



Our Ref A610586

**Committee meetings Wednesday 3 June 2015**

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Wednesday 3 June commencing at 10.00 am. The venue is the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Full detailed reports referred to in the agendas are available on the Council website, or by contacting the Committee Secretary – see contact details below.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Favel".

Janet Favel  
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**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Agenda for a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee  
to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 3 June 2015 commencing at 10.00 am**

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

**Apologies:** Cr Louise Croot

**Leave of absence:**

**In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday 29 May.**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 22 April 2015, having been circulated, for adoption.

**Matters arising from minutes**

**PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS**

Item 1

2015/0956 **2015-25 Long Term Plan – Recommendations from the Hearing Committee.** DCS, 21/5/15

Presenting the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the 2015-25 Long Term Plan. The summary of submissions are circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 2

2015/0964 **Director's report.** DCS, 25/5/15

The report describes significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

**PART B EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

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:

	General subjects to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 3	Minutes of in committee portion of meeting held on 22 April 2015	To enable the body holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations. (S7(2)(i))	S.48(1)(a)(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.

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee  
held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 11.38 am**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

**Peter Bodeker**  
**Wayne Scott**  
**Jeff Donaldson**  
**Jane Leahy**  
**Fraser McRae**  
**Gavin Palmer**  
**Gerard Collings** (for Item 4)  
**Janet Favel**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, 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.

## PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

### Item 1

2015/0875 **Elected Member Remuneration.** DCS, 14/4/15

The report noted that the Remuneration Authority had undertaken its review of elected member remuneration for the 2015/16 period and had requested confirmation of the Council's information.

Councillors were concerned that the Remuneration Authority had determined a 5.2% rise in Councillor remuneration, at a time when inflation sat at 2%.

Mr Scott commented that the Authority took account of population, turnover and CPI in setting remuneration, and this method was to be reviewed prior to the 2016 elections.

A question was raised in relation to the sum allocated for Regional Plan Review meetings, and Mr Scott noted the Authority's explanation that this referred to regional plan reviews rather than ongoing changes. In the past councils had been able to roll the unused portion of this sum into the following year.

Mr Scott explained that in the past Council had agreed its approach in relation to allocation of the remuneration pool. There was now an assessed salary for a councillor and an allowance of 1.5 of that amount for the Council to allocate based on responsibilities such as committee chairs.

It was noted that at the last remuneration review Councillors had agreed that the Deputy Chair/Committee Chair/Councillor ratios should be changed. Mr Scott had passed this request on to the Authority who had declined it on the basis that in their view it did not relate to responsibility changes. He was to check the correspondence.

There was also concern that the timing of the next review meant that remuneration for the incoming council would be decided just prior to the election.

In relation to the regional plan review meetings remuneration pool, it was pointed out that minimum flow changes were changes to parts of the Water Plan in the same way that Plan Change 6A was, and it was noted that other minimum flow hearings and the RPS hearing were coming up. However the question was asked whether sums of \$13,290 in 2014/15, and \$13,980 in 2016/16 were needed to cover these hearings, and what the unused portion would be used for. Mr Scott was to check whether the sum could be rolled over into the following year. He noted that any change proposed to the determination would have to be documented and lodged with the Authority by 30 April.

An addition to recommendation 2 was suggested: “.... subject to clarification of regional plan review meetings and the allocation of those funds”. Mr Scott considered that there was not time before the 30 April deadline to prepare documentation on this matter, and it would be followed up on separately.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

- (1) *That this report be received.*
- (2) *That the Council’s remuneration structure be confirmed.*
- (3) *That the Director Corporate Services provide the appropriate documentation to the Remuneration Authority.*

**Motion carried**

Cr Neill proposed an additional recommendation “That the Remuneration Authority be asked to explain why when inflation was 2% Council was asked to increase remuneration by 5.2%”.

Cr Neill moved  
Cr Eckhoff seconded

*That the Remuneration Authority be asked to explain why when inflation was 2% Council was asked to increase remuneration by 5.2%.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2

2015/0871 **8 Month review to 28 February 2015.** DCS, 13/4/15

The report summarised project progress for the eight months to 28 February 2015. The full report was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Neill moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3

2015/0877 **Director’s report.** DCS, 14/4/15

The report described significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

Mr Scott advised that nine submissions had been received to date on the LTP.

Cr Shepherd advised that he and Mr Scott had met with BNZ to discuss the SIPO (Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives), and as recommended by the auditor, would seek an independent review of Council's investments in the managed fund, which could lead to a review of the SIPO.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

- (1) *That this report be received.*
- (2) *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule totalling \$8,184,897.21 be endorsed.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 12.19 pm and reconvened at 12.35 pm.

**PART B EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Cr Shepherd moved  
Cr Woodhead 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>
<i>Item 4</i>	<i>RFT2015-1 Unit 5 - Southern Routes Tender delegated approval</i>	<i>To enable the body holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations S7(2)(i)</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.*

**Motion carried**

Following discussion of Item 4,

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the meeting resume in open session.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

**Chairperson**



## REPORT

Document Id: A786241

Report Number: 2015/0956  
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate  
Prepared By: Projects Manager  
Date: 21 May 2015

Subject: **2015-25 Long Term Plan - Recommendations from the Hearing Committee**

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### 1. Précis

Submissions on the 2015-25 Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) closed on 4 May 2015. Council received 160 submissions, and of those, 72 submitters presented their submissions to the Hearing Committee. Hearings were held in Balclutha on 11 May, Alexandra on 12 May, and in Dunedin on 13, 14 and 15 May.

The purpose of this report is to present the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the LTP.

### 2. Background

Changes to the Local Government Act meant that Council prepared a consultation document, rather than a draft LTP, for consultation purposes. The draft LTP could not be used as an alternative to the consultation document, and the consultation document could not have attached to it a draft LTP, or a full draft of any policy or strategy.

Our consultation document, "For our Future" identified that the significant issues facing council over the next 10 years were:

- Water quality and quantity (incl. the implementation of rural water quality rules, establishment of minimum flows, and transition from mining privileges to consents).
- Land protection (incl. pest management, flood and drainage schemes, hazards, and rivers and waterway management).
- Biodiversity (incl. development of a strategy, environmental restoration programme, and a wilding tree review).
- Air (incl. an air strategy for Otago).

In addition to the activities of council, the consultation document contained a section on proposed revenue policy changes, in respect of compliance monitoring charges, the proposed water quality rate and dairy rates.

A web site dedicated to the consultation process was established, which contained a copy of the consultation document, Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, information on Dunedin bus fares, an on line submission form, and a rate estimator, which enabled all ratepayers to view what their estimated rates will be for the 2015/16 financial year.

### 3. Submissions

Council received 160 submissions, covering a range of issues including the following:

- Revenue policy changes
- Consultation process
- Flood and drainage schemes

- Water
- Biodiversity
- Transport
- Funding and / or support requests.

A summary of submissions received, along with recommendations on each submission has been distributed separately with the agenda. Note is made that submissions received have been made available to all Councillors.

#### **4. Consideration of the issues raised on the proposed Revenue Policy changes**

The Hearing Committee has considered the submissions received on the proposed revenue policy changes, and makes the following comments and recommendations on each:

##### **4.1 Compliance Monitoring**

Compliance monitoring is made up of performance monitoring, and audits.

To date, performance monitoring has been paid for, half by consent holders through fees and charges, and half from general rates. In the consultation document, we proposed increasing the level of fees payable so that 75% of the cost of performance monitoring is to be paid for by consent holders, with 25% coming from general rates.

Audits have previously been paid for, half by consent holders and half from general rates. Our consultation document proposed that audits be paid for in full by consent holders, and that there be no general rate contribution to this work.

Council received 34 submissions on the proposals as follows:

- 16 submitters were opposed to the proposed increases in fees and charges.
- 12 submitters supported the proposal, with some suggesting that performance monitoring should also be 100%.
- Four submitters noted that if the compliance costs are to increase, then ORC needs to ensure an efficient professional system for monitoring and auditing that is open and accountable. Consent holders shown to be compliant should have a longer time frame between audits.
- Two submitters required further information.

The hearing committee recommends that the proposed changes proceed. It noted that there were no compelling arguments provided in submissions for keeping the fees and charges at their current rates. These fees are also in line with the proposed water quality monitoring rate for which 75% is proposed to be paid for by targeted rates, and 25% by general rates. Section 8 of this report sets out the proposed schedule of charges.

##### **4.2 Water quality targeted rate**

The draft LTP included a project to implementation of the rural water quality provisions of the Regional Plan: Water ("Water Plan") at a cost of approximately \$2 million. Initiatives provided for included education and liaison, research and development, science and monitoring.

The estimated cost and funding sources of this project as proposed in the LTP are shown in the table below:

Activity	General rates \$000	Targeted rates \$000s	Reserves \$000s	Total cost \$000s
Education / liaison	481			481
Enviro monitoring	107	320	60	487
Science	164	493		657
R & D			353	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>1,978</b>

The plan proposed that 75% of the costs of the science and monitoring work, being \$813,000, be funded by way of a water quality targeted rate on specified rural land types as follows.

- Rural arable farming
- Rural dairy
- Rural forestry
- Rural market gardens and orchards
- Rural mineral extraction
- Rural multi-use within rural industry
- Rural specialist livestock
- Rural stock finishing
- Rural store livestock

The monitoring work involves catchment monitoring and prohibited and permitted activity audits, at an amount of \$320,000, being 75% of the total cost of this work. The monitoring targets for 2015/16 are:

- Monitor Kakanui groundwater surface water interaction, including the effects of abstraction on nitrate concentrations in the lower Kakanui.
- Monitor Ettrick Aquifer N concentrations
- Undertake water quality data collection of the Washpool and Crookston Burn, to inform compliance with 6A.
- Monitor the water quality in the Waiwera catchment.
- Undertake audits of prohibited and permitted activities relating to:
  - Commercial and farm forestry operations
  - Mechanical disturbance of waterways using aerial surveillance and follow-up with ground based inspections
  - Land disturbance activities by aerial surveillance and follow up with ground based inspections
  - Potential stock pugging of waterways using aerial surveillance and follow-up with ground based inspections.
- Develop a Schedule 15 and 16 monitoring strategy including data management, sampling regimes, site investigations and reporting.
- Monitor water quality and stream health changes as a result of forestry harvesting in the Glendhu Forest.
- Continue a monitor farm to test real time water quality sampling and measurement technologies as they are identified.

The science work of \$493,000 is made up of the following targets for the 2015/16 year:

- Summarise the results of forestry harvesting in the Glendhu Forest on stream health and water quality, and share with the forestry industry.
- Make ORC science information around mitigation measures available to the farm advisory market.
- Report on the water quality in the Cardrona catchment.

- Produce a model and report on N load effects on N concentrations in the lower Kakanui including the effects of abstraction.
- Continue the investigation into nitrate loss in the Queenstown Lakes area to validate the Overseer model in high rainfall environments and report those results.

All specified rural land holders who would be charged a water quality rate of \$50 or more, were sent a letter at the end of March, advising them of the proposed rate, outlining the rating impacts, and inviting them to submit on our LTP. Over 3,600 letters were sent out.

57 submissions were received on the proposed rate, as follows:

- 19 submitters supported the introduction of the water quality rate. Of those, three commented on the basis of the calculation: -
  - Rate should be on land value, not capital value.
  - Policy should apply to all landowners over 2 hectares.
- 19 submitters were opposed to the use of a targeted rate to pay for the work. Comments included the following:-
  - Would prefer to pay for monitoring as it occurs. Science should be paid for by general rate.
  - Improved water quality benefits all, monitoring should be paid for by all ratepayers (16 submitters including Federated Farmers).
  - Pay for by fees and charges –user pays arrangement, rather than blanket rate.
  - Farmers not only ones who contribute to water quality issues.
- Six submitters were opposed to ORC undertaking the science and/or monitoring work:-
  - Additional science and monitoring will not benefit farmers.
  - Science and monitoring via a telemetered system is flawed, and data of limited value.
  - Schedule 16 should be monitored by landowners, and be made available on request. Non-compliant farmers should be held liable for associated costs.
  - If responsibility of farmers to test own discharges, (Schedule 16), then unclear what further testing is required.
  - No science work to be undertaken by ORC, this is being done by AgResearch.
- Seven submitters did not have enough information to provide a view on the rate.
- Other submitters commented as follows:
  - Both the dairy and water quality rates relate to protecting waterways; one form of monitoring should confirm the other, so no need for both.
  - Need to evaluate impact and worth, blanket rate does not allow for those farmers who are doing this work.
  - Have no run off into rivers so should not be charged the rate.

The hearing committee has considered the submissions received. It was concerned with the quantum of the rate on the rural sector, and so requested a review of the work and associated funding sources.

