Implementing Regional Plan: Water, Plan Change 1C – Water Quantity

The draft plan includes proposals to assist the implementation of Plan Change 1C, which focuses on the availability of water. A number of further plan changes are intended with respect to minimum flows and allocation regimes for various rivers and aquifers in Otago. Initiatives to assist implementing the plan change include:

- liaising with communities, iwi, irrigator groups and others to develop community awareness of water use and options for group formation,
- facilitate options for replacing existing consents and deemed permits in certain catchments, and

- undertaking investigations for minimum flow, ground water resource management and allocation limits.

2.3 Land

Within the land activity two new initiatives are proposed, the first being to develop a biodiversity strategy. This strategy is intended to draw together all of the biodiversity work currently being undertaken by Council, and assist with planning its role in biodiversity in the future.

The second initiative is the development of a South Island Pest Management Plan. This work will be done in conjunction with other South Island Council's and will provide a collaborative approach to dealing with pest animals and plants.

3. Group Activities

Group activity for the 2014/15 year is noted as:

	Activity Group	Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 \$000's	Annual Plan 2013/14 \$000's	Long Term Plan 2014/15 \$000s
	Water	5,187	4,934	4,635
Note 1	Air Quality	753	1,147	1,543
Note 2	Land	2,514	2,072	2,176
Note 3	Regulatory	3,115	3,370	4,078
	Regional Policy Statement	899	669	791
Note 4	Governance & Community	3,619	15,386	3,919
Note 5	Flood Protection & Control Works	7,983	8,685	9,109
	River & Waterway Management	986	1,016	1,013
	Environmental Incident Response	961	1,043	1,017
	Natural Hazards	1,040	1,032	1,017
	Emergency Management	415	378	326
Note 6	Transport	11,119	8,626	9,577
Note 7	Capital	1,478	740	610
	Total Expenditure	40,069	49,098	39,811

Note 1 – Air Quality

The air quality activity is made up of air monitoring, planning and the clean heat clean air initiative. The primary change in draft estimates is in relation to the clean heat clean air project. The LTP assumed that Council would continue to receive grant funding from EECA towards this initiative, however this funding ceased in 2013. The draft plan provides for the installation of clean heating appliances in 160 homes in Airzone 1 and Milton.

Note 2 - Land

The increase in estimated expenditure relates to the two new initiatives discussed previously, the development of a biodiversity strategy and South Island Pest Management Strategy, and also a proposed increase in the work undertaken by Regional Services, noting that this work will be funded by fees and charges.

Note 3 – Regulatory

This activity includes resource consent processes, compliance monitoring, dam safety and harbour management projects. The reduction in budget is primarily in relation to the resource consenting activity. Fewer consent applications are expected to be received than that planned for in both the LTP and compared to the 2013/14 year.

There is a small decrease in the compliance monitoring estimated costs within this regulatory activity, due to the inclusion of some compliance work on prohibited and permitted activities in the water quality section of the draft plan.

Note 4 – Governance & Community

The 2013/14 estimates are considerably higher than the draft plan estimates, as they include the repayment of the stadium loan, being \$10 million plus interest of \$555,000, and the payment of a \$1 million irrigation grant, both of which are not estimated for in the 2014/15 year.

Note 5 – Flood Protection & Control Works

Within this activity approximately \$5 million of estimated costs relate to the Leith Flood Protection Scheme. It is intended that Council complete flood hazard mitigation works between Dundas Street and St David Street during the 2014/15 year.

Note 6 - Transport

Included in the transport activity is a new initiative to provide for three stock truck effluent disposal sites. This has been estimated to cost \$900,000 and is proposed to be funded from reserves.

The estimates assume that the contract price for bus services in Dunedin will increase by approximately \$420,000 from 2013/14 with the roll over of a contract that is due to expire in June 2014. To fund the increase, the draft plan provides for \$100,000 to be funded from reserves, \$210,000 to be funded from grants, and the balance from targeted rates. Savings in other areas has resulted in the targeted rates needing to be increased by approximately \$30,000. The targeted rate is proposed to be \$3,231,000 compared to \$3,204,000 in 2013/14, an increase of 0.84%.

Provision in the draft plan estimates has been made on the basis of ‘option (b) or option (c) in report 2014/0688 “Expiring Contracts and Corstorphine Services”. Adoption of ‘option (a)’ would increase the costs and rating as outlined in that report.

New Zealand Transport Agency is working on an initiative to develop a national electronic ticketing system. Councils are being asked to contribute to the cost of this system over a number of years. The draft plan provides for a contribution of \$500,000 for the 2014/15 year, to be funded from reserves. Note is made that further contributions will be required beyond 2014/15.

Note 7 - Capital

A number of IT projects planned for the 2014/15 year have resulted in an increase in estimated expenditure compared to the LTP and the 2013/14 year. Projects include open data enhancements for natural hazards information, upgrading / replacing our Asset Management System, completing a financial system upgrade and purchasing a system for tracking engagement with our ratepayers and customers.

4. Revenue Sources

Proposed revenue sources for the 2014/15 financial period are:

		Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 \$000's	Annual Plan 2013/14 \$000's	Long Term Plan 2014/15 \$000s
	General Rates	5,027	4,904	4,905
Note 8	Targeted Rates	8,516	10,728	7,795
Note 9	Grants	6,030	4,284	5,744
	Rental / Investment Income	766	748	780
	Fees & Other Income	4,532	4,764	5,140
	Dividends	7,400	7,200	7,400
Note 10	Interest Income	2,137	1,085	1,300
Note 11	Borrowing	-	-	5,000
Note 12	Reserves	4,840	14,501	882
	Kuriwao Reserves	250	250	250
	Internal Recoveries	571	634	615
	Total Revenue	40,069	49,098	39,811

Note 8 – Targeted Rates

In the draft plan, the targeted rates include a stadium rate of \$550,000. This is the final year for charging a stadium targeted rate. Up until 2014/15, the annual stadium rate requirement has been \$2,827,000. The LTP assumed that there would be no stadium rate requirement for the 2014/15 year, however due to interest changes over the period of borrowings, the rate requirement of \$550,000 is necessary to fully repay our contribution made.

The clean air targeted rate has also been reduced from \$228,000 in 2013/14 to \$89,000 in 2014/15. This reduction was provided for in Council's LTP, and reflects an intended reduction in work in this area.

Note 9 - Grants

In 2013/14, the estimates assumed that Council would receive no grant income on new bus contracts being tendered. The draft plan provides for full entitlement of grants on all bus contracts, noting also the expected increase in contract price.

Note 10 – Interest Income

Additional interest income is expected to be earned due to increases in interest rates. Note is made that the 2013/14 comparative only shows the interest earned that is used to reduce our general rate requirements. It did not show interest income earned and allocated to our dedicated reserves, which was estimated to total approximately \$840,000. The interest income for 2014/15 of \$2,137,000 is the total interest estimated to be earned, regardless of its use.

Note 11 - Borrowings

The LTP assumed that Council would borrow \$5 million to assist funding capital expenditure on the Leith Flood Protection Scheme project. Internal borrowings are proposed to be used instead.

Note 12 - Reserves

From inception, stadium targeted rating has been held in reserve, increasing every year that the rate has been collected, to then be used to repay the \$10 million stadium loan in June 2014. The use of reserves in 2013/14 includes the repayment of this loan.

5. Rating Implications

The rating implications of the draft plan funding requirements for 2014/15 are as follows (all figures are GST exclusive unless noted otherwise):

5.1 General Rates and Uniform Annual General Charge

The estimates provide for a general rate requirement of \$5,027,000 which represents a 2.49% rate increase on the 2013/14 financial year rate requirement.

Of the total general rate, \$1,257,000 will be funded by a Uniform Annual General Charge (“UAGC”), and this is calculated on the basis of 25% of the general rate requirement. For each property, the UAGC is proposed to be \$13.76 (incl. GST) compared to \$13.82 in 2013/14. The UAGC is based on the number of properties in Otago, and is not related to the value of those properties.

Of the remaining \$3,770,000 general rate requirement, \$3,372,000 is to be funded by the region as a whole, and \$398,000 is to be funded on a sub-regional basis for projects undertaken within specific districts within Otago. Such activities include harbour management, and localised contributions to our flood schemes.

The provisional assessment of the impact of the general rate is shown below has been based on the 2014 effects of equalisation. These provisional rates, including the UAGC and inclusive of GST are:

Capital Value	2014/15		2013/14	
	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate
Central Otago District	\$32.04	\$50.31	\$32.10	\$50.70
Clutha District	\$32.71	\$51.66	\$32.29	\$51.08
Dunedin City	\$36.86	\$59.96	\$36.84	\$60.18
Queenstown Lakes District	\$31.84	\$49.96	\$32.13	\$50.76
Waitaki District	\$32.31	\$50.86	\$31.73	\$49.96

Each rate assessment above includes an amount of \$13.76 being the UAGC.

