

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 1.00 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 Stephen Woodhead

**Apologies:**

- Cr David Shepherd

The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Eckhoff and Croot.

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Martin King
- Marian Weaver
- Janet Favel

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Kelliher.

#### Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0725 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 17/3/14

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 15 February to 21 March 2014.

Questions were raised about overdue performance monitoring relating to water takes. Mr King explained that in many cases this related to overdue inspections, and delays in certification/verification of water meters. In view of the large workload, resource needs were being evaluated and staff recruited.

The performance monitoring procedure was noted. Mr King explained that the procedures were put in place three to four years ago, and were reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Mr King explained in response to a question that compliance assessment was activity based, with risk rankings assigned to the activity. If an activity was non compliant, the frequency of inspection was increased.

Non compliance at wastewater treatment plants in Waitaki District was noted. Mr King commented that significant expenditure was needed to bring the plants up to standard, and ongoing improvements were being made. Concern was expressed that there seemed to be a lenient approach to local government compliance, but farmers were prosecuted. Mr King responded that in some cases dairy farmers often did not have the resources to put in place an infrastructure improvement process, which could result in compounding errors, while TLAs had dedicated staff responsible for their facilities. There were also difficulties for sharemilkers who worked for absentee owners. Mr Bodeker advised that a report would be prepared on consent conditions for TLA wastewater treatment plants, and the level of improvement.

The meeting discussed the need to change dairy farmers' mindset in order for 6A discharge thresholds to be met. Mr King observed that there had been a lot of improvement in the dairy industry, and the small proportion who did not make improvements were subject to more frequent inspections. It was noted that PC6A would mean farmers had to regularly monitor their farm management impact on the discharge quality.

Mr King further noted that there was some leniency where a contract had been signed for a water meter but due to the lack of availability of installers, the work had not yet been carried out. Staff were now following up on those who had no water meter and no contract, and abatement notices to stop taking water would be issued.

Reference was made to Pest Management Strategy implementation and the use of 1080 to control rabbit numbers, and use of genetic modification of pests was suggested.

Concern was expressed at wallaby signs in North Otago, and Mr King commented that night inspections were being carried out. He advised that sign had been found of two to five wallabies, and it was thought that they had been deliberately released. Mr King noted that people caught releasing wallabies in Otago were liable under the Biosecurity Act, but offenders were very hard to catch. It was suggested that consideration be given to public education on the risk of introducing wallabies into Otago, the consequences for offenders, and the damage wallabies could cause to the land.

It was noted that the Pest Management Strategy was coming up for review, and Mr McRae advised that consideration was being given to development of a South Island-wide Strategy, in part because of changes to legislation relating to identifying costs involved. It was intended that a list of common pests be drafted, and the document would also include information about where action as opposed to observation was required.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Kempton seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2  
2014/0779

**Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 3/4/14**

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 24 February to 3 April 2014.

In response to a query about the number of transfers, Mr King explained that these related to the measuring point of the take. A significant number still showed a former owner's name and records were being updated through this process.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3  
2014/0781 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**  
DPPRM, 28/3/14

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 25 February to 28 March 2014.

Cr Kelliher moved  
Cr Robertson seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4  
2014/0774 **Appointment of hearing commissioners.** DPPRM, 2/4/14

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 2 April 2014.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm

**Chairperson**