The following amendments to the funding of this project are being recommended by the hearing committee:

- \$129,000 of costs to be funded by reserves, as it involves ORC testing and continuing some of the proposed research and development work (Overseer and monitor farm projects).
- \$51,000 of costs to be removed from the monitoring budget as a reduction in the amount of work done.
- \$30,000 of science equipment purchase costs to be capitalised as assets.

The hearing committee further recommends transitioning the level of targeted rate funding over a period of three years, with 60% of the monitoring and science work to be funded by the targeted rate in 2015/16, 67.5% in 2016/17, and 75% in 2017/18.

The impact of these recommendations for the 2015/16 year is to reduce the targeted rates by \$307,000 to \$506,000, which takes the median water quality rate from \$49 to \$36.41. Revised estimated costs and funding sources for 2015/16 are as follows:

Activity	General rates \$000	Targeted rates \$000s	Reserves \$000s	Total cost \$000s
Education / liaison	481			481
Enviro monitoring	138	207	60	405
Science	200	299	30	529
R & D			482	482
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>1,897</b>

These changes impact on the general rates, which will increase by \$67,000. This takes the rate increase from 5.18% up to 6.5%. On a \$250,000 capital value home, the additional increase is approximately \$0.44. The hearing committee recommends that this increase in general rates be approved.

The Hearing Committee asked staff to look into the certain anomalies identified during the hearing process, where it was noted that some reasonably sized farming blocks would not be rated due to their “rural lifestyle” categorisation.

An analysis of this categorisation has shown that there are 3,800 assessments over four hectares (10 acres), the largest property being 106 hectares. This group of ratepayers would contribute approximately \$100,000 towards the \$506,000 rate requirement. 300 of the 3,800 assessments would attract a rate over \$50.

With the lifestyle category and existing rural categories, there will be approximately 12,300 assessments that will be charged this water quality rate, 8,900 of which will have an account under \$50. 31 assessments will be paying over \$500, but note is made that the capital values of each of these assessments exceed \$11 million.

The Hearing Committee recommends including the rural lifestyle properties, four hectares and above, into the category of those attracting the water quality rate targeted rate.

#### **4.3 Dairy monitoring rate**

Because of legal restraints, council has found itself in a position where it is not able to charge for dairy visits using a risk based approach.

Council received 49 submissions on this rate, 14 supporting the rate, and 35 expressing concerns about how the rate was being charged. Concerns raised included no incentive for good practices, and that the rate being based on sensitive catchments was not a fair way of allocating the number of visits each farm would get. The Hearing Committee and staff agree with the concerns of submitters.

The LTP proposes that each dairy farm (around 450) will receive at least one visit, with some farms receiving up to two or three visits, based on catchment sensitivity. Three classes of rates were proposed, based on the number of visits, each visit costing \$235 (including GST). The estimated expenditure for this activity was approximately \$192,000.

The Hearing Committee recommends that this project be amended, so that all farms will get charged for one visit only, at a cost of \$235. This does mean that a risk based approach is not being implemented, but it removes the unfairness of rating based on the sensitivity of the catchments. The rate would be charged on the basis of the permitted activity, rather than the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

Note is made that if non-compliance is found at a farm visit, enforcement action will be taken, and all costs incurred will be recovered through fees and charges.

The effect of this proposed change is to reduce the dairy monitoring project by approximately \$90,000.

## **5. Consideration of the issues raised on the proposed activities**

The Hearing Committee has considered the submissions received on the proposed activities of council, and makes the following comments and recommendations:

### **5.1 Consultation**

Eight submitters commented on the consultation document. The comments raised included that the document did not comply with the LGA as it did not have the necessary background information, adequate assessment of beneficiaries, and that no options were presented. It was noted that the consultation document was useful for engaging the public at a high level, but missed the detail.

The LGA amendment, and subsequent guidance made it clear that the consultation document was to be at a high level, focussing on key issues, and that the document was not to be too long. It is not surprising that submitters who are used to getting the full draft plans found the consultation document to be lacking in detail.

We will be mindful of the concerns raised by submitters about our consultation document and processes, when undertaking future consultations under the LGA, and seek to ensure a sufficient amount of detail is provided in support of the consultation document, whilst adhering to the requirements of the LGA.

Note is made that the Office of the Auditor General is undertaking a review of how well the new consultation document process met the objectives of the legislation, the review to be done in conjunction with a number of councils including the ORC.

### **5.2 Flood and Drainage Schemes**

#### **Lower Taieri flood and drainage schemes**

Eleven submissions were received about the Lower Taieri flood and drainage schemes. Submitters were concerned with the proposed rate increases for the schemes, which are following on from prior years of increases. Submitters noted that scheme rates have more than doubled in recent years. The future rate increases proposed over the next 10 years were considered to be prohibitive.

Concern was also expressed about the proposal to spend \$4.5 million during the years 2020-2023, on a proposed upper/lower pond link spillway. Submitters would like to see improved consultation on works programmes for these schemes, before any work is undertaken. A number of submitters felt that the schemes performed well, and no further alterations were needed to be made to the scheme. They advised that the schemes are providing a sufficient level of service. Further, they had business continuity insurance, and felt the premiums were

more cost effective than ongoing rate increases. They noted that the rate increases were lowering land values and making it less economic to farm in the area.

Submitters felt that the general rate contribution to these schemes was insufficient, citing the importance of the airport, access to Berwick Forest, Sinclair wetlands and the Youth Adventure Trust camp. Roads are also used extensively for cycling. Many submitters requested a revenue policy review and an independent economic assessment be undertaken to evaluate the public benefit element, and therefore the level of general rate contribution to the schemes.

Submitters asked that the targeted rates be held at current levels until a review has been completed, and further consultation is undertaken with ratepayers.

### Lower Clutha Flood and Drainage scheme

Three submissions were received about the Lower Clutha scheme, indicating that more consultation needs to be undertaken before imposing such heavy rate increases and undertaking infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

The Hearing Committee notes that the proposed rate increases for the 2015/16 year are high, with a Lower Clutha rate increase planned of 22%, East Taieri 16%, West Taieri 7% and Lower Taieri 14%.

It also noted that the Lower Clutha scheme has deficit reserve of approximately \$269,000 and the West Taieri drainage scheme has a deficit reserve of approximately \$1.3 million. These deficit reserves are a result of works undertaken in earlier years, e.g., the purchase of new pumps, and so the schemes are now in a phase of repayment for large capital works.

The hearing committee recommends placing a 10% cap on the targeted rate increases for the schemes, which will have the effect of higher rate increases in future years, compared to those proposed in the LTP. No change is proposed for the West Taieri drainage scheme which has rate increases over the next seven years of between 6% – 8%. The changes for the other schemes are shown in the tables below.

### Lower Taieri

Year	Proposed Targeted Rate LTP	% increase	Est. Reserve (=deficit)	Recommended targeted rate	% increase	Est. Reserve (=deficit)
2014/15	613,000		263,000			
2015/16	700,000	14%	96,000	668,000	9%	64,000
2016/17	740,000	6%	325,000	722,000	8%	275,000
2017/18	780,000	5%	690,000	780,000	8%	640,000
2018/19	800,000	3%	863,000	800,000	3%	813,000
2019/20	825,000	3%	1,030,000	825,000	3%	980,000
2020/21	850,000	3%	(710,000)	850,000	3%	(760,000)
2021/22	875,000	3%	(2,526,000)	875,000	3%	(2,576,000)
2022/23	900,000	3%	(4,054,000)	900,000	3%	(4,104,000)
2023/24	950,000	6%	(3,625,000)	950,000	6%	(3,675,000)
2024/25	1,000,000	5%	(3,388,000)	1,000,000	5%	(3,438,000)

The proposed LTP rating resulted in this scheme coming out of deficit in 2031/32. The recommended change will result in the scheme coming out of deficit in 2032/33.

**East Taieri**

Year	Proposed Targeted Rate LTP	% increase	Est. Reserve ()=deficit	Recommended targeted rate	% increase	Est. Reserve ()=deficit
2014/15	363,000		381,000			
2015/16	420,000	16%	319,000	399,000	10%	298,000
2016/17	460,000	10%	215,000	439,000	10%	173,000
2017/18	500,000	9%	96,000	483,000	10%	38,000
2018/19	550,000	10%	70,000	531,000	10%	(7,000)
2019/20	600,000	9%	18,000	585,000	10%	(75,000)
2020/21	650,000	8%	(303,000)	643,000	10%	(402,000)
2021/22	650,000	0%	(40,000)	643,000	0%	(146,000)
2022/23	650,000	0%	223,000	643,000	0%	109,000
2023/24	600,000	(8%)	433,000	643,000	0%	363,000
2024/25	600,000	0%	640,000	643,000	0%	613,000

**Lower Clutha Flood & Drainage**

Year	Proposed Targeted Rate LTP	% increase	Est. Reserve ()=deficit	Recommended targeted rate	% increase	Est. Reserve ()=deficit
2014/15	532,000		(269,000)			(269,000)
2015/16	650,000	22%	(517,000)	585,000	10%	(582,000)
2016/17	715,000	10%	(926,000)	643,000	10%	(1,063,000)
2017/18	750,000	5%	(1,445,000)	708,000	10%	(1,624,000)
2018/19	790,000	5%	(1,468,000)	779,000	10%	(1,658,000)
2019/20	830,000	5%	(1,277,000)	856,000	10%	(1,441,000)
2020/21	875,000	5%	(1,706,000)	875,000	2%	(1,871,000)
2021/22	900,000	3%	(1,848,000)	900,000	3%	(2,011,000)
2022/23	900,000	0%	(1,507,000)	900,000	0%	(1,671,000)
2023/24	900,000	0%	(1,285,000)	900,000	0%	(1,448,000)
2024/25	900,000	0%	(908,000)	900,000	0%	(1,071,000)

The Lower Clutha scheme is estimated to repay its deficit reserves in 2027/28 under both scenarios.

Note is made that every year as part of the annual plan/LTP processes, scheme reserves and expenditure are reviewed before finalising the proposed targeted rates.

The Hearing Committee further recommends that a revenue policy review be undertaken in the 2015/16 year, the scope of that review being limited to the public / private good elements of the schemes, and not the benefit differentials within the targeted rates, which, for the Lower Taieri schemes, were reviewed in 2011. This means that the review will only consider what the general rates contribution should be to the various schemes. It also recommends, that as requested by submitters, an independent economic analysis be undertaken to assist the review.

**5.3 Water**

Around 25 submitters provided comments on our water quality and water quantity initiatives. Many submitters supported our proposed key activities including investing in technologies and supporting water storage.

A number of submitters were concerned that ORC was moving away from its education role. Many supported ORC up skilling key stakeholders and consultants for both our water quality



and water quantity work, but still felt that ORC has an important role engaging and liaising with catchment groups, farmers etc. Some submitters felt that council had moved away from this role.

ORC will continue its education and liaison role, and there is a dedicated work programme included in the LTP to undertake this function.

#### **5.4 Biodiversity**

Approximately 30 submissions were received, all supportive of our initiative to develop a Biodiversity Strategy. Many submitters offered assistance or requested to be consulted on as part of the process of developing the strategy.

A number of submitters have asked that a contestable fund be established. This matter can be considered as part of the strategy development.

#### **5.5 Public Passenger Transport**

Council received 51 submissions about buses. Many submitters were delighted with the improvements made to bus services to date, and were supportive of both the bus hub and new ticketing system.

22 submitters asked that council introduce bus concessions for community service card holders. There are currently student and beneficiary concessions. Submitters felt that the portion of the population not fitting within these two groups that are on low incomes would benefit greatly from this travel assistance.

One submitter requested that the minimum top up of GoCards be reduced from \$10 to \$5. Council has also been asked to consider the implementation of “last ride” where if the price of the ride is more than is available on your GoCard, you can still take the ride, and the shortfall will come off the next top up.

The hearing committee recommends investigating the “last ride” concept when implementing the new ticketing system. It does not support reducing the minimum top up, or providing concessions for community service card holders. Currently all bus patrons receive a 10% discount if they use a GoCard. When the new ticketing system is implemented, that discount will increase to 25%.

#### **5.7 Funding requests and/or support requests**

A number of requests for funding and/or in kind support were received, and each of these are discussed below:

##### **5.7.1 Brighton Surf Life Saving Club**

The lifesaving club has raised \$497,000 to build a community facility which became operational in 2014, however there is a short fall in funding to complete the project in full. The club has requested funding of \$5,000 for each of the next two years, to help meet these costs.

The hearing committee recommends that this request not be supported, as it does not fit within its roles and responsibilities.

### **5.7.2 Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Queenstown Lakes District Council**

Two submissions received have asked council to contribute \$100,000 per annum to the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, towards wilding containment and eradication over the next 10 years. This request has been received on many occasions when consulting on previous annual plans and LTP's.