5.2 Targeted Clean Air Rates

The targeted clean air rates focus on Airzone 1 and Milton. The rates are applied to targeted areas of Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell within the Central Otago District, Arrowtown within the Queenstown Lakes District, and Milton within the Clutha District. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	Proposed 2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 Rate \$000's
Part Central Otago District	61	156
Part Clutha District	6	15
Part Queenstown Lakes District	22	57

The impact of this rating proposal for the clean air project (including GST) is estimated as follows:

Capital Value	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate
Part Central Otago District	\$7.93	\$15.85
Part Clutha District	\$8.55	\$17.10
Part Queenstown Lakes District	\$8.10	\$16.20

5.3 Targeted Forsyth Barr Stadium Rates

Recommended rating levels (excluding GST) for the Forsyth Barr Stadium are follows:

	Proposed 2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 Rate \$000's
Central Otago District	46	235
Clutha District	46	229
Dunedin City	320	1,657
Queenstown Lakes District	94	483
Waitaki District	44	223

Half of the stadium rate is calculated on a capital value basis, and the other half on a uniform rate calculated for each district and city. The impact of this rating proposal (including GST) is estimated as follows:

Capital Value	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate
Central Otago District	\$3.04	\$3.96
Clutha District	\$3.77	\$4.84
Dunedin City	\$6.02	\$8.39
Queenstown Lakes District	\$3.30	\$4.10
Waitaki District	\$3.79	\$5.16

Note – the rates above include the uniform charge.

5.4 Targeted River Management Rates

These special rating district rates are for river and stream management. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	Proposed 2013/14 \$000's	2013/14 Rate \$000's
Central Otago District	155	150
Clutha District	185	185
Dunedin City	150	150
Lower Waitaki River	164	158
Wakatipu	250	250
Wanaka	167	167
Waitaki District	138	130

The Lower Waitaki River rate requirement is advised by Environment Canterbury. Rates are collected by Otago Regional Council and passed on to that Council.

5.5 Targeted Flood and Drainage Scheme Rates

Recommended rating levels (excluding GST) for the flood control and drainage special rating districts are:

	Recommended 2014/15 Rate \$000's	2013/14 Rate \$000's
East Taieri	363	363
Leith	1,114	1,041
Lower Clutha	532	497
Lower Taieri	613	573
Tokomairiro	45	45
Shotover Delta	250	250
West Taieri	475	444

The basis for charging rates varies between the schemes, with some based on area and others on capital value, and within each scheme there are varying areas of defined benefit. The draft plan provides information so that individuals can calculate the rates payable on their property.

Note is made that the increase in the targeted rate for the Leith Flood Protection Scheme is as provided for in the LTP, and is in accordance with the repayment programme for the construction works.

5.6 Targeted Transport Rates

The targeted passenger transport rates (excluding GST) provided for in these estimates, are made up as follows:

	Recommended 2013/14 Rate \$000's	2013/14 Rate \$000's
Dunedin		
Dunedin Class A - non residential	1,038	1,050
Dunedin Class B – Dunedin others	2,178	2,140
Dunedin Class B – Waitaki others	15	15
Queenstown		
Queenstown Class A - non residential	12	16
Queenstown Class B - others	32	49

The impact of these rating proposals for the transport rating areas (including GST) is as follows:

Capital Value	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate
Dunedin		
Dunedin Class A - non residential	\$167.50	\$338.9
Dunedin Class B – Dunedin others	\$45.00	\$90.40
Dunedin Class B – Waitaki others	\$47.50	\$95.70

Capital Value	\$250,000 Est. Rate	\$500,000 Est. Rate
Queenstown		
Queenstown Class A - non residential	\$2.35	\$4.70
Queenstown Class B - others	\$1.18	\$2.35

5.7 Total Rates

Targeted rates are proposed to total \$8,566,000 in 2014/15 compared to \$10,728,000 in 2013/14. This is a decrease of \$2,162,000 or 20%.

The total of both targeted and general rates to be collected in 2014/15 is proposed to be \$13,593,000 compared to \$15,632,000 in 2013/14. This is a decrease of \$2,039,000 or 13%.

6. Hearing Committee

It is recommended that a sub committee be formed to consider all 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan submissions. Submissions will close on 2 May 2014, and hearings will be held during the week commencing 12 May 2014.

7. Recommendation

1. That the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan be approved for public consultation subject to any minor editorial amendments.
2. That public submissions be open until 2 May 2014.
3. That hearings be held during the week beginning 12 May 2014.
4. That a hearing sub committee be formed to consider all submissions received, and make recommendations.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A607224

Report No: 2014/0689
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 26/02/2014

Subject: Executive Report - February 2014

1. Rating System

A new rating system has recently been implemented following a procurement and implementation process over the last 18 months. 'Pathway' is the new system which replaces the previous system which was installed over 10 years ago.

The Pathway product is also used by Dunedin City and Clutha District.

The cost of the new system was approximately \$350,000 plus staff time costs.

2. Student Fare Concession

The Student Fare Concession trial for students from the Otago University, and the Otago and Aoraki Polytechnics, commenced on Monday 17 February. While it is too early to report any real trends on the impact of the student trial, we can however advise that up until 24 February, approximately 3,700 network trips had been taken using the trial concession.

Staff were on hand at the Otago University Students' Association Orientation tent city to assist with enquiries about public transport services, including the student trial.

The student concession trial will conclude on 30 April 2014.

3. Cromwell Depot

Work is progressing on the construction of the new Cromwell depot. First services fit out is scheduled for completion by meeting date, with internal lining of the main office building to commence immediately following.

The contractor has made good progress with completion still scheduled for early April.

4. Account Payments

Schedules of payments made are referred to the Finance and Corporate Committee for endorsement. The financial commitments and payment authorisation are made in accordance with Council's financial delegations and internal control procedures.

Payment Categories	January 2014
Trade and general payments	\$1,820,102.49
Payroll	\$728,140.50
Investments	
Total	\$2,548,242.99

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That this report be received.
- 5.2 That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule, totalling \$2,548,242.99, be endorsed.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Thursday 13 March 2014 following the Finance and Corporate
Committee meeting**

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

Apologies: Cr Graeme Bell

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Tuesday 11 March.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0684 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy, Consents and Transport sections.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council
Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday
29 January 2014 commencing at 3.12 pm**

Present:

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

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2013/1233 Proposed Amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011. MP, 20/12/13

The report noted that submissions had been sought on an amendment proposed by the Ministry for the Environment to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM). The Executive Summary of the proposed submission was circulated, and it was noted that the submission was due on 4 February.

Mr McRae commented that the submission took a positive approach on the proposed National Policy Statement, which aligned with Plan Change 6A. The major concern was that the water limits and targets set in the NPSFM were well below those in Plan Change 6A, and if adopted could result in large scale degradation of water quality in Otago.

Cr Woodhead commented that the Otago community had agreed on limits and targets in Otago waterways, and he understood that it was not intended that the NPS undermine community decisions. He noted that the NPS required collection of data which Otago did not need and in some cases was expensive to test for. Mr McRae also queried the need for measuring takes from permitted activities for fire control, stock water, and domestic uses.

It was suggested that a working group be set up to assist in the development of, and to endorse, an ORC submission, the group to comprise the Chair, Chair of the Policy Committee, and the Director Policy Planning and Resource Management.

Cr Robertson moved

Cr Deaker seconded

- 1) *That the report be noted.*
- 2) *That a working group be set up to assist in the development of, and to endorse, an ORC submission on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, the group to comprise the Chair, Chair of the Policy Committee, and the Director Policy Planning and Resource Management.*

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0602 Director's Report on Progress. DPPRP, 20/12/13

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section. The reference to a Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 7A was to be deleted from the report.

Mr McRae advised that all appeals on Plan Change 6A had been resolved and a Memorandum of Agreement was soon to be circulated for signature. There were some wording modifications, but very little change in the substance of what was intended as a result of the hearing.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Kemptom seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 3.28 pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A606960

Report No: 2014/0684

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Date: 28 February 2014

Subject: Director's Report on Progress

1. Policy

1.1 Responses – National Policies, Strategies and Plans

In the ten weeks ending 28 February 2014, the following were received:

Document	Number Received	Details
Central Government Proposals	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed regulations for discharge and dumping activities under the EEZ Act

Consideration has been given to the proposal. As this document will relate to activities outside the CMA, no submission is to be made

1.2 Responses - Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

In the ten weeks ending 28 February 2014, the following were received:

Document	Number Received	Details
Consent Applications	4	Queenstown Lakes District Council
	3	Central Otago District Council

The following responses were made over the ten week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
RMA section 32 guidelines (policy/plan change reporting)	Feedback	Support for guidance in principle, concerns raised over the amount of content, extraneous reporting subjects and resource requirements to deliver idealised economic analysis.

Appeals – Invermark Investments Limited

Invermark applied for consent to subdivide a coastal block of land in Waitati and establish multiple residential building platforms. Council submitted in opposition due to natural hazard related risks. On reviewing the applicant's technical evidence,

Council's position is that the applicant has still not provided sufficient information for the level of risk at the site to be understood, although Council has clarified to all parties that while it is not retracting its objection in principle, it will not procedurally pursue the matter any further. The applicant has agreed to undertake further assessment of hazards at the site and will then provide this information to Council staff for further discussion.

2. Resource Management Act: Policy Plans and Strategies

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement for Otago

Issues and options papers are being prepared on a range of topics which will form the basis of wider community consultation in April. The cross-Council staff working party met on Tuesday 25 February to progress this work.

A Manawhenua group meeting will be held on Thursday 13 March 2014. The next Council-wide workshop has been set for Thursday 20 March in Dunedin. The meeting time for central Otago councils is still being arranged.

2.2 Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Appeals: Proposed Plan Change 6A (Water Quality)

A Consent Order which resolves all appeals is now with the Environment Court awaiting sign off. Following sign off the plan change will be presented to Council for approval, seal, and making operative.

Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Management)

A summary of consultation draft feedback has been completed and plan change provisions are being drafted.

2.3 Minimum flow and aquifer allocation proposals

Minimum flow and allocation regimes are now being developed for a number of catchments and aquifers so that those taking water under mining privileges may better prepare for when new resource consents are required in 2021.

