



Otago  
Regional  
Council

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## Council MINUTES

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Aonui, Otago Regional Council, 180 High Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 27 May 2026, commencing at 10:32am.**

**PRESENT**

Cr Hilary Calvert	<i>(Chair)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
Cr Robbie Byars	
Cr Chanel Gardner	
Cr Matt Hollyer	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Michael Laws	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Kate Wilson	

## **1. WELCOME**

Cr Kate Wilson gave a reflection to open the meeting. Chair Calvert welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:32am. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE) online, Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

**Resolution Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm**

**Seconded** *That the apologies for Cr Gillespie, Cr Noone be accepted.* **MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Laws left the meeting at 10.32am*

*Cr Byars joined the meeting at 10:33am*

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Pierre Marasti spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, there was an opportunity for questions, Chair Calvert thanked Pierre for attending.

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 10:41 am.*

Chris Ford spoke on behalf of Disabled Persons Assembly, online, there was an opportunity for questions, Chair Calvert thanked Chris for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**Resolution Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

**4.1** That the additional paper, Attachment 5 Proposed ORC Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 – Clean Version be added to matter 10.2 Navigational Safety Bylaw.

**4.2** That **10.1 Approval to make the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 Operative** is withdrawn by the Chief Executive under standing order 9.9 Withdrawal of Agenda Items.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations were held.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The additional text was noted for inclusion to matter 10.7 of the Minutes.

**Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)**

There are currently no open actions for Council.

## **9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS**

### **9.1. Chairperson's Report**

Chair Calvert was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.2. Chief Executive's Report**

Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution: Cr Hollyer moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **10.2. Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw Adoption**

[YouTube Pt1 50:50] The paper sought Council approval for the adoption of the proposed Otago Regional Safety Bylaw 2026. Hearings panel Chair, Cr Wilson introduced the report. Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Vyvienne Evans (Policy Analyst), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Pete Dryden (Deputy Harbourmaster), and Michelle Mehlhopt (Legal Counsel Wynn Williams) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-175: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report, the proposed Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 (tracked change and clean versions), the Panel's recommendation report, the Harbourmaster submissions analysis, and the table of submissions.*
- 2) Notes** *that the members of the Hearing Panel can speak to the hearing process and presentation of the recommendations report and answer questions from Councillors but will recuse themselves from voting on recommendations 3 to 6.*
- 3) Adopts** *the Hearing Panel's recommendations on submissions and recommended amendments to the proposed Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 set out in Attachments 1, 2 and 5 of this Report.*
- 4) Determines** *that the proposed Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 is the most appropriate form of bylaw in accordance with section 155(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.*
- 5) Determines** *that the proposed Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 does not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in accordance with section 155(2) of the Local Government Act 2002.*
- 6) Makes** *the Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026.*
- 7) Notes** *that the Council's Common Seal shall be affixed to the Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 and witnessed by two Councillors.*
- 8) Gives** *public notice of making the Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 on 30 May 2026 which states that the Otago Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 will come into operation on 1 June 2026.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher and Cr Wilson abstained from the vote as panelists of the hearings.

### **10.3. Approval of Biosecurity Operational Plan 2026/27**

[YouTube Pt1 56:00] The paper sought approval of the 2026-2027 Biosecurity Operational Plan. Portfolio Lead Cr Byars introduced the paper. Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Robert Win (Team Leader Biosecurity Programmes), and Michelle Ewans (Biosecurity Specialist - Terrestrial) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-176: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Approves** the Otago Regional Council's 2026-2027 Biosecurity Operational Plan (Attachment 1 of the report) to enact the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 and authorises the Chief Executive to correct minor errors to the 2026-2027 Biosecurity Operational Plan, if they arise.
- 3) Notes** that a copy of the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2026-2027 Biosecurity Operational Plan will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity (draft letter is included as Attachment 3 of the report).
- 4) Notes** that staff will report back to Council any response from the Minister for Biosecurity.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **10.4. Council Delegations Manuals**

[YouTube Pt1 1:28:50] The paper sought to confirm that a comprehensive review of the current Delegations Manual has been completed, to provide advice to Council on two draft replacement Delegations Manuals that have been prepared following that review, and approval to revoke the current Delegations Manual (published December 2025), and replace it with two Delegations Manuals; being the Council Delegations Manual and a Chief Executive Delegations Manual. Tami Sargeant (General Manager People and Corporate), Janet Ashcroft (Legal Counsel), and Katia Fraser (Special Counsel, Rice Speir) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-177: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Resolves** to revoke the current Delegations Manual.
- 3) Resolves** to adopt the attached Council Delegations Manual.
- 4) Notes** the attached Chief Executive Delegations Manual does not require adoption by Council resolution and acknowledges the attached Memorandum from the Chief Executive which records that Chief Executive Delegations Manual is to be approved by the Chief Executive contemporaneously with Council resolutions made here.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **At 12:21pm Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson seconded**

That Council adjourn until 1:00pm.