The Hearing Committee notes that Council is working with the Central Government Task Force Group and is now awaiting the outcome of a funding proposal, before looking at its role on a regional level, and accordingly recommends that this request not be supported.

### **5.7.3 Malcam Charitable Trust**

The Trust runs a farmhand training programme aimed at youth development work and training opportunities within the primary industries sector. The Trust has asked for in kind support in the form of collaboration with the Science and Community Liaison teams, and asks ORC to provide access for students to join in with current projects.

The Trust is also asking for funding of \$20,000 each year towards the salary of the programme manager.

The Hearing Committee recommends that appropriate in kind support be given to the Trust, and that ORC will be happy to provide assistance in the form of staff expertise towards the programme. It does not recommend supporting the request for funds, as this is an operational cost of the Trust.

### **5.7.4 Friends of Lake Hayes**

This society has requested a grant of \$37,650 to co-fund the purchase of a monitoring buoy, to continuously monitor water quality data in Lake Hayes, along with the provision of logistical support for a three year period. This request has been made in previous years.

Note is made that two other submissions were received in respect of Lakes Wanaka, Hawea and Wakatipu. The submitters were concerned with the lack of ORC management of these lakes, and that it is not sufficient for ORC to rely on its water quality (6A) work and minimal river water monitoring to understand and manage the drivers of the lakes' water quality, ecosystems and biodiversity.

The Hearing Committee does not recommend supporting the request from the Friends of Lake Hayes. It recommends that a paper be prepared following a staff investigation what our responsibilities are in respect of these deep water lakes, what has been done to date, and what is needed for these iconic lakes. It acknowledges that ORC does not need the data sought from the monitoring buoys for its own work programmes.

### **5.7.5 NZ Landcare Trust**

The Trust has requested support for the Pomahaka catchment project, which is involved in working with communities and stakeholders on water quality implementation.

The Trust has been granted \$142,820 from the MPI Sustainable Farming Fund, and is requesting \$30,000 each year for three years from ORC, along with in kind support of \$20,540 which would be staff time on the catchment project.

The Hearing Committee recommends that reasonable in kind support be given, but that the request for funding be declined.

#### **5.7.6 Pilot's Wharf, The Aramoana League**

This submitter has asked that the ORC become involved in a campaign to restore the Aramoana Pilot's Wharf, a recreational facility, and has requested \$50,000 to help upgrade the wharf. The Otago Harbour Board use to maintain it. The submitter advised that the Dunedin City Council would maintain the structure once upgraded. The wharf can only be accessed by walking to it.

The Hearing Committee does not recommend supporting this request.

#### **5.7.7 Cosy Homes Trust**

The Trust has requested funding of \$20,000 to assist with Cosy Homes operations. The contribution would enable the Trust to employ staff to support the vision and objectives of the Trust and ORC.

The Hearing Committee notes that ORC already provides in kind support to the Trust, with the provision of staff time. The Trust currently has a Dunedin focus, but ORC's focus is Airzone 1 and Milton. The Hearing Committee does not recommend supporting the request for funding, as this is an operational cost of the Trust.

Note is made that the LTP has provision for \$100,000 to be used towards clean heating appliances in Airzone 1 and Milton

#### **5.7.8 Clutha Development**

The Clutha District Water Catchments Quality Management Project involves encouraging farmers to be involved in water care groups, it holds meetings, field days, tests farm water quality discharges, and has one on one visits with farmers. It is working towards the same goals as the ORC in implementing the rural water quality provisions of the Water Plan.

The group has requested annual funding of \$15,000, to be added to the project funds.

The Hearing Committee acknowledges that this is a positive local initiative, and would be happy to provide in kind support to this group. It does not recommend supporting the request for funding.

## **6. Other Matters**

### **6.1 Transport Rate**

Since the preparation of the LTP, contract prices through our bus tendering have been finalised. The estimated contract costs (ORC share) were favourable. This results in the ability to reduce the transport targeted rate from \$3.425 million in 2015/16 to \$3.296 million. The rate increase on the 2014/15 year is recommended to reduce from 6% to 2% in 2015/16, and from 6% to 4% in 2016/17.

### **6.2 Bylaw applications**

Bylaw approval applications are required if someone wishes to alter or remove council's flood protection assets. Processing these applications can take some time, and to date they have been free of charge.

It is recommended that a charge to recover all costs be placed on the processing of these applications. It is suggested that a deposit of \$300 be payable, and as appropriate, additional costs be invoiced, or refunds made to reflect the actual cost incurred.

### 6.3 Unbalanced budget

Under the Local Government Act, council is required to ensure that for each year, the estimated revenue is sufficient to cover its estimated operating costs. It does however, also allow council to set its revenue at a different level, if council resolves that it is financially prudent to do so. It is estimated that in the first two years of this plan, the estimated revenue will not cover estimated operating costs.

The primary reason for the shortfall in revenue is the use of reserves to fund certain expenditure. This has been planned for three activities of council as follows:

- Council intends investing approximately \$1 million over the next three years on research and development for two activities. Improving Otago's water quality has been identified as a key issue for council and so it has provided to invest in researching and developing tools for real time water quality monitoring. Council also recognises that there are limited tools available to address our pest rabbit problem, and so it will research and invest in new non biological control tools. The use of reserves for research and development is considered prudent, and is in accordance with council's revenue and financing policy.
- At the start of the 10 year period of the LTP, the Dunedin Transport Reserve is estimated to have funds available of approximately \$4.5 million. Approximately \$1.2 million of these reserves are going to be used to implement over the next two years, a new electronic bus ticketing system, and approximately \$900,000 will be used to develop a bus hub in Dunedin city. The transport reserve has been established to fund operating revenue, and its use in these circumstances is considered prudent.

Council needs to resolve that it is financial prudent to have operating deficits in these years.

## 7. Schedule of Fees and Charges

The schedule of fees and charges has been reviewed to incorporate the changes to the performance monitoring recoveries, to introduce the charge for bylaw application approvals, and to update the scale of charges in relation to the actual cost of staff time. The amendments proposed are as follows:

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
	<b>75:25</b>	<b>50:50</b>
<b>Scale of Charges:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Staff time per hour:		
* Executive	235.00	235.00
* Senior Technical/Scientist	160.00	147.00
* Technical/Scientist	110.00	94.00
* Administration	80.00	77.00
 <b>Performance Monitoring Charges:</b>		
<b><i>Discharge to Air Consent</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Measurement of contaminants from a Stack report	86.00	38.50
Ambient air quality measurement of contaminants report	100.00	66.50
Management plans and maintenance records	33.50	33.50
Annual Assessment report	66.50	66.50

**Discharge to Water, Land and Coast**

## Effluent Systems:

Environmental Quality report	46.50	31.00
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## Active Landfills:

Environmental Quality report	58.00	38.50
Management Plans	130.00	174.00

## Industrial Discharges:

Effluent quality report	42.00	28.00
Environmental report	92.00	61.50

Annual Assessment report	50.00	66.50 – 77.00
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Management Plans – minor environmental effects	130.00	174.00
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Management Plans – major environmental effects	260.00	174.00
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Maintenance records	30.00	
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**Water Takes**

	\$	\$
Verification reports	60.00	23.00
Manual return of data per take	80.00	66.50
Data logger return of data per take sent to ORC	50.00	33.50
Telemetry data per consent	35.00	23.00
Low flow monitoring charge*		
- Kakanui at McCones	327.00	327.00
- Unnamed Stream at Gemmels	1,431.00	1,431.00

\* charge for monitoring sites established by the ORC specifically to monitor consented activities in relation to river flows.

A full review of the existing fees was undertaken to determine whether or not they were recovering 50% of performance monitoring work, in accordance with the current revenue policy. Where the policy was not being achieved, the fees were adjusted. A second adjustment was made to recover 75% of costs, in accordance with the proposed revenue policy. As a result, some categories of charges have actually decreased, while some have increased by more than that expected. These charges will be reviewed again to ensure compliance with the revenue policy, after the first year of implementation when comparison against actual costs can be made.

**8. Impacts on Estimates**

The recommendations from the Hearing Committee have resulted in changes to the estimates presented in the consultation document and LTP. Total expenditure for the 2015/16 year is estimated to be \$45.8 million.

The sources of revenue budgeted to cover the cost of our activities are as follows:

Revenue Source	2014/15 \$000s	2015/16 \$000s	2016/17 \$000s	2017/18 \$000s
General rates	5,027	5,354	5,600	5,840
Targeted rates	8,156	9,092	9,824	10,570
Grants	6,028	8,259	7,270	6,532
Fees & charges	3,833	3,536	6,632	3,838
Reserves	3,797	7,845	7,394	3,952
Dividends and investment income	10,043	9,987	10,152	10,259
Other income	1,174	1,361	1,548	1,477

### 8.1 General Rates

The movement in general rates from year to year ranges from a rate increase of 6.5% in the first year of the plan, to a decrease of 2.88% in later years. The first year increase equates to \$327,000.

Over the 10 year period, general rate increases will be capped at 6.9% per annum, which includes inflationary increases. General rates will be limited to no more than \$6.2 million in any year. These will be reviewed annually as part of our Annual Plan process.

The Uniform Annual General Charge is estimated to be \$14.50 (incl. GST) per rateable property compared to \$13.76 in 2014/15.

### 8.2 Targeted Rates

Targeted rates are made up as follows:

Targeted Rates	2014/15 \$000s	2015/16 \$000s	2016/17 \$000s	2017/18 \$000s
Air	89	100	100	100
Water quality	-	507	605	775
Dairy Inspection	-	103	106	136
Forsyth Barr Stadium	550	-	-	-
<b>Targeted River Management rates</b>				
- Central Otago District	155	225	300	350
- Clutha District	185	225	265	275
- Dunedin City	150	150	150	150
- Lower Waitaki River	164	145	145	118
- Wakatipu	250	200	200	200
- Wanaka	167	167	167	167
- Waitaki District	138	260	350	400
<b>Targeted Passenger Transport Services rate:</b>				
- Dunedin	3,231	3,296	3,427	3,633
- Queenstown	45	50	55	55

<b>Targeted Flood and Drainage Scheme rates:</b>				
- East Taieri drainage	363	399	439	483
- Leith flood protection	1,114	1,192	1,275	1,365
- Lower Clutha	532	585	643	708
- Lower Taieri	613	668	722	780
- Shotover Delta	250	250	250	200
- Tokomairiro	45	60	80	95
- West Taieri drainage	475	510	545	580
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,516</b>	9,092	9,824	10,570

### 8.2.1 Targeted Clean Air Rates

The targeted clean air rates focus on Air Zone 1 and Milton. The rates are applied to targeted areas of Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell within the Central Otago District, Arrowtown within the Queenstown Lakes District, and Milton within the Clutha District. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	<b>2015/16 \$000's</b>	<b>2014/15 \$000's</b>
Part Central Otago District	68	61
Part Clutha District	6	6
Part Queenstown Lakes District	26	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>

### 8.2.2 Targeted Transport Rates

The targeted passenger transport rates (excluding GST) are made up as follows:

	<b>2015/16 \$000's</b>	<b>2014/15 \$000's</b>
<b>Dunedin</b>		
Dunedin Class A - non residential	1,052	1,038
Dunedin Class B – Dunedin others	2,229	2,178
Dunedin Class B – Waitaki others	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,231</b>
<b>Queenstown</b>		
Queenstown Class A - non residential	14	12
Queenstown Class B - others	36	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>

## 9. Adoption of the 2015-25 LTP and Rates Resolution

The final LTP and the Rates Resolution will be presented for adoption at the June council meeting.

**10. Recommendations**

1. That this report be received.
2. That the recommendations of the Hearing Committee within this report, and within the summary of submissions, be endorsed.
3. That in the first two years of the plan, it is financially prudent to have operating deficits as proposed.
4. That the 2015-25 Long Term Plan incorporating the recommendations from the Hearing Committee be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.
5. That the 2015-16 Rates Resolution be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.

Wayne Scott  
**Director Corporate Services**



## REPORT

Document Id: A787683

Report Number: 2015/0964

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate

Prepared By: Director Corporate Services

Date: 25 May 2015

Subject: **Executive Report - May 2015**

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### 1. Long Term Plan

The 2015-2025 Long Term Plan attracted 160 submissions, and hearings and deliberations took place over six days. Strong focus by submitters was given to the two new proposed rural rates. A separate report and recommendations from the Hearings Subcommittee is included on this agenda.

### 2. Online Voting Trial

In response to requests from local government, the government has been investigating the feasibility of local authority elections to be conducted by online voting.

An Online Voting Working Party was established, and concluded that online voting has the potential to address some expressed concerns, however there are significant risks associated with its use, including security, accuracy, usability and availability of technology solutions.