On Wednesday 19 February a field trip was undertaken by KTKO Ltd, Te Ao Marama Inc and ORC staff, considering tangata whenua values for the Waiwera River, Pomahaka River and Bengier Burn.

The following community workshops are being arranged:

Catchment/Aquifer	Action
Bengier Burn and Ettrick Basin aquifer	Community workshop at Ettrick: Tues 11 March <i>Share technical information</i> <i>Identify catchment values</i>
Dunstan Flats Aquifer	Community workshop at Cromwell: Tues 18 March <i>Share technical information</i> <i>Discuss values and allocation options</i>
Earnsclough Aquifer	Community workshop at Alexandra: Tues 18 March <i>Share technical information</i>

	<i>Discuss values and allocation options</i>
Pomahaka River and connected aquifer	Community workshop at Tapanui: late March <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Waiwera River	Community workshop at Clinton: late March <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Lindis River and connected aquifers	Community workshop at Tarras: Tues 1 April <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Waikouaiti River	Community workshop at Waikouaiti: early April?
Hawea Basin Aquifer	Community workshop to be arranged in May
Cardrona River and Wanaka Basin Cardrona Aquifer	Community workshop to be arranged later in 2014
Manuherikia River and connected aquifers	The first workshop on community values will be organised once the Manuherikia Water Strategy group have indicated that they are ready to meet with the wider community

2.3 Regional Plan: Air for Otago

A review has been made of Air Plan provisions in relation to giving effect to the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ). The scope of a plan change to give effect to the NESAQ will be determined through the internal review of the Air Strategy and its implementation programme.

3. Transport Planning

3.1 Timetable planning for contracts expiring mid-2014

Refer Report 2014/0688 to the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting of 12 March 2014.

3.2 Regional Road Safety

An analysis of crash data for Otago and Southland is being undertaken for the Regional Transport Committee.

Discussion of preliminary findings has occurred with NZTA and DCC, and both parties are supportive of the approach involving statistical analysis of root causes of crashes.

Preliminary findings suggest review of funding allocation for elements of road safety.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday
13 March 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: Cr Graeme Bell

Leave of Absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Tuesday 11 March.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0684 **Update on Building Act dam safety scheme.** DEHS, 3/3/14

The report notes that the scheme is due to commence on 1 July 2014, but that delays may be caused by further changes to the scheme by the government. The report also details collaborative work by regional authorities

Item 2

2014/0661 **Regulatory Report.** DEMO, 25/2/14

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 1 January to 14 February 2014.

Item 3

2014/0674 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 24/2/14

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 18 January to 21 February 2014.

Item 4

2014/0673 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.** DPPRM, 24/2/14

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period.14 January to 24 February 2014.

Item 5

2014/0696 **Appointment of hearing commissioners.** DPPRM, 28/2/14

Listing hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 28 February 2014.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 29 January 2014 commencing at 3.43 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 Trevor Kempton**
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**
- Cr Bryan Scott**
- 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 Croot and Bell.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1
2014/0572 **Regulatory Report. DEMO, 8/1/14**

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 19 October to 31 December 2013.

In response to a question Mr Donaldson explained that the external audit of the Environmental Services and Operations Quality Management System related to water quality sampling. There was an ISO standard in place for the collecting of samples, including sampling for enforcement purposes, and sampling also provided information for Resource Science purposes. The auditing was carried out annually by NIWA.

Note was made of an odour complain at Green Island, and Mr Donaldson explained that the odour was from the landfill.

Cr Brown moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/0604 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 17/1/14**

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 3 November 2013 to 17 January 2014.

Two audits were carried out recently, being MfE monitoring of implementation of the RMA (carried out by Hill Young Cooper Ltd), and Verification New Zealand assessment of the department's ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management accreditation, and Councillors were pleased to note that good results were received.

A reference in the Hill Cooper Young report to "Panel of four for all major resource consent decisions, requiring sign-off from two of that panel" was noted, and the recent appointment of a single commissioner to hear two ORC consents was queried.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 3
2014/0565

RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.
DCS, 13/1/14

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 26 October 2013 to 13 January 2014.

Cr Woodhead noted ongoing challenges for QLDC's wastewater system, and referred to recent media coverage which appeared to indicate that ORC would not prosecute district councils for spills from their wastewater systems. Mr Bodeker stated that Council had made no policy or decision that QLDC or any other council would not be prosecuted, and that each case would be investigated on its merits. Staff were working with QLDC to determine possible action. Mr Donaldson advised in response to a question that QLDC did not have a trade waste bylaw, but was looking to develop one.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4
2014/0591

Appointment of hearing commissioners. DPPRM, 17/1/14

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 17 January 2014.

Cr Neill moved
Cr Scott seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 4.01 pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A607000

Report No: 2014/0685
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Director Engineering, Hazards and Science
Date: 5 March 2014

Subject: Update on Building Act dam safety scheme

1. Précis

The Building Act 2004 provides for the safety management of dams and the quality of their design and construction. Most parts of the dam safety scheme are not operative as they rely on amendments to regulations that are yet to be drafted. Commencement of the scheme is imminent (1 July 2014) however regional authorities have recently been advised that further changes to the scheme are being considered by the government and that this may cause the commencement to be further delayed. It is noted that regional authorities are collaborating to design and implement arrangements that minimise costs for dam owners, ensure a technically robust and effective scheme and standardise approaches between regions. Regional authorities are prepared for the scheme to commence on 1 July. The need for auditing of the work of “recognised engineers” (being a class of Chartered Professional Engineer) so as to assure the integrity of the scheme has been raised with the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ).

2. Introduction

The Building Act 2004 provides for the safety management of dams and the quality of their design and construction. The Act takes a risk-based approach to safety management with a sequence of actions determined by the level of risk. For regulatory purposes the level of risk is characterised by the dimensions of the dam (height) and reservoir (volume) and the consequences (for people, property and the environment) should the dam fail. The government has consulted on various proposals over the past four years to alter the scheme with the stated objective of reducing compliance costs for (some) owners. A framework involving large dam, referable dam and classifiable dam (in addition to earthquake-prone dam, flood-prone dam and dangerous dam) has been enacted (Figure 1) despite concerns expressed by regional authorities and others about cost and effectiveness¹²³.

¹ Otago Regional Council Submission on Review of the Dam Safety Scheme, 13 August 2010.

² Otago Regional Council Submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Building Amendment Bill No.4, 6 June 2012.

³ Combined Regional Council Submission on behalf of the Otago Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Environment Canterbury to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on the proposals contained in the document “Keeping our dams safe – Proposed amendments to the Building Dam Safety) Regulations 2008”, 16 September 2013.

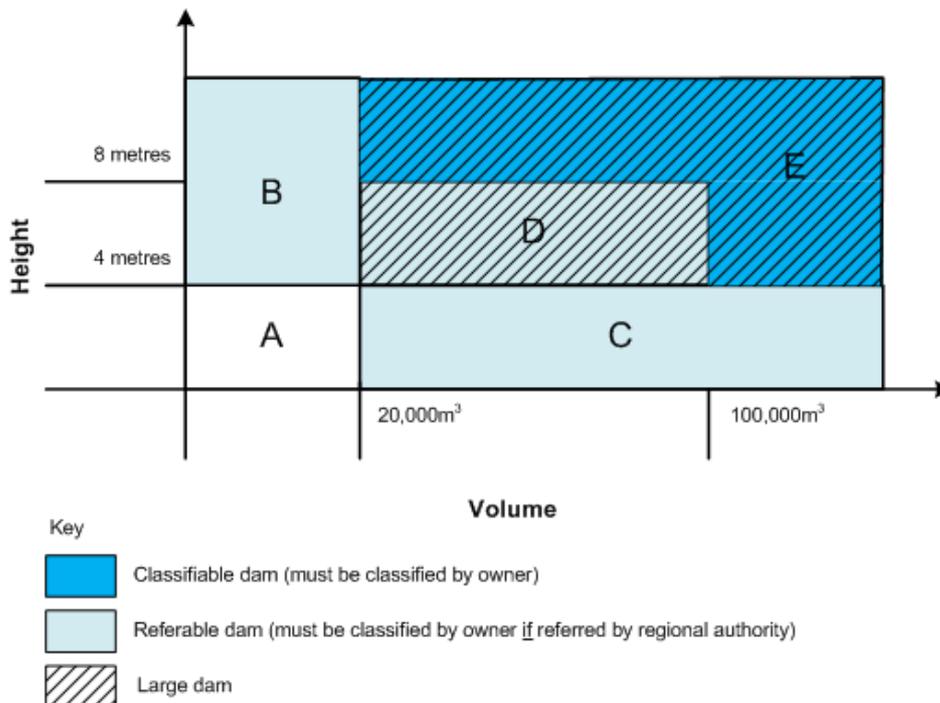


Figure 1 Regulatory (risk-based) framework for building control and safety management of dams (as at 13 January 2014)

3. Progress toward regulation of dam safety in New Zealand

Most parts of the safety scheme are not operative as they rely on amendments to regulations that are yet to be drafted. The commencement date of the scheme specified in regulations⁴ is 1 July 2014. There is an urgent need for the amendments to be finalised so that regional authorities can confirm work programmes and finalise their joint communications plan. Regional authorities have recently been advised that further changes to the definitions supporting the framework shown in Figure 1 are being considered by the government and that this may cause the commencement of the scheme to be further delayed⁵. It is not known if regional authorities would be given the opportunity to comment on these changes before they are incorporated into regulations.