**MOTION CARRIED**

At 1:00pm Council reconvened.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 1:06pm.

### **10.5. Engaging with Communities and Stakeholders to Explore Issues in Managing the Otago Coast**

[YouTube Pt2 14:50] The paper sought approval to engage with the community and key stakeholders on coastal issues and opportunities, in order to inform the development of coastal planning provisions in the future resource management system. Portfolio Lead Cr Kate Wilson introduced the paper. Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Fresh Water and Land), Amy Young (Senior Policy Analyst), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, were available to respond to questions on the report

#### **Resolution CM26-178: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report.*
- 2) Approves** *Option 1 – direct staff to engage with the public and key community groups on coastal issues and opportunities to inform an issues and opportunities report that will be used to inform the new resource management framework when it is enacted.*

#### **BY DIVISION**

For:	Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Robertson, Cr Sommerville, Cr Wilson, Cr Calvert
Against:	Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws
Abstained:	None

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

6 in favour, 4 against.

### **10.6. Non-Financial Activity Performance as at Quarter 3 2025-26**

[YouTube Pt 2 45:50] The paper presented the Council's Activity Performance Report for the 9-month period ended 31 March 2026. Portfolio Lead, Cr Gardner introduced the report. Vanessa Vidallon (Corporate Planning Business Partner), Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Planning and Performance), and Amanda Vercoe (GM Manager Strategy and Customer) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-179: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report.*
- 2) Notes** *that the attached Activity Performance Report for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026 being quarter three of the 2025-26 financial year.*

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **10.7. Quarter 3 Financial Report (January-March)**

[Youtube Pt2 55:35] The paper presented Council's Financial Reports for the 9-month period to 31 March 2026 being Quarter 3 of the 2025-26 financial year. Portfolio Lead Cr Gardner introduced the report. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), and Sean Geary (Manager Financial Planning and Analysis) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-180: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report and the attached Financial Reports for March 2026 (Quarter 3 of the 2025-26 financial year).*

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **10.8. Total Mobility**

[YouTube Pt2 1:03] The paper provided an overview of Ministry of Transport's Total Mobility guidance to be implemented from 1 July 2026 and sought a decision on a fare cap reduction. Portfolio Lead Cr Somerville introduced the paper. Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), and Laura Faulkner (Transport Officer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

The recommendations were taken separately.

#### **Resolution CM26-181: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

**1) *Notes this report.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Resolution CM26-182: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

**2) *Adopts the recommended 10% reduction in the fare cap for Total Mobility (Option 1), to be implemented from 1 July 2026.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Wilson and Cr Malcolm voted against.

#### **Resolution CM26-183: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

**3) *Writes to the Minister of Transport urging that Total Mobility is reviewed and better resourced so that it can fully meet its purpose for all communities.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Gardner left the meeting at 2:43 pm.*

*Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 2:44 pm.*

### **10.9. Annual Air Quality Report 2025**

[YouTube Pt2 1:47] The paper presented the results of the State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring for air quality for the calendar year 2025. Portfolio Lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper. Sarah Harrison (Air Quality Scientist), Ben Mackey (Manager Science), and Tom Dyer (GM Science) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-184: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

**1) *Notes this report.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **10.10. Land and Soil Programme Update**

[YouTube Pt2 2:11] The paper provided an annual update on the Land and Soil science work programme. It is a summary of key workstreams and projects since the last programme update report was presented to Council in June 2025. Ben Mackey (Manager Science), Erik Button (Scientist Land and Soil), Amir Levy (Senior Scientist), and Tom Dyer (GM Science) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-185: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

That the Council:

**1) *Notes this report.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 3:32pm.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

24 June 2026

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Date