

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 10 December 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 Trevor Kempton
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd

In attendance:

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

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014 were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Bell.
- (b) The minutes of the special meeting held on 26 November 2014 were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Shepherd.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A – CHAIRPERSON’S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORTS

Item 1

2014/2001 **Chairperson’s report.** Chair, 4/12/14

The Chairperson provided an overview of his activities for the period to 4 December 2014.

Cr Woodhead advised that he would circulate to Councillors the Performance Improvement Framework that had been confirmed by the Mayoral Forum.

Cr Woodhead and Cr Robertson had attended the Morgan Foundation-run NZ River Awards. Cr Woodhead explained that the Foundation identified entries for the awards using data from the LAWA site.

Cr Robertson had represented ORC at the 28 November RSG meeting, and her report was circulated with the agenda. She had found it useful to attend the meeting and the river awards function. Her report discussed 3 Waters, Reputation Index, Biodiversity, Overseer, and LAWA, and a presentation by Audit NZ

The Local Government reputation index was noted, with local government calculated at 29/100. Cr Woodhead advised that the marketing campaign being developed was aimed at helping councils through existing marketing programs and providing new tools. The point was made that the data used to achieve the index for local government was influenced by people who didn’t use local government, and caution was expressed about spending a lot of money on improving a misleading result.

Comment was made with regard to the accuracy of the Overseer program. Mr Bodeker advised that the government investment in the program would continue, and that regional sector representatives were to meet with the Director General of Agriculture before Christmas.

The NZ River Award for Dunstan Creek was noted, and it was pointed out that the improvement in the river could be partly due to low returns from the fine wool sector in that area, and could change if the fine wool sector improved. It was also noted that there were few farms in that catchment. Mr Bodeker commented that the credibility of the awards had been discussed by the RSG Chief Executives, but it would not look good if the regional council sector pulled out of the awards. Comment was also made that awards were given to regional councils, but a lot of work by communities was not recognised.

Item 2

2014/1990 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 3/12/14

The Chief Executive provided an overview of his activities for the period to 3 December 2014.

The Health and Safety review was noted, and in response to a question Mr Bodeker advised that the review would be presented to the Audit and Risk Subcommittee, who would comment whether or not it should be workshopped. It was suggested that a report on the review be provided to Councillors.

Councillors suggested that they should be provided with the Civil Defence, Lifelines, and Health and Safety reviews.

Mr Bodeker's report noted the discussion at the previous Regulatory Committee meeting on the increase of non-compliance on dairy farms, and pointed out that this partly resulted from improvements in the inspection regime. He explained that TLAs were required to advise ORC if a breach of standards was identified, and enforcement action could only be taken where farmers were caught. Staff had records of potential and/or recorded regular breaches, and were investigating a monitoring regime that would allow better records to be kept of any problems.

Concern was expressed at the misconception that farming and urban breaches were treated differently, and it was considered that clarification through publicity was needed.

Mr Bodeker noted that Mr Scott had given notice of his intention to retire at Easter 2015 after 39 years with ORC, and his departure would be marked appropriately at that time.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the Chair's and Chief Executive's reports be received.

Motion carried

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3

2014/1917 **Recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.** DPPRM, 10/12/14

The report presented the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) to the Regional Plan:

Water for Otago, for adoption by Council. The Plan Change documentation was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Croot, chair of the hearing panel, noted that the main issues addressed in submissions related to clarification of objectives in the plan change, and included a request that water allocation status be available on line. One significant change was for an application to take from an aquifer which was/could be over allocated changed to be considered non complying, rather than prohibited. Better definitions of non consumptive and temporary takes were also requested.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Neill seconded

That Council:

1. *Adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation) as its decision;*
2. *Publicly notify its decisions on Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation) on Saturday 13 December 2014; and*
3. *Notify submitters of its decisions.*

Motion carried

Item 4

2014/1805 **Recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.** DPPRM, 20/11/14

The report presented the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago, for adoption by Council. The Plan Change documentation was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Scott noted that the recommendation was to increase the maximum allocation, and attention was drawn to information from former groundwater scientist, Jens Rekker, that there was more water in the aquifer than originally understood. Key points made by submitters included groundwater modelling showing that the aquifer was dynamic, and reliable information characterising the groundwater.

Cr Scott moved
Cr Neill seconded

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) as its decision;*
- 2. Publicly notify its decisions on Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) on Saturday 13 December 2014; and*
- 3. Notify submitters of its decisions.*

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/1946 **NZ Productivity Commission – using land for housing.** DPPRM,
1/12/14

The report presented for approval a submission on the report by the NZ Productivity Commission on ‘using land for housing’.

The draft submission considered that the Commission’s report addressed an Auckland problem, and the proposed measures would create problems in the rest of the country.

Question 12 suggested that plans should accommodate views of those who did not participate in the process. It was suggested that a paper be prepared on how to find out the views of those who don’t regularly engage with the Council.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Robertson seconded

That this submission to the NZ Productivity Commission Report “Using land for housing” be approved.

Motion carried

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6

2014/1986 **4 month review to 31 October 2014.** DCS, 5/12/14

The report explained that formal reviews of progress on all projects were undertaken at four, eight and 12 months, and reported to Council. These

reports formed part of each year's Annual Report. The attached full report summarised project progress for the four months to 31 October 2014.

Mr Scott noted that the report recommended changing some of the unrealistic targets.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 7
2014/1834 **Financial Report.** DCS, 3/12/14

The report provided information in respect of overall Council finances for the four months to 31 October 2014.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 8 **Reports from Councillors**

Cr Robertson - Coastal Otago Conservation Awards

Cr Robertson reported that Sandfly Bay volunteers were the overall winners. Other nominees included Penguin Place, and work by the Palmer family on Taieri Island. Tahuna Intermediate won the school section for their work at the Tomahawk Lagoon. Cr Robertson stated that this was a great event which was well attended.

Cr Kelliher - TbFree Committee (OSPRI)

Cr Kelliher advised that at a recent OSPRI meeting, potential funding changes were discussed. Cr Woodhead and the Chief Executive were aware of OSPRI's funding review, and questions about the need for an ongoing regional share. Cr Kelliher reported that there was low incidence of bovine Tb in Otago, but stock movement could increase spread of the disease. Cr Woodhead commented that ORC'S ongoing involvement in OSPRI would be an LTP discussion item.

Cr Kempton - Otago/Southland Regional Land Transport Plan

Cr Kempton reported that a number of workshops and meetings had been held and Plan preparation was progressing well. He commended the

collaborative process, particularly at staff level. There would be a common baseline strategy, and six key projects with interregional significance would be highlighted.

The timetable was:

16 December	Draft programme presented to joint RTC meeting
26 January	Draft programme approved for consultation, appoint joint hearings panel
March	Public consultation
July	Plan operative

PART D – MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Item 9 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting** held on 26 November 2014, for adoption

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 26 November 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 10 **Recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting** held on 26 November 2014, for adoption

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 26 November 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 11 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting** held on 26 November 2014, for adoption

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 26 November 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 12 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting** held on 26 November 2014, for adoption

Cr Eckhoff moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 26 November 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

PART E – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Bell seconded

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:

	<i>General subjects to be considered</i>	<i>Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution</i>
Item 13	<i>Port Otago Ltd Annual Shareholders Meeting</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons (S7(2)(a))</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</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.

Following discussion of Item 13,

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Neill seconded

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That the meeting resume in open session.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 2.56 pm.

S Woodhead

Chairperson