At this point in time there is no legal requirement under the Building Act for an owner to actively manage the safety of their dam other than for any dam constructed after 1 July 1992 to be compliant with the building code (as was the case under the Building Act 1991). Further delay in the commencement of the dam safety scheme would extend this unsatisfactory situation.

⁴ Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2008.

⁵ The scheme has been delayed twice – in 2010 and in 2012.

4. Collaboration between regional authorities

The Building Act 2004 is based on the principle that the owner takes responsibility for safety management of their dam with the regional authority taking a largely administrative role unless the dam poses a danger. In contrast, regional authorities play a technical role in relation to the quality of design, construction and commissioning of dams, being responsible for enforcing the building code (for dams of all sizes constructed after 1 July 1992) and making decisions on applications for building consent and code compliance certificates, amongst other things.

Regional authorities have been collaborating since 2007 and putting in place arrangements that minimise cost for dam owners, ensure a technically robust and effective scheme and to standardise approaches between regions. Examples are the transfer arrangements for building consent authority functions (operative for the past five years⁶), joint submissions proposing improvements to the scheme (which have subsequently been enacted e.g. the legal requirement for the owner of a dangerous dam to report that to the regional authority) and workshops to develop common policy and procedures for the exercise of dam safety functions (the most recent being held on 24/25 February). Regional authorities are prepared for the scheme to commence on 1 July.

5. Assuring the integrity of the scheme

The scheme relies on “recognised engineers” (being a class of Chartered Professional Engineer) to make the critical regulatory decisions which determine whether and to what degree the safety of a dam is managed. The scheme relies on the integrity of that decision-making and hence how those engineers perform individually and collectively. It is the professional body (IPENZ) that determines whether an individual and a group of individuals (the profession) are competent to perform a role. That same body should have the responsibility for verifying that those individuals are performing that role competently and consistently. Without that expert oversight the public and dam owners cannot know with confidence that the scheme is working and achieving the risk-based approach referred to above. This matter has been raised with IPENZ.

6. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer

⁶ ORC undertakes certain Building Act functions in Southland and West Coast under Deeds of Transfer that terminate on 30 June 2018.

Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A603716
Report No: 2014/0661
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Martin King Manager Environmental Services
Scott MacLean Manager Operations
Sarah Ibbotson Manager Environmental Data & Planning
Date: 25 February 2014

Subject: Biosecurity & RMA Report for the period 1 January to 14 February 2014

1. Water Quality and Quantity

1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

The first round of dairy inspections between the Clutha River and Dunedin is nearing completion. There have been some non compliance issues and some further investigation work is currently under way, however on a whole the inspections have gone well and improvements are seen on many farms. A total of 297 farms have been inspected to date.

1.1.1 Audit Monitoring

An audit was completed on the 22 Maniototo Irrigation Company (MIC) and Trust Power consents on 10th February. Generally, good compliance was found, however some reporting and management plans have not been received by Council. Staff are following up on these matters.

The works on the ORC consents for the Leith Flood Protection scheme between the St David Street footbridge and Union Street are well underway. A site visit was carried out on 11th February and excavation work has been carried out behind the wall on the true right bank. Work on checking of consent conditions is continuing.

1.1.2 Water Metering

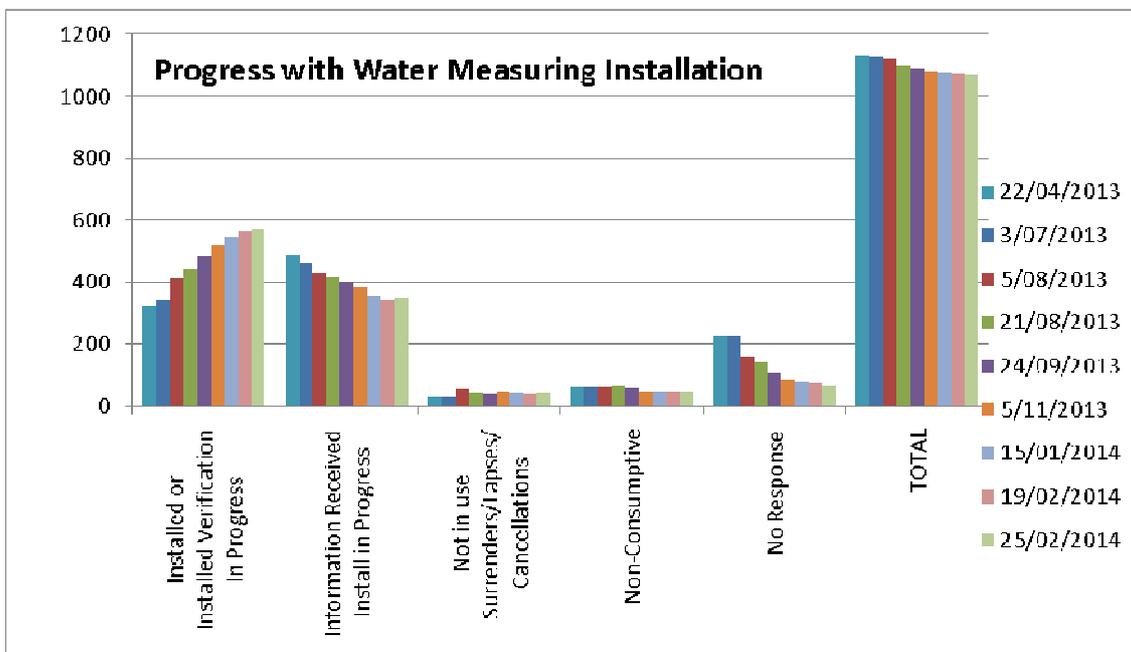
Water meter installation has slowed a little over the reporting period, with the focus for installers to complete verifications on installations. Open channel measurement sites, predominantly in Central Otago, require gauging to be done at different flow levels to ensure accurate measurement to +/-10%. As many sites do not have structures in place to artificially create different flow levels, gauging needs to be done following sufficient rainfall and also during dry periods when flows are low. This results in verifications being conducted over several months in some cases.

The total number of consents required to comply with the Regulations for takes over 20l/s has decreased slightly. This is due to a number of consents being put forward for cancellation, being surrendered by the consent holder, or lapsing due to inactivity.

42 consents (4%) are being assessed for surrender, lapsing or cancellation, however before the Council can cancel or lapse a permit, a site visit is required to confirm that the consent is not being exercised. The majority of these consents are in the Central Otago area and due to staff resourcing, it may be some time before a site visit can be conducted for these consents.

65 consent holders (6%) are yet to provide a response as to their progress with meeting the requirements of the Regulations. Again the majority of these may yet be assessed for surrender, lapsing or cancellation and require a site visit to confirm whether or not the consent is being exercised. These consent holders have been contacted and given a final notice to contact the Council.

Consent holders are continuing to consistently install telemetry and forward their data on a daily basis to Council. On average there are about 2 – 3 consents a week being set up ready to receive the data directly.



1.1.3 Oceana Gold (NZ) Ltd

Quarterly reporting for both environmental monitoring and geotechnical monitoring has been received and reviewed for compliance. A Water Quality Management Plan for works completed under MPIII consents has been updated and reissued to incorporate the scheduled northern and southern extensions to the Frasers Waste Rock Stack.

A separate report on long term seepage from the upstream embankment of the Mixed Tailings Impoundment was reviewed by Damwatch Engineering Ltd. Information on this area of seepage and the collection sump system was provided to the ORC by Engineering Geology Ltd and Oceana Gold staff. Damwatch Engineering Ltd has concluded that the embankment “is being managed satisfactorily and does not pose a threat to dam safety” (Oceana Gold Quarterly Geotechnical Monitoring Review report No. 80, Marshall 2014). Oceana Gold will continue to report this information quarterly.

1.2 State of the Environment Monitoring

Rivers throughout the region receded towards summer low flow levels until a period of brief heavy rain at the end of the reporting period caused a sudden rise in flows. Staff concentrated on low flow measurements to ensure accuracy of data during critical periods was maintained.

Water sampling at bathing beaches continued on a weekly basis throughout the holiday period. Sampling for toxic algae at five locations at Lake Waihola was also undertaken on a routine basis.

The electric fishing project to assess biological levels at key water quality monitoring sites continues. Past years' results have been entered into the new ecobase fish habitat database.

2. Air Quality

2.1 State of the Environment Monitoring

Monitors at Dunedin, Mosgiel and Alexandra continued to operate over the period.

QLDC is yet to confirm site access for the replacement Arrowtown station. An alternative location is being pursued.

3. Coast

3.1 Regional Plan: Coast and Resource Consent Monitoring

Holders of mooring permits were contacted in January to remind them of their obligations for ensuring the safety of their mooring by conducting an annual maintenance check. Information was provided on what to look for and things to check.

This was also an opportunity to advise boat owners of the need to be vigilant with respect to marine pests and ensuring that their mooring lines, boat hulls and fishing equipment are not infected with marine pest species. A MPI publication was included outlining steps to ensure that they do not spread these pest species, especially when travelling outside the Otago area to places such as Fiordland, which is currently free from marine pest plants. The publication also included a marine pest guide to assist with identifying species. Feedback from this exercise has been positive.

Council has been involved with Environment Southland Marine Biosecurity officers with the development of their Marine Pest Pathways Plan for the Fiordland Marine Area. This plan is likely to have implications for boaties, commercial fishers and cruise ships leaving from the Otago Harbour to travel to Fiordland. Education seminars are planned for later in the year in Dunedin to be run by Environment Southland, but with ORC support.

4. Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance

4.1 Animal Pests

4.1.1 Rabbits

Through this period inspections for compliance with the Pest Management Strategy maximum allowable level (MAL) for rabbits have been ongoing.