A document outlining the key principles for a trial of online voting has been issued, including trial design, systems, usability and accessibility, security and audit.

Local authorities interested in the 2016 trial have been invited to apply to participate.

### 3. Raes Junction Stock Effluent Disposal Facility

The stock truck effluent disposal site at Raes Junction has been upgraded through the installation of an additional 13,500 litre underground holding tank, a doubling of capacity. The work was completed in time for the seasonal transfer of stock.

### 4. Account Payments

Schedules of payments are referred to the Finance and Corporate Committee for endorsement. The financial commitments and payment authorisations are made in accordance with Council's financial delegations and internal control procedures.

<b>Payment Category – April 2015</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade and general payments	2,561,690.02
Payroll	613,047.42
Investments	<u>500,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,674,737.44</u></b>

**5. Recommendation**

- (1) That this report be received.
- (2) That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule totalling \$3,674,737.44 be endorsed.

Wayne Scott  
**Director Corporate Services**

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 3 June 2015 following the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting**

**Membership:**

- 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 David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

**Apologies:** **Cr Louise Croot**

**Leave of Absence:**

**In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday 29 May.**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015, having been circulated, for adoption

**Matters arising from minutes**

**ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 1

2015/0928 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO,**

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period

Item 2

2015/0939 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM,**

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period

Item 3

2015/0942 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DPPRM,**

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 9.20 am

**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 David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jane Leahy
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Martin King
- Janet Favel

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Kempton.

#### Matters arising from minutes

With reference to Item 4 in the minutes, a question was raised about a policy for payment for Councillors acting as commissioners for plan change hearings. Mr Scott explained that the Remuneration Authority determined an amount for this use and how it was to be applied. For hearings under four hours, plan change hearing panel chairs were paid at the rate of \$150/hour and panel members \$100/hour; for hearings over

four hours the rate was \$200 or \$150/hour respectively. It was noted that the regional plan review meeting payments had not been enacted for the 2014/15 year. Mr Scott understood that the payment related to regional plan hearings, not plan change, minimum flow, hearings.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2015/0826 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 20/3/15

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 6 February to 20 March 2015.

The following issues were discussed further:

- Nassella tussock – Mr King advised that this related to growth at a known site which was previously under control. Control had been recently carried out, and the site would continue to be monitored.
- Water metering – Mr King advised that there were about 1,135 takes over 20l/s, including irrigation companies which had multiple takes. There were various reasons for the lack of installation of meters, including 7% who were not using their takes. He expected that there would be 100% installation in about two years. Mr King commented that the legislation did not account for the complexity of metering open channel takes. He advised that some abatement notices had been issued. Comment was made that there were varying levels of quality in measuring structures, and it was suggested that Council remind farmers to keep up maintenance of structures.
- Rabbits – Mr King advised that other strains of the RHD virus were being investigated in Australia.
- Contaminated sites – Mr King explained that Council held a contaminated sites register. He explained that to ‘clean’ a site the soil could be tested and assessed against soil criteria based on the site’s proposed use. To remediate land, application for consent had to be made. The contaminated soil could be collected, encapsulated, and managed, or a full (and costly) remediation programme put in place to destroy the contamination so the soil could be reused. Application could be made for assistance from the Remediation Management Fund. Disposal of agrichemicals and paint was discussed and it was considered that MfE should initiate another agrichemical waste collection.

Cr Kelliher moved

Cr Eckhoff seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2  
2015/0859

**Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 8/4/15

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 27 February to 3 April 2015.

The appointment of a one person panel to hear QLDC application RM13.215 was queried. Mr McRae explained that because changes to the proposal had resulted in all opposition to the application being withdrawn, it was considered that a one person panel would be sufficient. Two councillor commissioners were initially appointed to the panel, but one was no longer a councillor, and it was felt it was appropriate to continue with the remaining commissioner. Concern with the continuation of a one person panel was expressed.

Cr Bell moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3  
2015/0844

**RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**  
DPPRM, 10/4/15

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 19 February to 31 March 2015.

In response to a question about the definition of a river/water course, Mr McRae advised that this was a matter of fact and was interpreted on the day. Mr Bodeker noted that MfE was considering what if any action they might take on this matter, and he would follow up with them. It was suggested that this should be a national approach.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Deaker seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4  
2015/0867

**Appointment of Plan Change Hearing Commissioners.**  
DPPRM, 9/4/15

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 9 April 2015.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Deaker seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 9.49 am

**Chairperson**



## REPORT

Document Id: A778149  
Report Number: 2015/0928  
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee  
Prepared By: Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations  
Date: 22/05/2015

Subject: **Biosecurity & RMA Monitoring report for the period 21 March to 30 April 2015**

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### 1. Water Quality and Quantity

#### 1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

##### 1.1.1 Audit & Inspection Monitoring

Over this period, 102 site inspections were undertaken for consent audits and inspections. 87 of the inspections were related to consent auditing, with the remainder related to bore, gravel, water metering and structure inspections.

Two consents were graded as non-compliant significant (actual effects) due to continual failure to comply with consent limits. Six consents were given no compliance grade as the consents were not being exercised.

##### 1.1.2 Water Metering

Installs and verifications of takes over 20l/s continue with 72% (813) of consents having water measuring equipment installed. Two percent (23) of consent holders over 20l/s have still not installed equipment or have made any progress towards becoming compliant with the regulations or their consent.

These consent holders have been issued with abatement notices prohibiting the exercise of their consent until measuring equipment has been installed.

Consent holders with takes between 10-19.9 l/s have been slow to install equipment, with 56% (111) of these consent holders meeting the requirements to date. The Council is currently following up with the consent holders who are yet to contact the Council to advise that they have the appropriate equipment installed.

The Council is aware of a number of consent holders who have measuring and recording equipment installed, however due to the slow response from some installers to supply installation and verification documentation, these consent holders remain non-compliant.

##### 1.1.3 Rural Water Quality

Staff are currently working with forestry companies on monitoring and inspection regimes. It is proposed that pre-harvest, during harvest and post-harvest inspections take place on some operations that pose a higher risk to the environment. The purpose of this work is “preventative monitoring” rather than “reactive monitoring” (response to complaints).

Staff are continuing with the collection of rural water quality samples under Schedules 15 and 16. To date 276 samples have been taken throughout the region. An analysis of the sample is provided back to landowners that gives them an indicator of water quality from their property. Many are looking to further sampling.

Staff are also distributing Rural Water Quality Information Packs. These are provided to any person/landowner that contact is made with. To date 824 packs have been distributed throughout the region, the same staff are now assisting with the extension programme (Drop in Centres).

#### 1.1.4 Other Matters

##### Development of the National Compliance Strategy

This document sets out a Strategic Compliance Framework for developing a consistent approach across the Regional Sector to manage compliance monitoring and enforcement primarily in relation to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). However, the framework can also be applied to compliance monitoring and enforcement activities under other legislation and statutory instruments.

All regions face some key challenges from increases in, and intensification of, industry, farming, horticulture, infrastructure and population; all of which puts pressure on our natural resources and council's ability to be both reactive and proactive.

Meaning:

- We need to increasingly focus on 'what's important' in our compliance programme; and
- We need to be smarter about how we manage resources across a growing body of consented and permitted activities.

Further reporting to follow.

## **2. Air Quality**

### 2.1 Clean Heat Clean Air project

Cosy Homes Expo held at the Alexandra Community Centre on 16 May. Over 45 visitors to the event, with confirmed bookings for replacement of non-compliant heating appliances taken by the attending heating contractors. Advantage was also taken to use the ORC moisture meters to test firewood during the expo. Year to date, 60 appliances have been replaced.

## **3. Coast**

### 3.1 Regional Plan: Coast and Resource Consent Monitoring

Port Otago commenced incremental capital dredging of the lower harbour at the end of February 2015. All baseline environmental surveys have been completed, and real-time turbidity monitoring within the harbour is in place. Over the reporting period, turbidity trigger levels were exceeded on six occasions; however, the cause of these exceedances was confirmed to not be related to dredging.

## **4. Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance**

### **4.1 Animal Pests**

#### **4.1.1 Rabbits**

Auditing of Rabbit Management Plans has continued over this period with properties where control work was required being given priority.

Inspections throughout this period have shown levels of non compliance which will be addressed via poison operations this winter.

Some operations will be subject to final approval being granted for the new formulated liquid pindone.

#### **4.1.2 Wallabies**

Senior staff meet with Environment Canterbury (ECan) staff in Timaru, to discuss the control of wallabies entering the Otago Region from the ECan area of the Waitaki. An Otago Wallaby Plan is currently being drafted, based on further field investigations and will be presented to Council, to workshop.

### **4.2 Plant Pests**

#### **4.2.1 Gorse and Broom Surveillance**

Roadside spraying by CODC contractors in gorse and broom free areas has been completed for the season and compliance has been achieved.

#### **4.2.2 Pinus Contorta**

We have been working closely with the Wakitipu Wilding Conifer Control Group in identifying areas of Contorta infestation in the Wakitipu Basin. Request for compliance has been sent to several landowners and trees have subsequently been removed or work contracted for removal.

#### **4.2.3 Nassella Tussock**

Nasella inspections carried out over 5 days in the Roxburgh area located and removed 178 plants, 95% of which were seedlings. Inspections will be completed in the Cardrona area prior to December.

#### **4.2.4 Low incident plants**

There have been 276 individual properties inspected for Old Mans Beard (OMB) in the Dunedin Area. Many of the properties inspected were areas of OMB identified from last year, or from historical records. 145 properties had no OMB found. 131 properties were found to be non-compliant and therefore issued with a Letter of Non-Compliance and asked to control the OMB.

On Re-inspection, 85 properties were found to be compliant, 46 properties remained non-compliant, with either some or no control carried out. The occupiers of these properties have been informed and advised that work needs to be carried out otherwise a Notice of Direction will be issued.

African Love Grass sites in the Alexandra Basin were visited and sprayed over 4 days. Approximately 750 plants were found, of which 75% were seedlings. Reinspection of some sites has confirmed that control has been effective.

#### **4.3 Biodiversity**

Council continues to administer the Honda Tree Fund. This is a Fund provided by Honda NZ to Council to allow Community groups and Schools to apply for funding for native tree riparian planting. Since the start of the calendar year Council has approved 9 applications to this fund.

Assistance has been provided to a number of groups undertaking biodiversity pest control (mostly through provision of traps).

### **5. Environmental Incident Response**

#### **5.1 Contaminated Sites**

Fifty-eight enquiries regarding the land-use history or contamination status of specific properties were received. This the highest number of enquiries to date received in six week reporting period.

Liaison with Territorial Authority planning managers has continued regarding the development of a shared register for contaminated land information. Interim measures to share data with the Territorial Authorities are still in place.

##### **5.1.1 Remediation Projects**

Work commenced on the remediation of a contaminated sheep-dip site near Lake Hayes, and a site visit to inspect progress with works and compliance with consents was undertaken.

The BP terminal on Parry Street was inspected during the bulk storage tank replacement by New Zealand Oil Services Ltd. Appropriate stormwater controls are in place for the works, and contaminated soil has been removed from the site as required.

##### **5.1.2 Investigations**

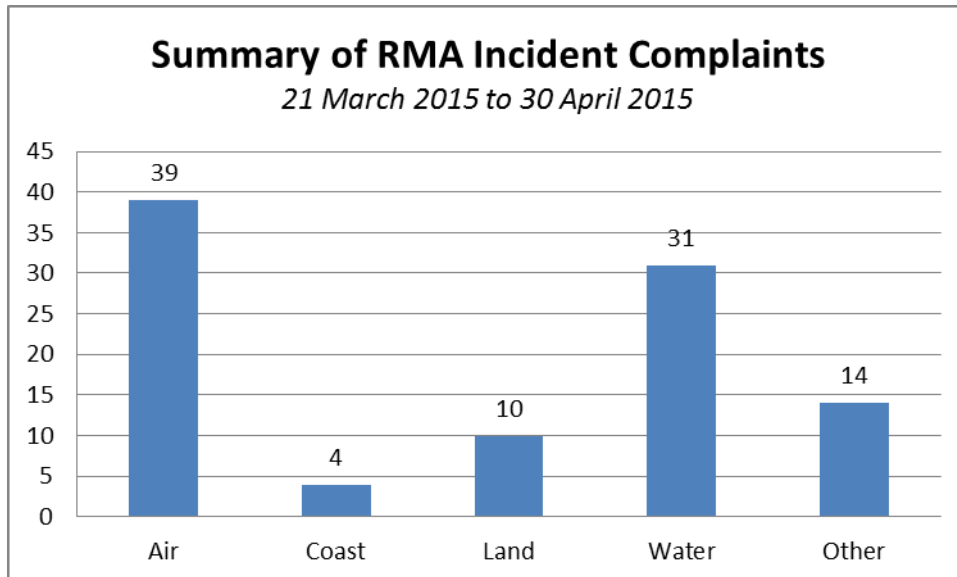
Three underground petroleum storage system (UPSS) removal reports were received during the reporting period. One report has been assessed, work was carried out in accordance with industry best practice and ORC has no concerns about any environmental effects.

