

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 7 September 2016 commencing at 9:30am

**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 Brown  
*The apology was accepted.*

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker
- Nick Donnelly
- Fraser McRae
- Scott MacLean
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Lauren McDonald
- Karin Little
- Jane Turnbull

#### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest advised.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No public forum.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Croot and Cr Deaker.

### Matters arising from minutes

## FOR NOTING

### Item 1

#### 2016/1010 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 25/8/16

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee.

It was advised that since the Director's report was written, Crs Bell and Eckhoff had attended the Manuherikia public meetings and these meetings were well received, with staff working well with the public. Cr Eckhoff advised that the information was communicated well, and that the staff in attendance did a good job.

Mr McRae acknowledged there is currently a degree of nervousness by irrigators, but that there was also acceptance of the process, including discussion with the affected communities before the setting of the minimum flows. He confirmed that staff were taking on board information gleaned from these public sessions.

It was confirmed that submissions on the Biosecurity 2025 discussion document closed on Friday 9 September 2016 and submission on the Urban Planning document would close on Monday 3 October 2016. Mr McRae confirmed his directorate were currently working on these submissions. It was requested that a copy of the Biosecurity submission be provided to the Policy Committee Chair and Deputy Chair, and for the Urban Planning submission to be circulated around all councillors prior to 3 October.

A concern was raised that central government needed to be a more active partner in the urban planning inquiry, rather than this just being a TLA platform.

Another concern was expressed in regard to the urban planning inquiry not specifically addressing a preference for either one or two pieces of legislation for addressing urban planning and environmental protection, or for an expanded EPA as a preference over regional councils for regulatory compliance and enforcement.

Mr McRae advised that Council had responded to the original draft of the Urban Planning document, and these points were now being included as part of considerations for Council to include in the National Policy Statement (NPS) on urban development, i.e. including the future development in Queenstown as a rapidly growing area.

Crs Eckhoff and Bell advised their attendance of the Wilding Conifer meeting in Queenstown on 6 September. Cr Eckhoff raised his concern over the speed with which the spread of wilding pines is occurring at Pukaki Downs Station, which was a presentation to the meeting. He expressed his concern that biodiversity needed to be a higher priority for Council, especially in the hill country areas.

Cr Robertson commented that it is important for biosecurity and pest management functions of Council to overlap, and for clear communication out to the communities to be in place for planned work.

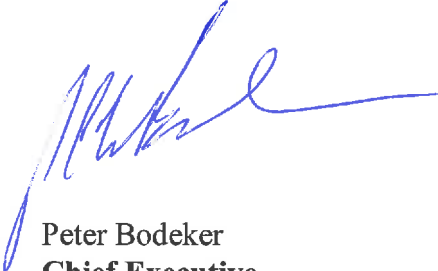
Moved Cr Croot  
Seconded Cr Neil

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

*Meeting closed at 9:51 am*

**Chairperson**



Peter Bodeker  
**Chief Executive**