These inspections are both initial property inspections and also the last remaining post operative compliance inspections following the 2013 poison season. A small number of properties will be required to do additional work to become fully compliant and we have requested amended rabbit control programs (RCP). The post operative monitoring work is now complete.

Overall 4,991ha have been inspected covering 94 properties in the areas of Lake Hayes, Hawea and Wanaka. This is a continuation of the compliance monitoring programs that were in progress from the previous reporting period. The Dublin Bay management area between Albert Town and Hawea and out to the Hawea river true right is now completed and it is noted there are large areas of non compliance, including Crown land that will require control operations in winter 2014.

A total of 76 RCPs have been requested during this period being made up of 60 initial requests and 16 requests for amended plans where compliance levels have not yet been reached.

4.2 Plant Pests

4.2.1 Nassella Tussock Control

Following on from previous monitoring in the Cardrona Valley a field day has been requested in this area and is proposed to be scheduled for mid March. This will allow ORC staff to ensure there is ongoing landholder surveillance in this area and to highlight to landholders the need to integrate Nassella surveillance into their farming operations.

4.2.2 Old Man's Beard

Inspections for Old Man's Beard in Dunedin city have commenced during this period. Preliminary inspections have been focused on properties with historical issues of Old Man's Beard through central and northern areas. This area is identified as high risk as it has had high density infestations in the past, and is typified by absentee landowners and rental accommodation. In all cases of non compliance the landowner has been notified in writing and a reinspection scheduled to confirm the successful control of plants identified. Property inspections are scheduled to continue over the coming months. A list of active Old Man's Beard sites on Dunedin City Council land (comprising of urban and rural road reserve, and parks and reserves land) has been passed to DCC for control.

4.2.3 Bomarea

Inspections for Bomarea have been ongoing with a further 160 properties checked during this period. Results continue to be favourable. The majority of landowners are actively controlling any Bomarea found. In all cases of non compliance the landowner has been notified and a reinspection scheduled to confirm the successful control of plants identified.

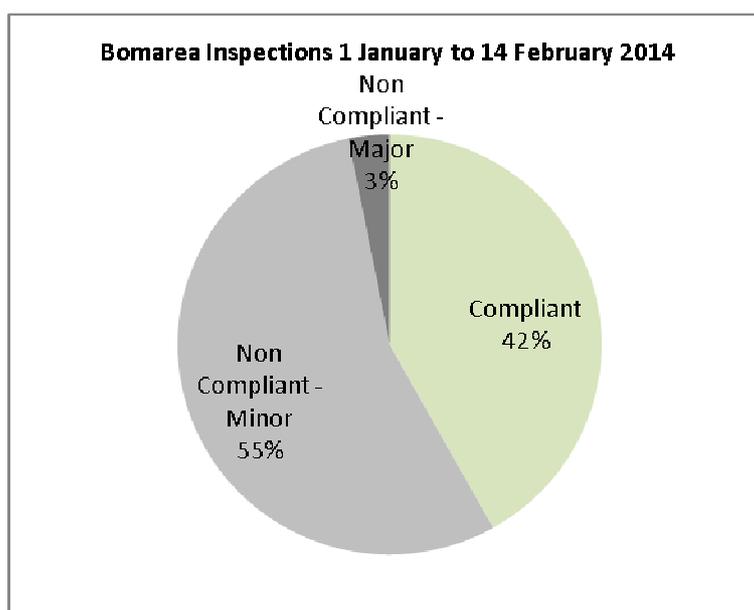


Figure 2 – Diagram to show inspection compliance results for control of Bomarea during the period 1 January to 14 February 2014. 160 properties were inspected in total during this period. In all cases of non compliance a reinspection has been scheduled to check for progress with controlling Bomarea found.

4.2.4 Biodiversity

Nick Renfrew of New Zealand Honda (Dunedin Branch) has presented the Honda Tree Fund with a cheque for \$5,284.00 for the 2014 season. This is a significant increase over that of the last few years and will allow larger contributions to be made to suitable projects around Otago. There are currently 4 applications being processed for this year.

5. Operations

5.1 Contract Management

A bait trial for rabbit control, using oats laced with 1080, commenced in the Queensberry area during this reporting period. Oats have not been used for a number of years with the bulk of poisoning being 1080 laced carrot carried out in the winter. Staff identified that with (anecdotally) more mild winters, the window of opportunity for successful carrot baiting is being reduced. Oats are used in very dry areas in the middle of summer when the usual feed sources have ‘burned off’ with the heat of summer. Initial indications are that the trial was very successful. This will lead to further oat work in appropriate areas to supplement the winter poisoning programme

5.1.2 Engineering Field Operations

The aerial spray programme targeting willows and other pest plants in the main stem rivers commenced during this reporting period.

The drain spraying programme is now tracking well with advantage being taken of a period of more settled weather than the previous two months.

The mechanical willow clearing programme is well underway targeting the removal of willows from the previous season's aerial spray programme. Staff have been busy identifying and prioritising areas requiring willow control for the 14/15 year. This information is required in order to advise stakeholders of the proposed programme one year in advance, to allow for any potential adverse effects on in-stream values to be avoided or mitigated.

6. Environmental Incident Response

6.1 Contaminated Sites

6.1.1 Investigations

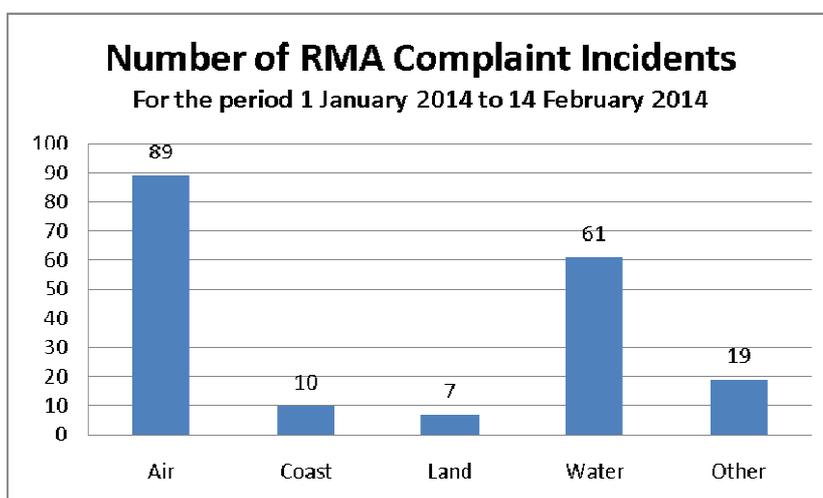
Two underground petroleum storage system (UPSS) removal reports were received during the reporting period. Following the assessment, letters were sent to the site owner, local authority and oil company. Work and investigation was carried out in accordance with industry best practice and ORC has no concerns about any environmental effects.

6.1.2 Other Actions

Twenty-four public enquiries regarding the contamination status or land-use history of thirty specific properties were received and responded to within ten working days.

6.2 Environmental Incidents

A total of 180 incidents were reported for this period. The following is a summary of the incidents received by activity type.



The majority of the air incidents can be attributed to domestic chimneys. Odour was the second most prevalent form of air pollution. The coastal incidents were in regard to marine pollution. The land incidents were from land contamination. Concerns about water quality were the cause of the majority of water investigations. The other types of incidents were varied and included issues like protesters blockading the harbour, land slips, flooding and access over private land.

7. **Recommendation**

That this report be noted

Jeff Donaldson

Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)

General location		Air							Coast					Land					Water					Other		
	Row summary	Backyard burning	Burning	Domestic chimneys	Dust	Industrial discharge	Odour	Spray drift	Coastal structures	Marine oil spill	Marine pollution	Reclamation	Removal	Deposit	Disturbance	Land contamination	Mining	Abstraction	Damming	Diversion	Fresh water quality	Storm water	Noise	Other	Staff performance	
Catlins	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Central Otago	25	0	0	1	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	7	0	0	5	0	
Clutha Plains	13	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	19	1	2	2	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Coast North	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Coast South	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Inner City	41	3	0	8	5	3	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	
Dn - Mosgiel	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Otago Harbour	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Peninsula	7	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	
Dn - West Harbour	7	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
East Otago Uplands	6	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Lakes	31	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	2	0	
Maniototo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
North Otago	13	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	
Roxburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South West Otago	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Strath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Taieri Plains	7	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	
TOTALS	188	11	2	17	9	8	41	1	1	4	4	1	0	0	0	7	0	1	2	2	56	0	0	19	0	

REPORT

Document Id: A605917

Report No: 2014/0674

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Marian Weaver and Chris Shaw

Date: 24 February 2014

**Subject: Consent Processing, Administration and Building Consents
Report 18 January to 21 February 2014**

1. Project E.1 – Resource Consent Application Processing

1.1 Consent applications and objections where status has not changed since the last report are summarised in Appendix 1.

Applications

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, 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 relocate a number of boatsheds and jetties to accommodate the road widening. The existing seawall is to be entombed along both roads except in three locations where board walks are to be erected out from the existing wall to preserve the original wall. The application was notified Saturday 18th January 2014. Two neutral, two opposed and ten submissions in support were received. One neutral, one opposing and five supporting submitters wish to be heard.

RM14.026 Lakes Marina Projects Limited

The applications are for the construction of a 195 berth marina, and are sought to disturb, reclaim, remove and place structures and deposit material on, over or under the bed of Lake Wakatipu and Marina Creek, discharge sediment and divert Marina Creek. The applications were jointly notified along with the application before the QLDC on Wednesday February 19th, with submissions closing on March 19th. This is a joint process with the ORC as lead agency.