##### **5.1.3 Landfills**

The Victoria Flat landfill near Gibbston Valley was inspected during the reporting period. A significant number of odour complaints were received during the winter of 2013 and 2014. The purpose of the visit was to ensure that appropriate provisions have been made to mitigate against odour generation during the winter months. The landfill appeared to be well managed, and practices to reduce odour have been implemented. The landfill will be monitored over the winter to ensure these measures have been sufficient to avoid further complaints.

## Environmental Incidents

A total of 99 incidents were reported for this period. The following is a summary of the incidents received by activity type.



The majority of the air incidents can be attributed to domestic chimneys followed by odour. The coastal incidents were attributed to marine pollution. The land incidents were split evenly between disturbances and land contamination. Concerns about fresh water pollution were the cause of the majority of water investigations. The other types of incidents were varied the majority were to do with dead livestock. Pest plants and issues for other agencies also featured.

## 6. Recommendation

That this report be noted

Jeff Donaldson

**Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations**

## Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)

From 21 March 2015 to 30 April 2015

General Location	Row Summary	AIR							COAST					LAND				WATER				OTHER				
		Backyard burning	Burning	Domestic chimneys	Dust	Industrial air discharge	Odour	Spray Drift	Coastal structures	Marine oil spill	Marine pollution	Reclamation	Removal	Deposit	Disturbance	Land contaminati on	Mining	Abstraction	Damming	Diversión	Fresh water pollution	Stormwater	Noise	Other	Staff performance	
Catlins	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Central Otago	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	
Clutha Plains	9	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Dn - Coast North	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	
Dn - Coast South	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0		
Dn - Inner City	23	3	1	6	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Mosgiel	8	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Dn - Otago Harbour	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Peninsula	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0		
Dn - West Harbour	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
East Otago Uplands	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		
Lakes	16	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0		
Maniototo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
North Otago	8	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Roxburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
South West Otago	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Strath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Taieri Plains	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>	99	6	3	15	0	3	10	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	5	5	0	2	3	0	26	0	0	14	0	

**REPORT**

Document Id: A781578

Report Number: 2015/0939  
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee  
Prepared By: Marian Weaver  
Date: 15/05/2015

Subject: Consent Processing and Building Control Authority Report  
6 April to 15 May 2015

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**1. Project E.1 – Resource Consent Application Processing**

1.1 Consent applications where status has not changed since the last report are summarised in Appendix 1.

**Notified Applications****1.2 Publicly Notified Applications*****RM13.215 - Queenstown Lakes District Council***

The applications are for the discharge of odour to air, and treated effluent to the Shotover River, and then later to land from the Queenstown waste water treatment plant in the Shotover delta. QLDC already holds permits for these activities but wishes to change the timing and method of disposal to land. The applications were publicly notified on 1 June 2013. A hearing was set down for 28/29 August 2013 but was postponed while the applicant continued to negotiate with submitters. The applicant amended its application slightly and reached agreement with all submitters. The application was decided by Cr Shepherd who was one of the original hearing commissioners appointed for the hearing, on 24 April. The decision to grant was given on 5 May and the appeal period closes on 29 May.

**2. Appeals to Environment Court / Objections*****RM14.026 Lakes Marina Projects Limited***

The application is for the construction of a 195 berth marina in the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu. This was a joint process with the ORC as lead agency. The application was heard by independent commissioners in December 2014 and January 2015. The decision was given to grant the applications subject to conditions on 23 February and there were two appeals from owners of residential premises nearby. One appellant withdrew and there are two s274 parties involved. All parties have agreed to go to mediation which is set down for Queenstown on 18 May.

### 3. Consent Statistics

**Table 1. Consents Statistics Summary**

Reporting Period	Lodged			Rejected	Decision Given		
	Consents	Variations			Consents	Variations	
		Regular	Water reporting date			Regular	Water reporting date
<b>2013/14 Year total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>72</b>
1 July to 15 Aug 14	29	5	1	1	35	5	11
18 Aug to 26 Sept 14	45	8	1	2	50	4	1
27 Sept to 7 Nov 14	48	6	5	1	57	6	5
10 Nov 14 to 9 Jan 15	70	0	5	4	50	5	3
12 Jan to 27 Feb 15	54	4	3	1	51	7	1
28 Feb to 3 Apr 15	43	3	2	1	33	19	3
6 Apr to 15 May 15	29	1	5	0	56	7	2
<b>14/15 year total to date</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>

All decisions on consents were given within RMA allowed timeframes.

### 4. Consent Administration

**Table 2. Consent Administration Statistics**

Reporting Period	Transfers Received	Transfers Issued	S417 Certs Received	S417 Certs Issued
<b>2013/2014 Year Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>
1 July 14 to 15 Aug 14	15	11	0	2
18 Aug to 26 Sept 14	25	17	0	2
27 Sept to 7 Nov 14	13	23	1	0
10 Nov 14 to 9 Jan 15	23	30	1	0
12 Jan to 27 Feb 15	9	8	0	2
28 Feb to 3 Apr 15	13	10	0	0
6 Apr to 15 May 15	19	11	0	0
<b>14/15 year to date</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>



## 5. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

### In Progress

Dam Building Consents	5
Code Compliance Certificates	1
PIM	0
Certificate of Acceptance	6

## 6. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 200 enquiries were received by the Consents Unit during the reporting period.

**Table 3. Public Enquiries Statistics**

Period	Number of Enquiries
<b>2013/2014 year</b>	<b>1490</b>
1 July to 15 Aug 14	180
18 Aug to 26 Sept 14	148
27 Sept to 7 Nov 14	238
10 Nov 14 to 9 Jan 15	322
12 Jan to 27 Feb 15	375
28 Feb to 3 Apr 15	317
6 Apr to 15 May 15	200
<b>YTD 14/15</b>	<b>1780</b>

## 7. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

**Fraser McRae**  
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

## **Appendix 1: Summary of applications that have not changed since the last report to the Committee**

### ***RM14.106 Southern Clams Limited***

The application is to establish three aquaculture sites within Otago Harbour. At each location shellfish, including Bluff Oysters, Queen Scallops, Tuaki Clams and Paddle Crabs, will be held in cages for up to 8 weeks before being collected and sold commercially. The cages will be one metre long and stored up to three deep, and suspended by long lines and floats. Structures are to be located within the harbour over a 38 week season each year approximately from May to December. The application was publicly notified on 21 February and attracted 44 submissions: 8 in support, 4 neutral and 32 opposed. 15 submitters indicated that they wish to be heard. The applicant has requested a hearing in August to allow time to discuss concerns with submitters and make changes to the application that may be required as a result of further consultation.

### **RM12.066 – Environment Canterbury - erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River.**

Environment Canterbury has applied for consents to allow them to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River. Numerous erosion protection measures are proposed over a 3 km stretch of river. DoC, Iwi, Fish and Game and owners of land on which the works are to take place are all considered to be affected parties. The applicant advised recently that they are currently working through a consultation process to determine whether or not the works applied for will continue to be undertaken.

They anticipate the outcome of this consultation on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 as it is tied in with Annual Plan processes. Therefore the application continues to remain on hold until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### **Pending Applications of Interest**

#### ***RM13.423 – Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCWSG)***

A working party has been established comprising MCWSG, Golder Associates and ORC staff. The aim of the working party is to develop a consenting strategy giving regard to existing mining privileges, individual water takes and irrigation options within the Manuherikia catchment.

## Resource Consent Public Enquiry Report

From 06 April 2015 to 15 May 2015

**Total Number of Enquiries** **200**

<b>Enquiry Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Current Consents	86	43 %
Other	30	15 %
Permitted Activities	42	21 %
Pre-application	18	9 %
Property Enquiries	18	9 %
TLA Enquiries	1	0.5 %
Transfers	5	2.5 %

<b>Enquiry Location</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Central Otago District Council	68	34 %
Clutha District Council	13	6.5 %
Dunedin City Council	31	15.5 %
Outside Otago	2	1 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	41	20.5 %
Throughout Otago	9	4.5 %
Unspecified	16	8 %
Waitaki District Council	20	10 %

<b>Enquiry Method</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Counter	13	6.5 %
Email	86	43 %
Internet	1	0.5 %
Letter	2	1 %
Telephone	98	49 %

## REPORT

Document Id: A781981

Report Number: 2015/0942

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Peter Kelliher, Legal Counsel

Date: 16/5/2015

Subject: **Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015**

### 1. Précis

This report details Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council during the period 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015.

### 2. Enforcement Action under the Resource Management Act 1991

#### a) Consent Auditing

No enforcement action taken.

#### b) Consent Performance Monitoring

**Table 1. Abatement Notices**

Details	Period – 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015	Total – from 1 July 2014
To cease taking water in breach of water meter regulations	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	2

#### c) Permitted Activity Rules - Inspections

**Table 2. Infringement Notices**

Details	Period – 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015	Total – from 1 July 2014
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule - effluent	6	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	6	16

**Table 3. Authorised Legal Proceedings**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Period – 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015</b>	<b>Total – from 1 July 2014</b>
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule - effluent	1	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

**d) Incidents****Table 4. Infringement Notices**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Period – 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015</b>	<b>Total – from 1 July 2014</b>
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	0	3
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	2
Disturbing the bed of a river – pugging	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule - effluent	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table 5. Authorised Legal Proceedings**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Period – 1 April 2015 to 16 May 2015</b>	<b>Total – from 1 July 2014</b>
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule - effluent	0	2
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	4
Disturbing the bed of a river – pugging	0	2
(1) Disturbing the bed of a river – pugging; and (2) Discharge of contaminants in breach of a regional rule - sediment	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

**3. Biosecurity Act 1993**

No enforcement action taken during the period.

**4. Building Act 2004**

No enforcement action taken during the period.

**5. Recommendation**  
That this report be noted.

Fraser McRae  
**Director Policy Planning and Resource Management**

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Agenda for a meeting of the Technical Committee to be held  
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 3 June 2015 following the  
Regulatory Committee meeting**

**Membership:**

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

**Apologies:** **Cr Louise Croot**

**Leave of Absence:**

**In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday 29 May.**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015, having been circulated, for adoption.

**Matters arising from minutes**

**PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS**

Item 1

2015/0960 **Update to Taieri Plain flood hazard mapping for Dunedin City District.** DEHS,

The report covers additional work carried out to further refine the earlier descriptions of flood hazard characteristics on the Taieri Plain. The full report is circulated separately with the agenda.

**PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 2

2015/0926 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS,

Topics covered in the report are: Arrow River flood and erosion hazard, Kakanui River Morphology and Riparian Management, and Wanaka earthquake and high flow event.



**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held  
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 10.06 am**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

**Peter Bodeker**  
**Wayne Scott**  
**Jeff Donaldson**  
**Jane Leahy**  
**Fraser McRae**  
**Gavin Palmer**  
**Deborah Mills** (for Item 2)  
**Janet Favel**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Bell.

**Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS**

Item 1

2015/0863 **Lower Waitaki River Management Strategy.** DEHS, 9/4/15

The report presented for endorsement the management approach for the Lower Waitaki River Control Scheme. The full options report dated March 2015 was circulated separately with the agenda.

Dr Palmer drew attention to the three principles for a management approach that had been adopted by both councils in 2013, and advised that the options report had been presented to the local liaison group and ratepayers recently. He noted the need to address an anomaly in the LTP relating to the provision for work in the primary buffer zones. Dr Palmer noted the eight implementation issues listed in the report. Scheme outcomes, and regular channel capacity monitoring and reporting, needed to be discussed. The true cost of mitigation work was not known because landholders carried out work themselves, and this cost needed to be identified.

Cr Brown commented that the Lower Waitaki River Scheme Liaison Committee had lacked leadership, resulting in overspending and some *ad hoc* works. He was pleased to see the report and supported the recommendations. Cr Brown noted the difficulties which had arisen from working with the two councils' different funding policies, and advised that Environment Canterbury was reviewing its policy to align more closely with ORC's.

Dr Palmer confirmed in response to a question that the process used to develop a strategy for the Waitaki River would be used as a template for establishing management strategies for other rivers.

In response to a question Dr Palmer confirmed that the effects of the dams had been quantified. The dams provided betterment in some instances by attenuating flood peaks, but could also exacerbate erosion by extending the duration of flows. This was recognised in Meridian's 40% contribution to the scheme. Dr Palmer noted Implementation point 7, which required working with DoC to ensure land they administered was used in a way that was consistent with scheme objectives.

