

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 17 September 2014 commencing at 1.30 pm**

Present:

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

Leave of Absence:

- Cr Trevor Kempton**
The leave of absence was noted.

In attendance:

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

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The minutes of the joint ORC/Environment Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 25 August 2014 were received after the agenda was circulated and were added to the agenda as Item 12. There were no other changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Matt Hickey, Marian Weaver, Matt Dale and Dale Meredith were present for this item.

Six members of the Lindis Catchment Group attended to provide the Council with an update on irrigation matters in the Tarras region.

Robbie Gibson

Mr Gibson spoke about the development of Lindis irrigation from the early 1900s to the present, to meet water requirements for changed land uses. He stated that the group had appealed to ORC to balance all uses when minimum flows for the Lindis River were considered.

Matt McCaughan, Geordie Hills

Mr McCaughan was concerned about the true impact of the proposed minimum flows. He noted that LCG members had commissioned BTW Company to carry out an assessment of Lindis River flows, and had shared the report with ORC.

Cr Robertson left the meeting because of a conflict of interest with her position as Chair of the Lindis minimum flow hearing.

Jayne Rive, Cloudy Peak

Ms Rive advised that a minimum flow of 450 l/s would give 100% water supply reliability, 60% reliability in a dry year. Their property was very vulnerable, with no space for storage, and the cost of water from the Clutha River/Mata-Au was prohibitive. A high minimum flow would have a devastating effect on the family farms, of which there were a number in the area.

Alastair Rutherford, The Point

Mr Rutherford was concerned about the length of time being taken to determine the minimum flow, which created uncertainty for landholders. He commented that landholders had made investment decisions based on a minimum flow of 450 l/s. There was also uncertainty about water rights post 2021. He asked where the boundary of the catchment would be set, and requested clarity on whether water would be allowed to be taken out of a dry catchment when there was no alternative source.

Tim Davis, Long Acre

Mr Davis considered that the median should be used rather than the average, which did not give an accurate picture. He noted seasonal variation: 2008-09 80% reliability, 2005-06 23% reliability. He also commented that the quantity of water lost to groundwater was not known. A minimum flow of 450 l/s would be viable for farming operations, recreational uses, fish habitat, and maintenance of existing good water quality. In response to a question he advised that property size, cost to pump water, and terrain meant the necessary three weeks storage was not viable, so storage would have to be run of the river.

John Perriam, Bendigo Station

Mr Perriam noted the multiple land use changes in the area, citing the benefit to the region from wine production. He commented that the close proximity of his property to the Clutha River/Mata-Au had allowed him to invest in alternatives. Those on the Lindis did not have alternatives. They were aware water resources were limited, but needed to be able to support

their families. A minimum flow of 450 l/s would be difficult, but the community could live with it. A higher minimum flow would cause huge stress.

In response to a question Mr Gibson advised that the group represented every water user in the Lindis catchment, including boreholders and irrigators.

The group left at 2.13 pm, and Cr Robertson returned to the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2014, 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.

PART A - REPORTS FROM CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Item 1
2014/1386 **Chairperson's Report.** Chair, 12/9/14

The report provided an overview of the Chairperson's activities for the period to 12 September 2014.

In response to a question about regional economic development, Cr Woodhead explained that international education was important across the region at both secondary and tertiary levels.

Cr Woodhead displayed the scroll presented to the Council by the Shanghai delegation which visited the region recently.

The report noted a report by Mr Scott on Maori representation presented to a recent Te Roopu Taiao meeting. Mr Scott explained that this year the Otago population proportions had reached the point at which an option for Maori constituencies could be considered. This issue had been discussed with Iwi who traditionally had not requested Maori representation but now indicated a possible change of view. The deadline for a request for change would be required by 23 November, and would trigger a full representation review. Mr Bodeker advised that the four rünanga had been asked for their collective consideration and recommendation.

In response to a question Cr Woodhead advised that the Otago Rural Fire Authority (ORFA) had commenced operation recently and incorporated six previous rural fire authorities – five districts, and DoC. Mr Scott advised that in the past the national RFA had provided a subsidy for local rural fire authorities, and he assumed that this ratio would be continued.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Brown seconded

That the Chairperson's report be received.

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/1369 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 9/9/14

The report provided an overview of the Chief Executive's activities for the period to 9 September 2014.

Mr Bodeker explained that the Regional CEO group comprised CEs of regional councils and unitary authorities. The meetings were wide-ranging and of significant use. The CEEF group comprised chief executives of government departments and regional councils. The review of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the regional sector looked at how valuable the Groups were and what their Terms of Reference should be.

A question was raised about provision of consents support to Environment Southland. Mr Bodeker explained that this arrangement enabled ORC to provide assistance while there was surplus staff capacity, and meant staff could be retained. Mr McRae explained that consents were processed in the order they were received, regardless of where they came from, and that the work was fully cost recovered. Mr Bodeker pointed out that an anticipated surge in consent applications following the introduction of Plan Changes 1C and 6A could mean that ORC had to seek similar support from elsewhere.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the Chief Executive's report be received.

Motion carried

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3

2014/1291 **Request to vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012–2015: HPMV route – Dunedin to Queenstown – bridge strengthening.** DPPRM, 26/8/14

The report explained that NZ Transport Agency’s Highway and Network Operations had requested a new project be added to the Otago Regional Land Transport Programme 2012–15. The project related to the strengthening of bridges (specifically the Alexandra and Beaumont bridges), as required, to enable the whole of the route between Dunedin and Queenstown to be capable of carrying High Productivity Motor Vehicles.

In response to a question Cr Bell explained that adding this project to the RLTP would not bring the work forward.

Cr Bell moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the Council approve as a variation to the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015, the addition of the HPMV route – Dunedin to Queenstown – bridge strengthening activity, set out in the attachment.

Motion carried

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/1373 **Financial Report.** DCS, 11/9/14

The report provided information in respect of overall Council finances for the month of July 2014.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/1371 **Documents signed under Council's Seal.** DCS, 10/9/14

The report listed documents signed under the Council's seal.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Scott seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 6 **Reports from Councillors**

Cr Bell – combined meeting Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees, 25 August, Gore

Cr Bell advised that the meetings alternated between Gore and Alexandra, and Councillors and staff of the two councils were working well together. Work was progressing on collating and prioritising transport projects for the next six years.

PART D - MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Item 7 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting** held on 4 September 2014, for adoption

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 4 September 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 8 **Recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting** held on 4 September 2014, for adoption

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 4 September 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 9 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting** held on 4 September 2014, for adoption

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 4 September 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 10 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting** held on 4 September 2014, for adoption

Cr Neill moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 4 September 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 11 **Recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting** held on 4 September 2014, for adoption

Cr Scott moved
Cr Brown seconded

That the recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 4 September 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Late Item

Item 12 **Recommendations of the joint ORC and Environment Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting** held on 15 August 2014, for adoption

Cr Bell moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the recommendations of the joint ORC and Environment Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 15 August 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm



Chairperson