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.

RM13.443 – Clutha District Council

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Heriot WWTP to the Heriot Burn. Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Kāi Tahu ki Otago, Public Health South (PHS) and adjoining neighbouring landowners were given limited notification at the applicant's request. Submissions closed on 28 January 2014. One submission received in support from PHS. Draft permit with the applicant for comment.

RM13.427 – Red Tractor Estates Limited

Application for a new consent to take and use groundwater from the Pisa Alluvium Aquifer for the purpose of irrigation, fertigation (application of fertiliser via irrigation system) and domestic supply. Limited notified to neighbouring well owners on 21 January 2014 as unconditional written approval from all potentially affected parties could not be obtained. Submissions closed on 19 February 2014. Only one submission in support received. Draft documents currently with applicant for comment before forwarding to the delegated Staff Panel authority for a decision.

RM14.001 – Clutha District Council

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Kaitangata WWTP to the Heriot Burn. Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Kāi Tahu ki Otago, Public Health South (PHS) and adjoining neighbouring landowners were given limited notification at the applicant's request. Submissions closed 17 February 2014. One submission received in support from PHS.

RM12.095 – Clifford MacKay Blaikie

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Dunstan Hotel to the Clutha River/Mata-Au. Public Health South and Kai Tahu Ki Otago were served the applications, as written approval could not be obtained from these parties. The submission period closes on Monday 3rd March.

1.5 Decisions Pending

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 was held 14 February and the decision is pending.

2. Appeals to Environment Court

RM12.378 – Oceana Gold Limited

Application for various consents related to the proposed Coronation Pit and associated waste rock stack. The joint decision of three Councils was given on 22 November 2013. The decision was appealed based on conditions on the associated TLA permits (Waitaki DC and Dunedin CC). The ORC consents are not affected by the appeal and are current but cannot be exercised until the TLA appeal is resolved.

3. Consent Statistics

Table 1. Consents Statistics Summary

Reporting Period	Lodged			Rejected	Decision Given		
	Consents	Variations			Consents	Variations	
		Regular	Water reporting date			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
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
20 Jan to 21 Feb 2014.	54	2	3	0	38	5	4
YTD 13/14	325	14	35	7	255	20	42

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

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
2012/2013 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 to 17 Jan 2014	17	12	5	0
20 Jan to 21 Feb 14	7	8	6	1

5. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

In Progress

Dam Building Consents	6
Code Compliance Certificates	5
PIM	0
Certificate of Acceptance	3

6. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 128 enquiries were received by the Consents Units during the reporting period.

Table 3. Public Enquiries Statistics

Period	Number of Enquiries
2011/2012 year	1866
2012/2013 year	1778
8 July to 16 Aug 2013	191
19 Aug to 1 Nov 2013	329
3 Nov 2013 to 17 Jan 2014	267
20 Jan to 21 Feb 14	128
YTD 13/14	915

7. Legislation

The amendment to the RMA that is to be enacted when there is an order in Council has not been enacted yet. Most of these amendments relate to consent processing. If there is no Order in Council the amendment is enacted in May 2015.

8. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

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 2013.

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

Fish and Game have applied to place a structure and dam water on the Takitooa 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 m³ (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.

Objections

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.

97544 - Buchanan

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

REPORT

Document Id: A605879

Report No: 2014/0673
 Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
 Prepared By: Peter Kelliher, Legal Counsel
 Date: 24/02/2014

Subject: Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 14 January 2014 to 24 February 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 14 January 2014 to 24 February 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 – 14 January 2014 to 24 February 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule	0	4
TOTAL	0	5

Table 2. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 14 January 2014 to 24 February 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	3	4
TOTAL	3	4

d) Incidents (Project S5)

Table 3. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 14 January 2014 to 24 February 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	1	12
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	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	0	1
TOTAL	1	17

Table 4. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 14 January 2014 to 24 February 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Disturbing the bed of a river – mechanical excavation	1	2
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	1	7

Table 5. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 14 January 2014 to 24 February 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	0	1
TOTAL	0	3

3. Biosecurity Act 1993

No enforcement action taken during the period.

4. Building Act 2004

One Notice to Fix was issued with respect to earth embankment dams in the Otago region. The Notice required the dam's owner to make an application for a certificate of acceptance for the construction of the dam.

5. Recommendation

That this report be noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A607979

Report No: 2014/0696

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Date: 28 February 2014

Subject: Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to 28 February 2014

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 24 February 2014 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot and Woodhead, Mr Bodeker
Applicant	ORC
Appn. No	RM14.041
Activity	To drill over the Maniototo aquifer, for the purpose of groundwater investigation.
Motion	Moved Cr Croot, seconded Mr Bodeker
Appointment	Crs Robertson (Chair) and Kempton

3. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Technical Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday
13 March 2014 following the Regulatory Committee meeting**

Membership:

- 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**

Apologies: Cr Graeme Bell

Leave of Absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Tuesday 11 March.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, for adoption.

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0676 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 2/3/14

The report describes 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 provides an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Resource Science Unit.

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

REPORT

Document Id: A605978

Report No: 2014/0676

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Manager Resource Science, Manager Natural Hazards, Manager Engineering

Date: 5 March 2014

Subject: Director's Report

1 Air, Surface water and Groundwater

Staff are working on new projections for air quality trends in Otago, using updated information on emissions and monitoring results. This work is being done in preparation for the upcoming Council workshop and the proposed review of the Otago air quality strategy. The Ministry for the Environment will be publishing its report on achievements against the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality in May.

Staff participated in field trips with representatives from Ngai Tahu in the Waiwera, Pomahaka and Benger Burn catchments to discuss minimum flows. Key sites were visited, and specific instream, socio-economic, and cultural values were discussed. This is the second of several hui aimed at more closely involving Iwi in the minimum flow process.

Weekly water sampling of Lake Waihola for cyanobacteria recommenced in early February following visual inspections indicating that a bloom could be imminent. However, apart from a single sample in early February, numbers remain low. Key community members and groups continue to be sent weekly updates advising them of the status of the bloom.

Weekly inspections for cyanobacteria in the Tomahawk Lagoons have also recommenced and a very thick, wind-blown scum was observed in the outlet of the lower lagoon in early February. As a result, warning signs were erected at access points to the area affected by the localised bloom and a media release issued. Subsequent samples from this area have yielded low numbers of cyanobacteria, but warning signs remain in place as a precaution. Inspections of the upper lagoon indicate low numbers of cyanobacteria. In response to public concerns about the blooms in the Tomahawk Lagoons, a review of all available information on the state of the lagoons, the causes and management options is being prepared and this information will be presented to the public in the near future.

Phormidium (cyanobacteria) is present in the Manuherikia River between Booths Road and the Clutha confluence. The percentage cover is not high, but signs have been put up as a precaution because it is actively sloughing (detaching from the bed), which poses an especially high risk to dogs that may find drifting/floating mats and eat them. Once the sloughing has ceased, and if cover is less than 50%, the signs will be removed.

Staff spoke at a Maniototo DairyNZ field day about the continuing high bacteria results in the upper Taieri River. Weekly sampling at Waipiata is now supplemented by sampling at the four bridges upstream (Creamery, Halls, Cogans and Hores). Results have no pattern and the next steps are to fine-tune investigations using the irrigation roster for the area.

Work on the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website is progressing, to be ready for the launch on 18 March.

Drilling and installation of eight bores for the Kakanui groundwater monitoring programme was completed in the period 23 to 28 January, and pressure transducers were installed in four bores to monitor continuous water level data. Four additional monitoring bores are to be installed later this month. The groundwater sampling programme commenced on 3 March, where groundwater and surface water quality/level sampling will take place on a fortnightly basis.

Arrangements are being made to install the two State of Environment (SOE) monitoring bores in South Dunedin later this month. Land access arrangements and resource consent applications for the upgrade of the SOE groundwater monitoring wells in Queenstown-Lakes District are progressing.

Technical information is being prepared to inform discussion at the Lindis catchment surface water minimum flow and groundwater management workshop and the community workshops for the Ettrick, Earnsclough, Cromwell and Hawea groundwater management zones.

2. Natural Hazards, Civil Defence and Emergency Management

The joint ORC/DCC working group set up to incorporate natural hazards provisions into the Dunedin City District Plan has continued to make good progress. Since the approach to map and characterise hazards was confirmed, a series of four technical reports that summarise flood risk of the Taieri basin, Middlemarch area, North East Valley and Kaikorai Valley have been drafted. Additional technical reports covering hazards affecting coastal communities and land instability of Dunedin district have also been drafted. GNS Science has been engaged to carry out an assessment of liquefaction susceptibility for Dunedin district.

On 20 February natural hazards staff attended a public information meeting organised by Neighbourhood Support Otago. The meeting was aimed at residents of north Taieri and was also attended by the Rural Fire Service and NZ Police. Approximately eight members of the public attended. Staff outlined the flood hazard of the Silver Stream and hill catchments to the north of the Taieri Plain. The information was well received.

The Young River landslide dam emergency response procedures have been reviewed jointly with the Department of Conservation and Queenstown-Lakes District Council. It was agreed that the current procedures are effective and would remain unchanged. A joint update will be presented to the Makarora community in the coming months, where information on the role of each organisation in the management of the Young River landslide dam hazard will be covered.

The Pipson Creek alluvial fan, located immediately above the Makarora Township, has been inspected. No notable change in the condition of the channel bed or surrounding fan was observed since the last inspection in November 2012.