Mr Bodeker advised that he had engaged with Environment Canterbury Chief Executive and directors, and if this paper was approved, he would engage with them again. He further commented that approval of the report would make discussions on management of the Lower Waitaki River easier.

Cr Deaker considered the model was clumsy and a localised structure should be developed along the lines of the community involvement in water short catchments. Cr Brown commented that that had been intended but the lack of strong leadership in the Liaison Group and the

two councils' different funding policies had undermined discussions. Principles needed to be established and the community involved. Mr Bodeker noted that costs were paid by the two regional councils, and desired works were always in excess of the available budget. The proposed model would allow the landowners to have some input. Landowners realised they were farming up to the water's edge and might have to take responsibility and losses.

Cr Brown moved

Cr Shepherd seconded

*That:*

1. *This report be received;*
2. *The management approach set out in Lower Waitaki River Control Scheme Review Options Report (March 2015) be endorsed;*
3. *Staff work with Environment Canterbury and other stakeholders to implement the proposed management approach.*

**Motion carried**

Cr Deaker proposed an additional recommendation requesting that the Chief Executive work with Environment Canterbury to develop a new management model for the lower Waitaki River. Cr Croot supported the additional recommendation. She also noted that clarity about the role of Environment Canterbury Commissioners and staff was needed.

Cr Deaker moved

Cr Croot seconded

4. *That the Chief Executive be requested to work with Environment Canterbury to develop a new management model for the Lower Waitaki River.*

The mover and seconder of the original motion accepted the new recommendation.

**Motion carried**

**PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 2

2015/0810

**Spatial Variability of air quality in Alexandra and Cromwell.**

DEHS, 1/4/15

The report discussed spatial air quality studies completed in Alexandra and Cromwell during winter 2014, and noted that results from sampling indicated that Council's monitoring sites were located in appropriate locations.

Comment was made that the report indicated that the worst air quality was in areas of older housing, probably with older forms of heating, and it was suggested that funding be targeted on these areas.

It was suggested that studies be carried out, in both older and newer areas of the towns, to determine what was causing the poor air quality, including when woodburners were replaced, how people were using their burners, how many hours a day the burners were used, and what was being burnt. It was pointed out that information on burners installed could be obtained from district councils' consent application information.

Ms Mills commented that heating surveys were very important in determining how to target incentives and initiatives. While the air strategy would be high level, it was also important to know what was going on on the ground.

In response to a question Ms Mills explained that the monitor in Arrowtown had been relocated to the worst part of town in terms of air quality, and the move had resulted in an increase in the number of exceedances.

Mr Bodeker noted that a survey or further investigation were not budgeted for. Cr Woodhead commented that the ORC already had a lot of data and the matter could be discussed in a committee or workshop. It was suggested that Central Otago District Council and community boards be involved in future discussions.

Cr Shepherd moved  
Cr Neill seconded

1. *That the results from this report be used to inform the monitoring component of any new air quality management strategy.*
2. *That this report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3  
2015/0780

**Director's Report on Progress. DEHS, 8/4/15**

The report discussed the Leith Flood Protection Scheme, Shotover Delta Target Profile, and Low Flow Event.

In response to a question Dr Palmer advised that staff had been in close dialogue with the University about their planned landscape improvement to ensure there was no clash with the Council's flood protection work.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 11.13 am.

**Chairperson**

**REPORT**

Document Id: A786932

Report Number: 2015/0960

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Michael Goldsmith, Manager Natural Hazards

Date: 22 May 2015

**Subject: Update to Taieri Plain flood hazard mapping for Dunedin City District Plan**

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## 1. Background

A series of technical reports were published in June 2014 by Otago Regional Council to help inform the review of the natural hazard provisions of the Second Generation Dunedin City District Plan (2GP). The information relates to flood, coastal and land based (geological) hazards. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) proposes developing a set of District Plan hazard overlays, and rules and standards which will apply within those areas. The planning response to natural hazards will be based upon a set of principles and planning considerations which have been developed by a joint ORC / DCC working group.<sup>1</sup> Preferred approaches to managing development in hazard-prone areas was presented by ORC and DCC staff at a series of 13 community consultation sessions in June – August 2014.

Flood hazard mapping and the associated planning response on the Taieri Plain generated considerable public interest. A second community consultation session was held in Mosgiel in late July which was attended by approximately 80 people.

A public submission process allowed members of the public to provide feedback on the natural hazards information and the proposed land use controls. Staff from both councils also met with members of the public upon request, to discuss particular issues relevant to their property. ORC natural hazards staff participated in 13 visits to individual properties on the Taieri Plain.

## 2. Discussion

Additional information and submissions provided through the 2GP consultation process has enabled the ORC to undertake additional work to further refine mapped flood hazard areas on the Taieri Plain. Additional work to characterise alluvial fan features on the East Taieri Plain<sup>2</sup> has also allowed for further enhancements to the mapping. This work is described in the accompanying report 'Revised Flood Hazard on the Taieri Plain'.

This work should be seen as a refinement of earlier descriptions of flood hazard characteristics on the Taieri Plain<sup>3, 4 5</sup>, and helps to address the concerns of residents who requested more precise boundaries for some of the mapped areas.

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<sup>1</sup> ORC, 2014a. *Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan*, Report 2014/0765, Report to ORC Policy Committee, 16 April 2014.

<sup>2</sup> GNS, 2014. *Extent and characteristics of alluvial fans in the northeastern sector of the Taieri Plain*. GNS Science Consultancy Report 2014/045, prepared for the Otago Regional Council.

<sup>3</sup> ORC / DCC (2006). *Mosgiel Flood Event 25/26 April 2–6 and future action*. Report to ORC Policy and Resource Planning Committee.

<sup>4</sup> ORC, 2013. *Natural Hazards on the Taieri Plains, Otago*.

The most significant changes to the mapping include:

- a) Refining the extent of the Gordon Road floodway to show the area where overtopping from the Silver Stream will result in floodwater that is of sufficient depth and velocity to create a risk to safety and buildings.
- b) Separating the more elevated alluvial fan areas on the margins of the East Taieri Plain from more gently sloping floodplain areas.
- c) Identifying overland flow paths and palaeochannels in Area 1B (West Taieri Plain above high tide level).

The updated report also describes appropriate mechanisms for controlling or managing flood risk, determined by the principles and planning considerations specified at the beginning of the District Plan review process<sup>6</sup>, and the characteristics of flood hazard.

### **3. Recommendations**

That:

1. This report is received;
2. The accompanying technical report 'Revised Flood Hazard on the Taieri Plain' is noted and endorsed;
3. These reports are provided to the Dunedin City Council to inform the review of the natural hazards provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan.

Gavin Palmer  
**Director Engineering, Hazards and Science**

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<sup>5</sup> ORC, 2014 '*Flood Hazard on the Taieri Plain and Strath Taieri.*' Review of Dunedin City Council District Plan: Natural Hazards.

<sup>6</sup> ORC, June 2014. Review of Dunedin City District Plan – Natural Hazards: Project overview.

**REPORT**

Document Id: A777317

Report No: 2015/0926

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Gavin Palmer, Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Date: 27 May 2015

**Subject: Director's Report on progress**

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**1. Arrow River flood and erosion hazard**

Approximately 40 people attended a public meeting on 13 May in Arrowtown chaired by Cr Eckhoff, where the results of a recently completed report on the flood and erosion hazard of the Arrow River were presented. Questions from the public on a range of other natural hazard related issues were also addressed, including the purpose of the Shotover Training Line and the role of gravel extraction on the Shotover Delta.

**2. Kakanui River Morphology and Riparian Management**

A series of meetings and drop-in sessions were held in early May, to present the draft Kakanui River Management Strategy, which is intended to guide decisions on the style, scale, location and type of activities occurring in the channel of the Kakanui and Kauru rivers. Approximately 30 people attended a public meeting in the Maheno Hall on the evening of 7 May chaired by Cr Brown, where the contents of the draft strategy were presented. A separate meeting for landholders with property adjacent to the Kakanui and Kauru rivers was held earlier in the day, and drop-in sessions were held in Maheno and Kauru Hill on 8 May. Submissions on the draft strategy have been invited and will be considered when finalising the strategy over the next few months.

**3. Wanaka earthquake and high flow event**

On 4 May at 2:29pm a magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred approximately 30km north-west of Wanaka. The earthquake was felt across much of Otago, including in Dunedin. The earthquake epicentre was located midway along the Matukituki Valley. Some minor damage was reported in Wanaka township (bottles toppled, etc.), but there was no known structural damage. The peak ground acceleration was reportedly 0.07g in Wanaka, compared with up to 2.1g experienced in Christchurch during the 2011 February 22 earthquake.

Geologists from GNS Science flew over the epicentre and surrounding ranges the following day, but did not observe any surface rupture. Effects were limited to some minor rockfall and possible cracking on nearby ridgelines. The Young River landslide dam and landslide scar was inspected on 15 May by ORC staff, but no change was detected from previous inspections.

Heavy rainfall in late April and the first two weeks of May caused water levels in Lake Wakatipu and Lake Wanaka to rise by 1.2m and 2.1m respectively. The level of Lake Wakatipu reached 310.70m on 15 May, and had receded to 310.23m by 27 May.



Flooding of low-lying parts of Queenstown can occur when the lake reaches 311.30m. This last occurred in May 2010 with water reaching 311.48m.

The level of Lake Wanaka reached 278.7m on 15 May. The lake begins to flow over Ardmore Street and affect low-lying parts of Wanaka at a level of 280m. The most recent high lake level in Lake Wanaka was in May 2010 when water level reached 279.4m. Lake Wanaka level was trending downward and was at 277.73 on 27 May.

#### **4. Recommendation**

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer  
**Director Engineering, Hazards and Science**

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Agenda for a meeting of the Communications Committee to be held in  
the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on  
Wednesday 3 June 2015 following the  
Technical Committee meeting**

**Membership:**

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

**Apologies:** **Cr Louise Croot**

**Leave of absence:**

**In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday 29 May.**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015, having been circulated, for adoption

**Matters arising from minutes**

**FOR NOTING**

Item 1  
2015/0925 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE,

Reporting on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff since the last meeting.

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the  
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on  
Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 11.14 am**

**Present:**

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

**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**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Bell and Robertson.

**Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FOR NOTING**

## Item 1

2015/0828 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 14/4/15

The report detailed community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff since the last meeting.

The Rural Water Quality (6A) Implementation Strategy was discussed and it was noted that the report referred to provision of education and advice to landholders. The point was made that the key issues were a meaningful two way relationship between Council and landholders, and general surety of Council's compliance approach through monitoring and enforcement. Favourable comment was made on the building of project management capacity within the Council.

Mr Bodeker advised that workshop sessions would be provided on the implementation strategy and on the features and operation of the Overseer program.

The change of emphasis to monitoring and compliance was commended, and the importance of participating with communities was noted.

Cr Bell moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 11.37 am.

**Chairperson**

## REPORT

Document Id: A777279

Report Number: 2015/0925

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Director Stakeholder Engagement

Date: 11 May 2015

Subject: **Communications Committee – Report June 2015**

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This report records stakeholder engagement activity between 1 April and 11 May.

### 1. Water Quality

#### **Implementation strategy**

Councillors had the opportunity to participate in a workshop on the rural water quality implementation strategy, which has been updated to include a set of principles. A committee paper is being developed that will expand on the principles and provide a high-level work plan. This will also take into account discussions had during the Long Term Plan deliberation of submissions process.

This strategy will be the first agenda item for the stakeholder engagement group that we hope to have established by the end of June. We will test the principles and goals with that group and seek their input.

#### **Project management structure**

The concept of using an external resource to provide expertise in project management has expanded to the inclusion of a coaching role. We are in the process of selecting the right person.

#### **Implementation delivery**

We amended the target to visit all farms in Otago to focus on just visiting the Waiwera and Manuherikia catchments, based on their higher risk. A series of drop-in meetings will, instead, be used to enable landholders across Otago to find out more about their responsibilities and have questions answered. This work, to be finished by the end of June, will largely complete the task of creating high awareness of the rural water quality plan.

Planning will then start on developing a detailed approach to behavioural change. Our community liaison and education manager has attended a workshop to hear about the latest global methods, research and case studies in achieving sustainable behavioural change in environmental management. She will present a recommended framework to the executive management team for input prior to developing a plan.

We have continued to support landholders by working with third parties, attending their events and responding to questions.

Events that we have spoken at include:

- Two joint ORC/Horticulture NZ field days on the rural water quality strategy (6A) for vegetable growers held at Kakanui and Outram,
- Kauru Beef and Lamb land and environment planning workshop,
- Otago Deer Farmers Association AGM and Field day at Clachanburn Station in the upper Taieri
- Kakanui Landcare Community Catchment project steering group meeting,
- Otago Farm Forestry field day at Hindon.
- Wairuna farmers water care group catchment meeting.

