

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the  
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on  
Wednesday 27 January 2016 commencing at 9.09 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**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott McLean**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Janet Favel**

### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Bell and Croot.

### **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## FOR NOTING

Item 1

2015/1303 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** Manager Communications/ Manager Community Liaison and Education. DSE, 8/1/16

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

Councillors commended the information circulated on the recent low flow period. In response to a question Mrs Rowe advised that the CLEO team had contacted irrigation groups regularly in relation to the dry conditions.

The recent meeting of the Otago Overseer group was noted, and the progress of the group was queried. Mrs Rowe was to follow up and report back to the next committee meeting.

With students returning for the 2016 year, a question was raised about communication with the University in relation to the Leith Flood Protection Scheme works through the campus. Mrs Rowe advised that current contact with the University focused on protection of the life in the stream, and the University was interested in doing a clean up of the Leith through the campus. Explanation of the Flood Protection Scheme works could be incorporated into these communications should they proceed.

In response to a question about the presentation of World War One books to schools, Cr Woodhead advised that several schools had contacted him to express their thanks for the books. Mrs Rowe was to check on other responses received and advise Councillors.

Concern was expressed about those invited to attend meetings of the low flow stakeholder group, more appropriately termed 'agency briefings'. It was noted that Federated Farmers did not represent all farmers, and that irrigators were not invited to the meetings. Mrs Rowe advised that Irrigation NZ had been invited to the next agency briefing. She noted that while this organisation did not represent all irrigators, it was the best agency to represent the Region's irrigators at this point. It was likely that irrigator representation would be discussed at the upcoming Irrigators Conference.

It was suggested that a report be prepared for Councillors on a communications strategy for 6A, covering groupings and irrigation collectives, and clarifying the 6A message.

Cr Brown advised that the Kakanui River Management Strategy was launched on 10 December. The meeting was well attended, with reasonable consensus, and he had received positive feedback on the strategy. He considered this would be a good template for other river management strategies.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Robertson seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 9.28 am.



**Chairperson**