Information and support is continuing to be provided to the lifelines study being undertaken by the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group, utilising the Otago Natural Hazards Database. Following on from workshops aimed at identifying inter-dependencies in November 2013, further work has concentrated on critically-rating assets and overlying hazard information. The findings of this part of the project will be presented and discussed at the sector-specific workshops in mid-March.

3. Flood Protection, Land Drainage and River Management

Works to the St David Street to Union Street reach of the Water of Leith is continuing, with enabling works (preliminary civil and utility works) complete. Contractor Downer is making good progress with construction of the flood protection works, having now completed much of the excavation, demolition work and rock rip-rap placement. Continuity of pedestrian access across the Water of Leith at St David Street has resulted in some construction delays, with a temporary footbridge crossing now seen by the University as an essential pre-requisite rather than a contingency measure for taking the permanent structure out of service. The permanent structure needs to be lengthened/modified (in addition to removing the weir beneath) in order to convey the flood flows that the Scheme is being designed for. Because of the delay in decommissioning the existing footbridge it is likely that Scheme works will extend into June.

Finishing and enhancement works are continuing for the Leith Street to Forth Street reach of the Water of Leith. This includes fencing and additional planting. Other refinements to the rock work downstream of Clyde Street will be made in summer.

Meetings of the Lower Clutha and West Taieri Scheme liaison groups took place on 5 and 10 February respectively. Both meetings considered a range of technical and financial reports, with a report summarising the entire Waipori Pump Station upgrade (evolution of the upgrade work, performance to date and a financial summary of expenditure) presented to the West Taieri meeting. Arrangements are being made for a ceremony later this month to commemorate the completion of the station upgrade.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Communications Committee to be held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Thursday 13 March 2014 following the Technical Committee meeting**

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

Apologies: **Cr Graeme Bell**

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Tuesday 11 March.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0694 Report on Community Liaison and Education February 2014.

CE, 27/2/14

The report provides an update Plan Change 6A implementation catchment programme progress.

Item 2

2014/0683 Report on Communications and Media Activity February 2014.

CE, 26/2/14

Providing an update on Council communications and media activity carried out during February 2014.

Item 3

2014/0697 Report on Customer Services Activity February 2014. CE, 24/2/14

Providing an update on Customer Services Activity for February 2014.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 29 January 2014 commencing at 2.03 pm**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Nicola McGrouther
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 Croot and Robertson.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Cr Kempton congratulated Nicola McGrouther on her appointment to the position of Manager Community Liaison and Education. Mr Bodeker advised that the recruitment of the Director Stakeholder Engagement was being handled by an agency. Applications for the position were to close on 7 February, and some strong applications had been received.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0593 **Report on Community Liaison and Education January 2014.**

CE, 16/1/14

The report provided an update on Plan Change 6A implementation and catchment programme progress.

Comment was made on the importance of the river awards for the Shag and Waikouaiti rivers, which acknowledged the impact of ORC work in the area, and the contribution of major efforts by Dr Selvarajah on the disposal of Cherry Farm waste water was also noted.

In response to a question about nitrogen loss mapping, Ms McGrouther explained that AgResearch was using the Overseer model to map the whole of the region, including irrigated areas. While in the early stages this was a broad brush approach, the maps clearly showed the areas of nitrogen loss, and would provide useful initial information for landowners considering land use changes.

It was suggested that key people be invited to Otago to speak about a range of matters relevant to the work of the Community Liaison and Education team, covering both regional and national perspectives.

Ms McGrouther advised in response to a question that results of the lysimeter study would be presented to the February or March meeting of Council. She also noted that the application of Plan Change 6A provisions on monitor farms provided a good opportunity to inform the community about the plan change. The value of exchange of information between monitor farms and and regions was noted.

In response to a question Mr Taylor advised that fact sheets would be produced to provide information about meeting 6A targets, and also noted the use of You Tube to learn how to, for example, take a water sample. The importance of consistent training and messages across Council was noted.

Cr Shepherd moved

Cr Bell seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0582 **Report on Communications and Media Activity January 2014.**

CE, 13/1/14

The report detailed Council communications and media activity completed since the last committee meeting on 20 November 2013. Councillors congratulated staff on the work carried out.

A question was raised about publicity in relation to the Leith Flood Protection Works in the University clocktower reach, and Dr Palmer advised that weekly meetings about the project were held with University staff, and there was communication between the two parties at least daily. The University was responsible for passing information on to University staff and students.

Mr Taylor advised in response to a question that there was a substantial catchment programme under way at Lake Tuakitoto.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 3

2014/0592 **Report on Customer Services Activity January 2014.** CE, 16/1/14

The report detailed activity since front-line staff in Dunedin, Alexandra and Queenstown became Customer Services Officers on 9 December 2013.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Neill seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 2.41 pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A607769

Report No: 2014/0694

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Community Liaison and Education Team

Date: 27 February 2014

Subject: Report on community liaison and education February 2014

1. Water Quality: Plan Change 6A

Led by Nicola McGrouther, the cross-council 6A Project Team presented an update on 6A to a Council workshop on 11 February. This update included a summary of the last eight years of the planning process, the outcomes of mediation, and an outline of the proposed 6A implementation approach.

Fraser McRae, Director of Policy Planning and Resource Management, gave a presentation about Plan Change 6A to the Fifth Annual Freshwater Management Forum held in Wellington on 18 and 19 February.

Externally there has been a lot of interest in 6A, including from local Otago landowners. CLE staff met with Federated Farmers representatives on January 29 at their request to discuss how their organisation and the Council can work collaboratively to achieve 6A.

Gavin Palmer and Nicola McGrouther attended the National Fertiliser and Lime Research Centre Annual Conference on water quality and nutrient management in Palmerston North on 18-20 February and were able to discuss water quality issues with delegates from other councils, the Fertiliser Industry, MfE, MPI, Federated Farmers, Dairy NZ and AgResearch.

Liaison between CLE staff and a landowner to build the relationship between forestry activities and water quality has been ongoing on the farm forestry project above the Waihola Wetlands. This is aimed at understanding the water quality effects, if any, of the harvest period.

The first 6A training session for key CLE and EMO staff was held on 13 February to discuss and gain a good understanding on the rule changes.

2. Catchment programmes*a) Lower Taieri*

On February 11, CLE staff and the Fonterra Sustainable Dairy Advisors met at a property on the Lower Taieri to discuss with the farmer the upgrade of dated effluent systems. A newly bought run off that will cater for a larger herd has meant that new infrastructure is needed, namely a new pond and feed pad area to be able to cope with

the increase in effluent. The discussion also included how to manage those risks associated with the farm expansion, as well as water quality on the lower Taieri.

b) Tokomairiro

Ongoing meetings throughout February between a forest owner, harvest contractor and landowner have been occurring to explore the different possibilities in trying to fell and extract trees surrounding a regionally significant wetland. A site visit on February 4 was undertaken to understand the site dynamics, and talk over possible options. A suitable option which all parties can agree to, while still meeting their environmental responsibilities, is currently being developed.

c) Tuakitoto

On January 29, a cross-council meeting on the development of a management regime for Lake Tuakitoto was held. The balance of trying to maintain the health of the wetland as well as the adjacent farmland productivity is at the forefront of decisions, and this is important for the installation and following management of the weir structure in the diversion channel. The ability to have the resource consent reflect the need to be able to make adjustments to the height of the weir is imperative to get a level set at a point which maintains these outcomes.

On February 11 staff met with three farmers who owned farmland adjacent to the top end of the wetland. This pastoral land could be affected with any extra inundation at Robson's Lagoon. The proposed management regime was discussed, while any concerns that they had were noted and reported back to the cross-council group.

d) Owaka

CLE staff have been talking to a dairy farmer in the Owaka Catchment who wants to expand the current catchment programme throughout the rest of the Catlins area, to include those that are not currently involved. He has become more aware of the water quality issues that communities face as a whole through a series of DairyNZ farmer forums and sees that there is value in having a group being community run and driven. CLE staff are planning on meeting to discuss possible options that could align goals and opportunities for the farmers and the Council.

e) South Otago

On February 4, staff visited a farmer on the Inch Clutha to discuss a new effluent pond, as well as a feed pad which needed to be able to operate efficiently on the flat Inch farmland with a high water table. The use, installation, size and other features of constructed wetlands to treat lane-way runoff around the proposed feed pad and existing dairy shed were discussed, as well as the use of constructed wetlands at the bottom of the farm.

On February 19 the Pomahaka Landcare Trust catchment programme progressed with its second scoping field day held at a Waipahi farm. It was well attended with 23 people including stakeholders from ORC CLE team, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Fish and Game, DOC, Ernslaw One Ltd, Federated Farmers, Ravensdown and local catchment farmers. The focus of the day was water quality and wetland management. The landowner has several dilemmas, one which is the cost of continual spraying of gorse in his Regionally



Significant Wetland, which he has fenced and is putting into QE2 covenant. Since removing cattle he has had a vast amount of the drier areas turn to gorse. The other dilemma is what he should do with three small swales in a paddock – drain with tiles, leave or fence.

It was a great farm to see how much the landowners have achieved to protect the environment including fencing almost all of the river and RSW margins and putting in a whole farm stock water scheme. We saw his ram pump which does not require power, so is a great option for this farm. Fish and Game fished one of the tributaries and found numerous koura (freshwater crayfish), which everyone was very interested in.



f) Lakes District

A Lake Wakatipu farming tributaries programme is continuing to inform farmers of the current state of their water quality before making any recommendations on solutions required, if any. The second of three rounds of farm water quality sampling, being carried out during the summer and early autumn period, was completed on 11 February and coincided with below median flow at the Dart reference site. Arrangements were made for land owners to gather at one of the sites to observe and discuss the sampling protocol. Four farming personnel attended.

g) Kakanui/Waianakarua

The Resource Science Kakanui Aquifer study was supported by CLE staff on January 13 by gaining access to farms for bore drilling and hearing farmers' knowledge on soil types to help fine tune the bore locations.

