

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 9.30 am

**Present:**

- Cr Michael Deaker** (Chairperson)
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**
- 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 Stephen Woodhead**

**Apologies:**

- Cr David Shepherd**  
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Kelliher and Woodhead.

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Peter Taylor**
- Richard Pettinger** (for Item 1)
- 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 Robertson and Croot.

#### Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0692 **Notification of Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation).**  
DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report explained that proposed Plan Change 4B sought to clarify and strengthen the provisions of the Water Plan for managing groundwater allocation and avoiding over-allocation in Otago aquifers.

Comments made during the consultation process were listed in the report, and the request for a timeframe greater than five years for evidence of water taken by those seeking replacement consents was noted. Mr Pettinger explained that landowners should have a record of monitoring of take or of irrigation, and he noted situations where takes from over-allocated areas had been operating for some time. Mr Pettinger further noted that the proposed plan change provisions reflected what was in the Plan surface water provisions.

It was pointed out that under the plan change, Council would advise water permit applicants of the allocation status of aquifers, which had not been done to date. Mr McRae commented that only a few groundwater sources were over-allocated, and the same mechanisms would be applied to both surface and ground-water takes. Policies were in place to gradually reduce over-allocation. Under the RMA landholders could apply for a consent prior to their existing consent expiring; the plan change did not allow further over-allocation to result from new consents. The plan change did not set out to override the current regime, but intended to gradually provide for appropriate takes.

The recommendation that a hearing committee be established was noted, and it was suggested that this be done nearer to the proposed September hearing period.

In response to a question about the provision for temporary dewatering, Mr Pettinger explained that this was intended to allow for situations where water would be returned to an area following construction. In the case of long term dewatering, consents to take and to discharge would be required.

The issue of the process for sharing water was raised, and Mr McRae explained that parties could reach their own agreement on how this would be done.

In response to a question Mr McRae explained that consents were issued for intended water use; the purpose for the water use would be stated in the consent, and the rate approved would reflect what the applicant had said they would do. If a consent was not activated within five years it would lapse. Mr McRae further explained that where monitoring results showed the full amount of take was not being used, under the consent's review clause the permitted take volume could be reduced. The unused water

could be transferred from one take to another. If a consent holder wanted to change the use of the water, a change to the consent would be required.

Mr McRae noted that the plan change incorporated alignment with the NPSFWM, and the strikeouts in the draft which accompanied the report were to simplify and streamline the original text.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Kempton seconded

1. *That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) and its accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report be approved for notification in accordance with clause 5, Schedule 1 of the RMA.*
2. *That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) be publicly notified on Saturday 17 May 2014.*
3. *That the Council establish a Hearing Committee to hear and make recommendations relating to Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation).*
4. *That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) will have immediate legal effect upon notification.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2

2014/0764 **Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis integrated water management).** DPPRM, 3/4/14

The report presented a draft proposed plan change for management of the surface water resources in the Lindis catchment and the aquifers of the Bendigo-Tarras Basin for consultation under the Resource Management Act 1991. A draft evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with the proposed change was circulated with the report.

Mr McRae commented that the proposed plan change arose from consultation with the community prior to irrigation scheme proposals in the area. He noted in response to a question that the management of surface water resources in the Lindis catchment had to be resolved, with certainty for water users in the area, before the cessation of mining privileges in 2021.

Councillors supported the minimum flows and allocations, amendment to the boundary of one of the aquifers, and surety of supply for water users. The Section 32 report which set out the rationale for the proposed changes was commended. It was noted that this was a complex situation, and the consultation process would allow for community discussion.

In response to a question about the parties to the consultation listed in the report, Mr McRae explained that the consultation would involve the full community.

More gradual changes between the different minimum flow levels were suggested, but it was felt that this would make the regime too complex.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Bell seconded

*That the attached Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated Water Management) and the accompanying draft Section 32 Evaluation Report is released for consultation in terms of clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3

2014/0765 **Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan.** DEHS, 1/4/14

The report advised that a combined ORC/DCC staff working group had prepared a set of natural hazards principles and planning considerations to help develop rules to manage land use activities for inclusion in the Dunedin City District Plan review. It was appropriate that those principles and considerations be endorsed by Council prior to the development of District Plan rules.

Councillors endorsed the proposed principles, noting the importance of utilising the expertise of both councils to ensure the desired outcomes were achieved. It was noted that this work could be extended to include the RPS.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That:*

- 1. This report is received, and*
- 2. The set of principles and planning response considerations outlined in the report are noted and endorsed.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4

2014/0759 **Submission on RMA Amendment Monitoring Bill.** DEHS, 3/4/14

The report noted that the Minister for the Environment had introduced an Environmental Reporting Bill to Parliament on 20 February 2014, and presented a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Neill seconded

*That the Council make a submission on this Bill as attached in Appendix 1.*

**Motion carried**

Item 5

2014/0763 **Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill.**  
DPPRM, 1/4/14

The report noted that the Minister for Building and Construction introduced the Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill to Parliament on 9 December 2013, and presented a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee. It was noted that as the proposed changes in respect to dams were minor, they would have little effect on how Council discharged its responsibilities under the Act.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Robertson seconded

*That Council make a submission in support of the proposed changes to the Building Act 2004 as they relate to dams, as attached in Appendix 1.*

**Motion carried**

**PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 6

2014/0769 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 4/4/14

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

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Kelliher seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 10.22 am

**Chairperson**