More than 100 landholders and industry representatives were spoken to during these events.

The Otago Ballance Farm Environment Awards were held in Wanaka. Angela and Wick Wylie from the Owaka Valley won the Otago Regional Council award for their work on protecting and enhancing water quality on their property. Councillor Graeme Bell presented the award.

ORC hosted a workshop on Overseer 6.2 for experts. Led by Overseer general manager Caroline Reed, the session was attended by 25 people.

Staff are currently working towards the next MOU meetings with Waitaki Irrigators Collective and North Otago Irrigation Company, to be held at the end of May. An internal group has been formed to ensure the implementation of the Council's responsibilities in the MOUs.

The Overseer technical advisory group is also due to meet at the end of May. An internal council team is currently working through the list of questions posted by the external group in readiness for the next meeting.

Community liaison and resource science staff met with AgResearch and Environment Southland staff to discuss the latest research in sheep impacts on water quality, the ORC farm forestry forum held in February, and the results of the 6A awareness survey. These meetings are held three times a year to discuss the latest research and extension work being undertaken by the three organisations.

We are partway through the training of all staff in the rural water quality strategy with the objective of achieving a consistent understanding of our approach, and providing staff with enough knowledge to be ambassadors for our water quality work.

We have participated in a short LAWA video on how the Waikouaiti and Karitane community has worked together to improve water quality. This video is one of a series to be produced from each region in New Zealand showing the success of communities working together to improve water quality. The Waikouaiti and Karitane river and estuary care group has been active for 16 years, and works closely with iwi, farmers,

Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, and ORC to build community connections and undertake restoration projects around the estuary and catchment.

This council was central to establishing this project in 1999 with the formation of a catchment programme in the area.

A public awareness campaign targeted to dairy farmers and truck drivers aiming to reduce effluent on the roads during the Gypsy weeks has begun and will run through May and June.

## **2. Water Quantity**

### **Plan Change 1C**

Work is continuing on establishing an integrated council-wide approach to Plan Change 1C. This includes reviewing what we learnt during the water shortage event.

## **3. Land, Biodiversity and Biosecurity**

Nothing to report.

## **4. Air Quality**

MFE has approved the funding for Environment Canterbury's behavioural change project for air. The project is a behavioural change project aimed at achieving household smoke emission reduction. The programme interventions will address practical elements of wood burner operation. It will be developed for use nationally, but designed for local delivery by councils. ORC has provided support for this project and we will now be involved so that we will be able to apply learning locally.

## **5. Hazard and Risk Mitigation**

The New Zealand ShakeOut event is scheduled for October and our communications team is taking a lead in arranging communications for this across Otago.

The river management plan for the Kakanui river is progressing. The community liaison team was involved in meetings with the wider community aimed at increasing public understanding of the options and seeking feedback.

## **6. Regional Land Transport**

Nothing to report.

## **7. Statutory Responsibilities**

Nothing to report.



## 8. Customers and Stakeholders

### External engagement

We are in the process of establishing a partnership with the Untouched World Charitable Trust that delivers environmental leadership programmes for senior school students. The trust plans to run a water quality and quantity programme in Cromwell this year as a pilot. We have given in principle agreement to being a partner in the pilot.

### Internal engagement

Thirty of our staff have completed a Farming 101 workshop designed to increase their understanding of Otago's farming industry. AgFirst delivered the training and, if successful, we may include this as an annual event for new staff.

## 9. Media Communications

### Media activity

Over the period we had 101 print media mentions and eight broadcast media mentions. Stories covered included Robert Borst and his dumping of manure, the Long Term Plan, flood scheme meetings, wallaby control, the transport plan, Wayne Scott's retirement and the appointment of Nick Donnelly.

Seven media releases were issued – topics included the Long Term Plan, North Otago river management, appointment of the new ORC corporate services director, Gypsy Week stock effluent management, the Arrow River report, and the ORC water quality award winners.

One letter to the Editor (Central Otago News) was received about Pindone laying in Wanaka and a reply sent in the name of the director environmental monitoring and operations.

### Social media

There were 28 posts or shared links on Facebook – as at May 21 the ORC Facebook page had 167 likes. Topics included the Ballance Otago Farm Environment Awards, water quality drop-in sessions, lake levels, Gypsy Week, bus timetables, and job vacancies.

We sent out 11 Tweets on topics similar to those featured in media releases and on Facebook – our Twitter account had 357 followers as of May 11.

### Web development and traffic summary

Updates are made daily to the ORC website. Altogether, 98 changes were made during this period.

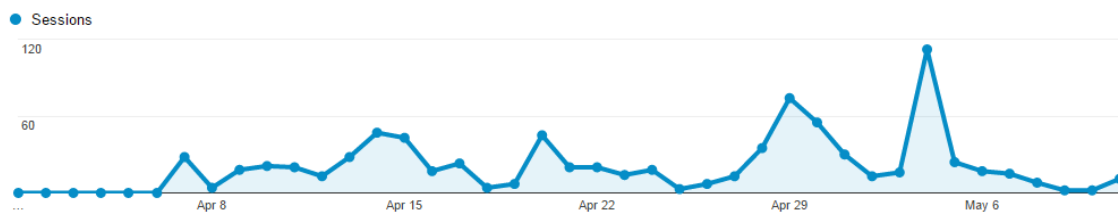
Updates made during this period include:

- The Proposed RPS review page has been updated to reflect submissions processes. An online submission form is available for people to easily submit their views.

- The Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka Catchment) page was updated with final outcomes.
- An archived section for all plan change material has been created enabling people to go back and view the processes we followed and the supporting documents.
- The Bus page has been updated to become more user-friendly for people using mobile devices. Although our website is not responsive to portable devices, we have made it easier for people to click through to pages with the use of large buttons.
- A new page for the upcoming Southern Route changes has been added. This will be developed further so that people can start viewing the changes operating from 1 July.

Our annual ALGIM website assessment and ranking has dropped down from No. 9 in 2014 to No. 24 this year. This is largely due to the functionality of our website not being responsive for tablet and mobile users. In addition, several councils have moved up the rankings after making substantial investments in the re-design/re-development of their websites.

- The microsite used to promote the LTP we had 870 visits to the site with 1,922 page views. The average time spent on the site was 2 minutes 46 seconds.

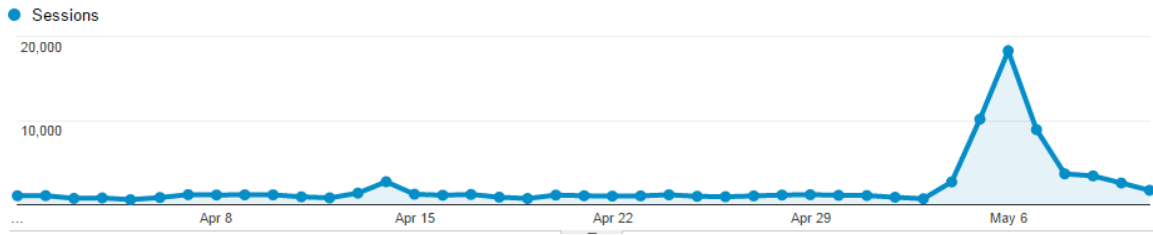


The most viewed page in the LTP microsite was the consultation document page with 444 views. The the submissions page had 395 views. Within New Zealand Dunedin had 269 sessions, Auckland 163 sessions, Christchurch 135 sessions and Wellington 69 sessions.

The Great Alpine Fault page received a high number of views following the earthquake in the Wanaka region on the 4 May 2015. A massive spike in visits to our website on 6 May showed 18,294 people visited our website just on this day. Altogether we had a total of 46,206 page views for this page over this period.

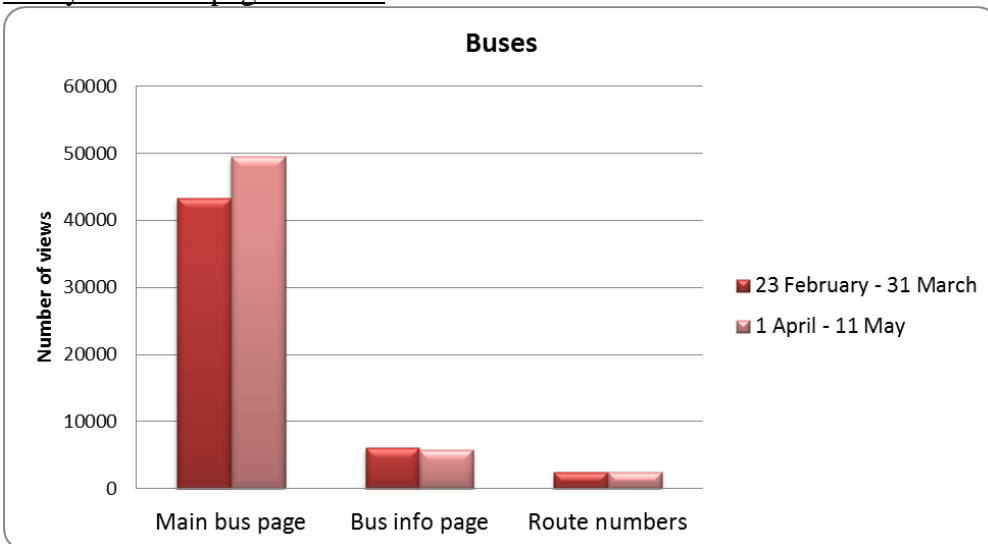
### Daily visits to the ORC Website

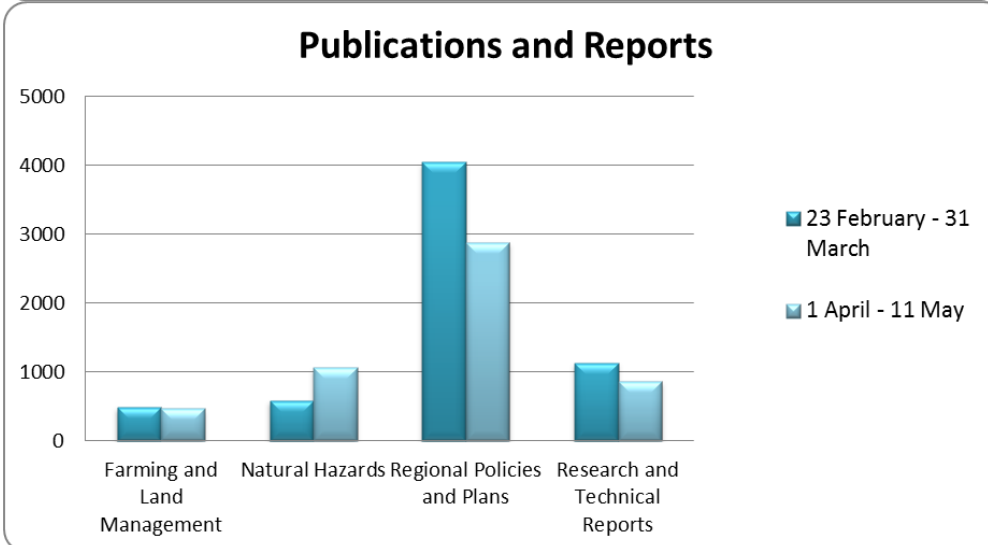
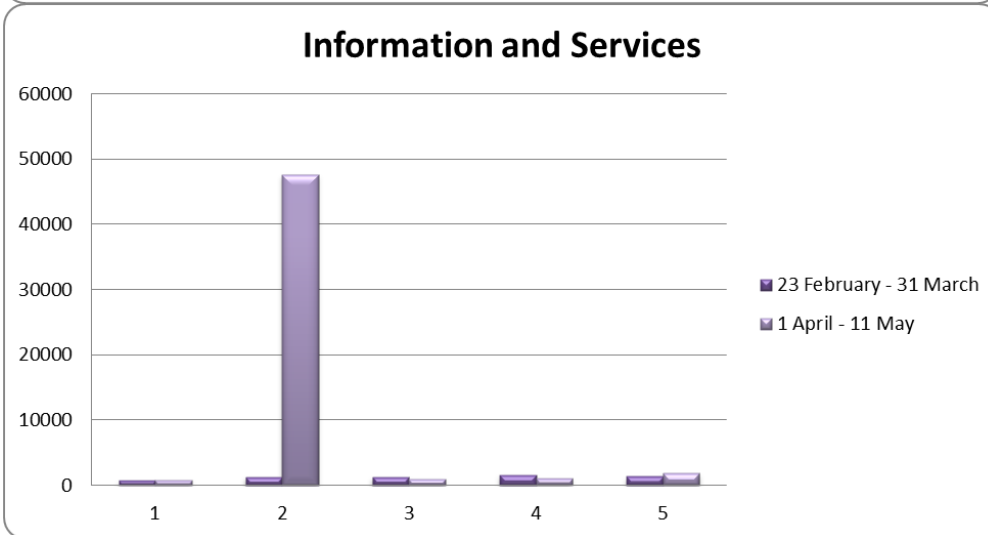
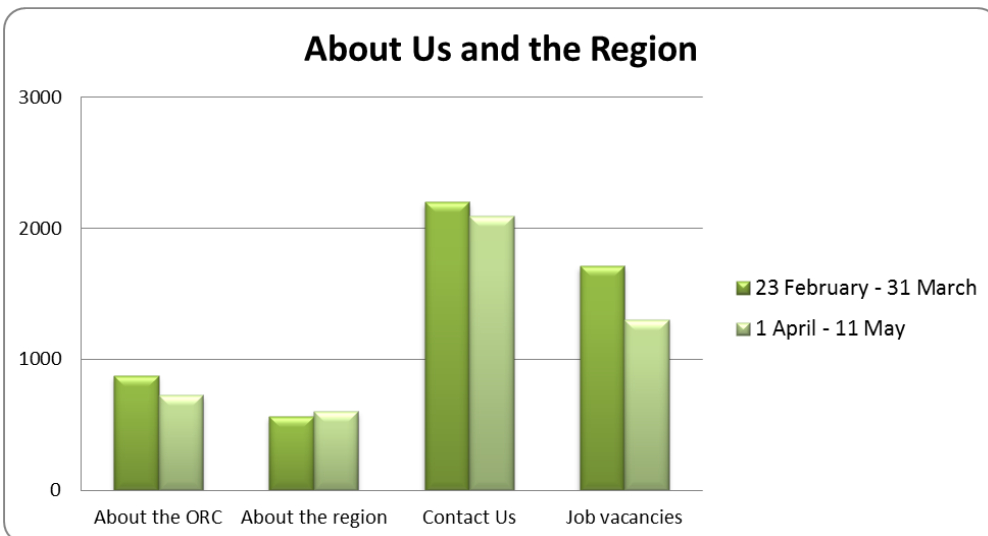
During this period there were 75,292 visits to the ORC website from New Zealand, 5,424 from Australia, and 1,905 from the United Kingdom.

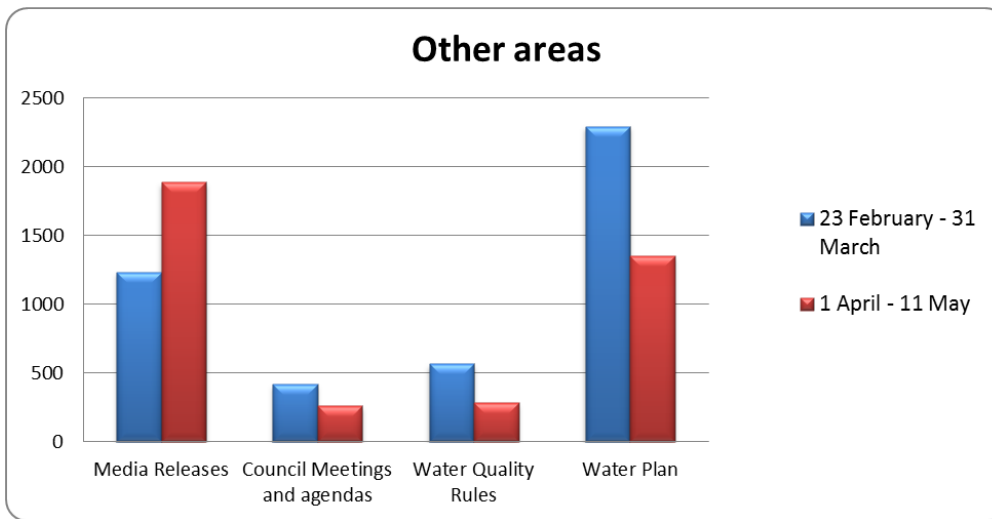


Average number of page views per visit was 2.06 and the top two downloads were the new bus timetable (2,748) and ORC Water Quality Rules document (110).

Analysis of webpages viewed







## 10. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Jane Leahy  
**Director Stakeholder Engagement**

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL****Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the  
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on  
Wednesday 3 June 2015 following the Communications Committee  
meeting**

**Membership:**

**Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)**  
**Cr Michael Deaker (Deputy Chairperson)**  
**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 David Shepherd**  
**Cr Stephen Woodhead**

**Apologies:** **Cr Louise Croot**

**Leave of absence:**

**In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday 29 May.**

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015, having been circulated, for adoption

**Matters arising from minutes**

**FOR NOTING**

Item 1  
2015/0953     **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM,

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section.

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 8.30 am

**Present:**

**Cr Gretchen Robertson** (Chairperson)  
**Cr Michael Deaker** (Deputy Chairperson)  
**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 David Shepherd**  
**Cr Stephen Woodhead**

**In attendance:**

**Peter Bodeker**  
**Wayne Scott**  
**Jane Leahy**  
**Fraser McRae**  
**Gavin Palmer**  
**Martin King**  
**Dale Meredith** (for Item 1)  
**Sarah Valk** (for Item 1)  
**Ralph Henderson** (for Item 1)  
**Sylvie Leduc** (for Item 1)  
**Janet Favel**

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was noted that Item 1 Notification of proposed Regional Policy Statement had been omitted from the cover page of the agenda but the report was included in the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Croot.

#### Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



## PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

### Item 1

2015/0858 **Notification of Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago.**  
DPPRM, 14/4/15

The report presented the proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago (RPS) and recommended public notification of the document.

Councillors congratulated staff on the timely delivery of a well presented, readable document. The process, including organisation of regional workshops and participation by ORC Councillors and TLAs, was commended. Cr Woodhead noted that the RPS was a high level policy document which gave significant policy-setting direction from a regional perspective. He considered that it “felt like Otago”.

It was noted that the document had been checked by Council’s legal counsel Alastair Logan, who had raised no concerns about the matters covered nor how they were covered. However, drafting changes were made on his recommendation.

Mr McRae commented that as part of the Triennial Agreement, ORC did not have a land plan, and the RPS explained that policy, objectives and rules related to land use were contained in district plans. In response to a question he explained that Council was required to prepare a Section 32 report to explain the decision for matters included. Mr McRae also noted that originally the RMA required that district plans not be inconsistent with the RPS. Changes to the RMA now required district plans to implement the Statement, therefore its status was now a lot stronger.

Comment was made that at the beginning of the process ‘enabling’ was seen as an overall theme but that was not now so clear. Mr McRae explained that the enabling structure of the document had not changed, and he pointed out that each of the chapters took an enabling approach.

In response to a question relating to interpretation of policy, Mr McRae explained that any court considerations would be concerned with the wording of the RPS itself, they would not normally refer to council records (eg minutes).

The Chief Executive congratulated Mr McRae and his staff on their work, and passed on positive feedback from Otago district council chief executives about the work of ORC staff. He also congratulated staff for meeting the restricted timeframe.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Eckhoff seconded

- a) *That the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement and its accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report be approved for notification in accordance with clause 5, Schedule 1 of the RMA.*
- b) *That Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement be publicly notified on Saturday 23 May 2015.*

**Motion carried**

**PART B – FOR NOTING**

Item 2  
2015/0848 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 2/4/15

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section.

It was noted that a discussion document on water legislation reform had been received from WaterNZ. In response to a question Cr Woodhead explained that this was a lobby group of commercial entities with an interest in commercialising wastewater and freshwater.

Cr Woodhead spoke about the Lindis Minimum Flow meeting held on 1 April. Crs Woodhead, Eckhoff, Bell and Kelliher, and staff Mr Bodeker, Mr McRae, Dr Palmer and Tom de Pelsemaecker attended, and there was a good representation of members of the public. The community raised concerns about the transition from mining privileges, and about adapting to the proposed minimum flow change from 450 l/s to 750 l/s. Mr Bodeker advised that he, Mr McRae, and Dr Palmer met with some representatives of the group the next day, along with Niall Watson, Fish and Game. The group requested an extension of time to discuss the transitional aspects of the Plan and possible changes to the distribution of water, and this request was granted but the group was advised there would be no further extensions. Mr Bodeker had also met recently with Graeme Martin, Chair of the Lindis Catchment Group Committee. Mr Bodeker had been invited to attend future meetings of the community group, and would take up this invitation.

Dunstan Ward Councillors agreed with the decision to grant the group more time to consider the proposed minimum flow, but expressed concern that they were not advised earlier of this decision.

A question was raised about the submission in opposition to the Glenorchy camping ground application. Mr McRae explained that the Council was concerned about large underground tanks being installed in an area of high water table, and the applicant needed to recognise the associated risk.

ORC's appeal on CDC's decision on their proposed Plan Change 28 was noted. Mr McRae explained that CDC was concerned that the flood hazard area covered by the Milton 2060 project was too great, and the two Councils were working together to identify high risk areas more specifically.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Kelliher seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 9.19 am.

**Chairperson**

## REPORT

Document Id: A785903

Report Number: 2015/0953  
 Prepared For: Policy Committee  
 Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management  
 Date: 22 May 2015

Subject: **Director's Report on Progress**

### 1. Policy Responses

#### 1.1 Responses: National Policies, Strategies and Plans

In the seven week period ending 21 May 2015, the following were received:

Agency	Number Received	Details
Ministry for the Environment	1	Climate Change Target discussion document
Department of Internal Affairs	1	Rules Reduction Taskforce
Environmental Protection Agency	1	Honey Suckle Beetle release application
Ministry for the Environment	1	Environment Canterbury Review

The following responses were made over the seven week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Ministries for the Environment/Business, Innovation and Employment	Submission	Did not oppose proposed amendments. Advocated for further improvements to improve robustness of permitted activities around controlling effects of associated earthwork activities
WaterNZ (Water Legislation Reform Discussion Paper)	Feedback	Advocated integrated management provisions of RMA.
Environmental Protection Agency	Submission	Support application by Hawkes Bay Regional Council to introduce honeysuckle stem-boring beetle.
Ministry for the Environment	Submission	Representative form of regional governance

## 1.2 Responses: Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

In the seven weeks ending 21 May 2015, the following were received:

Agency	Number Received	Document
Queenstown Lakes District Council	2	Consent applications
Queenstown Lakes District Council	13	Housing Accord and Special Housing Areas Act proposals
Central Otago District Council	1	Consent application
Dunedin City Council	1	Consent application

### 1.3 Appeal: Clutha District Council Proposed Plan Change 28 (Natural Hazards)

Council has appealed Clutha District Council's (CDC) decision on Proposed Plan Change 28 (Natural Hazards) relating to provisions for dwellings and buildings that accommodate people in Area 4B: Tokomairiro Plain floodway corridors.

Mediation on the appeal will be held on Friday 29 May 2015.

### 1.4 Queenstown Lakes District Council and Housing Accord and Special Housing Act 2013 (HASHA Act)

Queenstown Lakes District Council has received 13 proposal outlines for housing developments under the HASHA. Each proposal will be considered for recommendation to the Minister of Building and Housing at the upcoming council meeting on 3 June.

ORC will have opportunity to comment on the proposals prior to their lodgement with the Minister.

## 2. ORC: Policy, Plans and Strategies

### 2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago was publicly notified on Saturday 23 May 2015. A brochure inviting submissions on the proposal has been circulated to households and businesses within Otago, and sent to non-resident ratepayers.

Submissions close on Friday 24 July 2015.

## 2.2 Progress of proposed plan changes

### *Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis catchment minimum flow)*

A community meeting was held on 1 April 2015 in Tarras. As a result of this meeting members of the community have sought further work to:

- refine the workability of proposed transition provisions (deemed permits to resource consents);
- investigate additional low flow management tools to assist transition and deliver better outcomes.

This work, including meetings meeting involving ORC represented by Dr Palmer and Mr McRae, is being undertaken between now and 14 June 2015.

## 2.3 Appeals on proposed plan changes

### *Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation)*

An appeal from Oceana Gold Limited was received on Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation). Oceana Gold sought to have mine pit dewatering excluded from the definition of consumptive takes of groundwater.

There are three Section 274 interested parties: Contact Energy Ltd, L&M Coal Kaitangata Ltd and Mintago Investments Ltd.

The second day of mediation is set for Tuesday 9 June 2015.

### *Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater Management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer)*

An appeal from Contact Energy Ltd was received on Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer). Contact Energy sought to restrict irrigation takes from the aquifer over winter and some part of autumn and spring, as well as when Lake Hawea is low and inflows into the upper Clutha catchment are low.

There are two section 274 interested parties: Federated Farmers of New Zealand and Horticulture New Zealand.

The parties have now agreed and signed a solution, which is now awaiting sign off by the Environment Court.

## 3. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae  
**Director Policy Planning and Resource Management**