On 30 and 31 January meetings were held with the steering group of the Kakanui Landcare Trust project. A summary of the coming terrestrial insect investigation was provided by the contracted consultant.

A farm tour of a dairy farm in North Otago where water quality monitoring has been ongoing was undertaken to isolate possible causes for high readings in some of the tested parameters. The discharge is a historic tile pipe and it was noted that finding where the tile was laid will be essential in trying to find any contamination pathways. The farmer is very interested in improving this discharge.

A farmer looking to take water for intermittent irrigation from a small ephemeral stream received consenting information during an on-site visit. The risks of wintering close to this stream were covered and consent application forms supplied.

3. Catchment programmes: Water Quantity

a) Manuherikia

An Omakau farmer received assistance in planning his deemed permit renewal, measuring and consenting requirements as part of the ongoing developments around the Sludge Channel of Omakau. A subsequent meeting with consents staff took place to advise on regulatory requirements.

b) Lowburn/Pisa

An irrigation installation company, involved with installing measuring devices in Central Otago, has agreed to establish a repeater station in the Lowburn valley to relay data from those water takes that do not have a direct telemetry link. Quotes are being finalised for presentation to the group. This facility will ensure there is real time data for all takes for the smooth functioning of group managed water within the Lowburn catchment.

4. Annual Plan Targets

B2 In co-operation with the dairy companies in Otago, visit all dairy farms planning a conversion to discuss environmental considerations and requirements.

Four dairy conversion assessments were carried out in Otago, two being in West Otago (Heriot and Waipahi) and the other two in North Otago. Of the two North Otago conversions, one was building a herd home and planning to use very little fertiliser, rather making use of the effluent resource. The other was on a low risk property on the plains planning to use good irrigation methods thus helping reduce nitrogen losses.

B3 Hold, in association with Stakeholders and user groups, field days, discussion groups and seminars.

Staff met with Federated Farmers, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Open Country and Guardians environmental representatives at the Stirling factory on 22 January. The purpose of the meeting was to allow all present to have a sound understanding of the collective programmes and determine where project messages and efforts can be combined. 12 personnel attended.

The first meeting was followed up by a second meeting between ORC and Federated Farmers on 29 January focusing on the 6A implementation strategy and their ideas on how best to make it all as useful as possible for farmers.

B4 Assist with community group projects such Sustainable Farming Fund and Beef and Lamb Monitor farms

Staff have been liaising with the national Beef and Lamb programme manager for the Land and Environmental initiative which has been launched nationwide. Arrangements have been made for a CLE delegate to attend workshops that are conducted in Otago. The prime purpose is to provide clarity and a sound understanding of the objectives of 6A to the audience as an initial focus at the start of each workshop.

5. Other non water activities

The Gilders of Paretai were runners up in the National Wetlands Awards. They received a highly commended for all the wonderful work they have done with restoring and creating wetlands as well as involving the community.

Community Liaison and Education staff met with Dunedin based consultants on 12 February to discuss environmental impact assessments for resource consents, particularly for drain clearance. It is an area this consultant is looking at moving into, and they want to be in a position which is best able to meet farmers' needs, and council's expectations of what needs to be included, while making it cost effective for farmers.

6. Recommendation
That the report be received.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A606837

Report No: 2014/0683

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Peter Taylor, Manager communications

Date: 26 February 2014

Subject: Report on communications and media activity February 2014

This report records communications and media activity between 25 January and 25 February.

1. Media activity

- Five media releases were prepared and distributed.
- ORC activity has received 90 mentions in print media and 16 broadcast mentions.
- No letters to the Editor (ODT, CO News) requiring responses were received.

2. Social media

ORC now has a Twitter page and will soon be launching a Facebook page.

Fifteen Tweets were sent out through Twitter.

There were 62 followers as at 25 February.

3. Corporate communications

- Communications staff have been photographing and recording the progress of the latest flood protection works on the Leith. In addition to media releases updating progress, a feature article is being written for future publication and a new webpage detailing progress is in preparation.
- Staff are working with our transport planners to devise, organise and promote public helpdesks promoting public transport service consultations that are running in April.
- Staff are supporting the policy team organising the following minimum flow meetings:
 - 18 March, Central Otago aquifers.
 - Lindis, Tuesday 1 April
 - Ettrick aquifer and Bengier Burn, Tuesday 11 March
 - Central Otago aquifers, Cromwell and Alexandra, Tuesday 18 March.
- Programme planning for the implementation of the Water Plan water quality rules is underway.
- Weekly communications reporting the cyanobacteria (toxic algae) monitoring results continue to be sent to the Waipori community.
- A public meeting to speak with the Tomahawk lagoon community about cyanobacteria levels is being planned.

4. New publications

- Waterlines February issue has been distributed to all Otago rural properties.
- The Jan/Feb Leaders Brief e-newsletter was emailed.
- Information brochure: Rabbit control; Controlling rabbits with fumigation.

- A series of land and water information sheets are being prepared to assist farmers and foresters to comply with the Otago Water Plan water quality rules.

5. Events and community presentations

- Staff provided public transport information at an ORC stall promoting the GoBus student fare trial, GoCard and Dunedin public transport services during the University of Otago during Orientation Week.
- Staff presented at a DCC workshop for new Dunedin migrants on ORC's activities and provided information on public transport.
- Science staff presented a seminar on water quality monitoring to agricultural students at John McGlashan College. The students have a project looking at water quality in the Waiareka River.
- Hazards staff presented on the Silver Stream flood hazard and flood preparedness to the North Taieri Neighbourhood Support Group.
- Planning is underway for the following community events:
 - Waipori pump commissioning, Tuesday 25 March, 2.30pm.
 - Shag/Waikouaiti Rivers – NZ River Awards celebration, Sunday March 23, 10am start.

6. Website developments

The website is updated on a daily basis as information comes to hand. These are the larger revisions.

- CDEM Website secure area set up for the Civil Defence Emergency Management team members to securely post information for group members to access.
- Events calendar set up on intranet and website to list upcoming events.
- Online form created for the resource consents customer survey.
- Twitter button set up on the home page of website to allow viewers to easily follow us.
- Continual optimisation of all PDFs on website to conform to accessibility standards.
- Editable water inspection sheet created.

7. Website statistics for the period 25 January to 25 February

26,859 Visits

10,971 New Visitors – 40.8%

15,888 Returning Visitors – 59.2%

Country origins for visitors

- New Zealand – 25,043
- Australia – 504
- United States – 416

Visits from around NZ

- Dunedin – 11,433
- Auckland – 5854
- Wellington – 3682
- Christchurch – 1587
- Queenstown – 414

Averages for visits in NZ

3.33 pages in our website viewed per visit

Analysis of pages viewed on the ORC website

Buses

- Main bus page – 32,554 page views
- Bus Info page – 5015 page views
- Route numbers – 2420 page views
- Route – Mosgiel to City – 1456 page views
- Route – City to Mosgiel – 1384 page views
- Route – Port Chalmers to City – 1267 page views
- Route – City to Port Chalmers – 1054 page views

Information and Services

- Information and Services home page – 1244 page views
- Resource Consents – 976 page views
- Natural Hazards – 925 page views
- Water – 816 page views
- Rates – 776 page views

About Us and the Region

- Job Vacancies – 2024 page views
- Contact Us – 1330 page views
- About the Otago Regional Council – 717 page views
- About Us and the Region home page – 512 page views
- About the Region – 382 page views
- Local Body Elections 2013 – 33 page views

Publication and Reports

- Regional Plan Water – 754 page views
- Regional Plan Air – 378 page views
- Regional Policy Statement – 105 page views
- Weekly rainfall and river flow report – 81 page views
- Regional Pest Management Strategy – 68 page views
- Regional Plan Coast – 63 page views
- Rural Water Quality Strategy – 61 page views
- Regional Plan Waste – 46 page views
- Annual water quality and bio monitoring summaries – 19 page views

Other areas viewed

- News and Notices – 1447 page views
- Great Alpine Fault Earthquake – 284 page views
- Proposed changes to bus services – 277 page views
- Dam safety and building consents – 143 page views
- Water Monitoring for recreational activities – 138 page views

Top three PDF downloads

- Bus timetable – 1752

- Job description – Senior Policy Analyst – 134
- Temporary bus stop in Octagon - 122

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A608087

Report No: 2014/0697
Prepared For: Communications Committee
Prepared By: Chief Executive
Date: 24 February 2014

Subject: Report on Customer Services Activity February 2014

1. Training

An emphasis is being placed on general ongoing training with the Customer Services Unit. As new subjects are added into our cache, care will be taken to ensure the whole team is comfortable answering any questions from the public. "Subject prompter" documents will be updated by the original team to ensure information we have is current.

Word "large documents" training has been completed by two CS team members. This training was given by the University of Otago IT team. This has been well received and was made the two staff members a lot more confident on more complicated documents.

2. University Orientation Week

Customer Services provided a lot of help to the Communications team by assisting at the OUSA "tent city" welcoming students to their new year of study. Our focus was ensuring students know about the 25% discount they can receive until the end of April. This news was very well received and there is great hope this will continue into the future.

3. Subject Pods

Customer Services now have the following subject pods added to our capabilities:

- Pollution-Compliance calls
- Total Mobility

A number of consent processes are currently being worked on

4. Recommendation

That this report be received.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive