

**OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee  
Held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 8 February 2017, commencing at 9:26am**

**Membership:** Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)  
Cr Sam Neill (Deputy Chairperson)  
Cr Graeme Bell  
Cr Doug Brown  
Cr Michael Deaker  
Cr Carmen Hope  
Cr Trevor Kempton  
Cr Michael Laws  
Cr Maggie Lawton  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Stephen Woodhead

**Apologies:** Cr Sam Neill  
Apologies accepted on the motion of Crs Robertson and Lawton.

**In attendance:** Peter Bodeker  
Nick Donnelly  
Fraser McRae  
Gavin Palmer  
Caroline Rowe  
Scott MacLean  
Lauren McDonald (Committee Secretary)  
Karin Little (minute taker)  
Marian Weaver (Item 6)

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was confirmed.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No public forum was held.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Hope.

The Chairman requested that the geographical maps indicating the location of water takes in the region be provided to all the councillors.

Mr MacLean confirmed that the elected members in the Dunstan Ward had already received these maps and he would ensure that the remaining councillors would receive a copy.

## **PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Item 1**

2017/0595 **K5 Release funding proposal DEMO, 20/01/2017**

The report detailed the request for Council approval for reserve funding of up to \$50,000 for the co-ordinated release of the Korean strain of the rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV-1 K5) at strategic locations throughout Otago, once statutory approval received.

A concern was expressed if the \$50,000 of reserve funding being requested was sufficient to undertake the controlled release of the K5 virus.

Mr MacLean advised that the funding request had been calculated on the assumption of 100 doses being released to ORC (of the 300 doses expected for New Zealand). This calculation included the costs of importing, pre bait, monitoring and distribution. He confirmed that if more doses were made available that ORC would strongly pursue this.

Mr MacLean confirmed the release locations for the virus as being the rabbit “hot spots” (as indicated in the report) and that this would include the Manuherikia area. He reiterated that there would be a limited number being imported into New Zealand and that the 100 doses represented approximately 30% of the total number of doses being imported. He advised that the virus is being manufactured in Australia (where there is also a big release programme planned) and that the scientific advice available indicates that 300 doses will be sufficient to “kick start” a series of epidemics.

A concern was expressed that if the Council approval was only given to the staff recommendation of a maximum of \$50,000 that it may restrict the pursuit of additional doses, if available.

Discussion was held on the appropriate reserve funding level and whether a higher level would provide flexibility to respond quickly to the opportunity for the purchase of additional doses for Otago.

A question was raised on the status of the approval process for the importation and release of the K5 virus.

Mr MacLean advised he had no additional update other than that provided at the 7 December 2016 Council meeting. He confirmed that a meeting of the NZ Rabbit Coordination Group was due to be held on 16 February, where the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) would provide an update on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as to the status of the approval process.

Mr MacLean reminded elected members that the process sat with EPA, as it is a bio control tool and that the EPA were required to apply due diligence, prior to importing, so the virus is authorised as appropriate for release into New Zealand.

A question was raised on the effectiveness of the virus.

Mr McLean stated that the RHDV-1 K5 virus could not be considered as a “silver bullet” for rabbit control and that its effectiveness would not be known until released as the virus would behave differently on different land conditions. He advised that it was hoped that an autumn release of the virus could occur if EPA approval is given.

A question was raised in regard to any other action ORC was planning for rabbit control in the region.

Mr MacLean advised that under the current Pest Management Plan (PMP) that it was the responsibility of the individual landowner to undertake rabbit control on their property. He outlined the process for non compliance on properties as contained in the PMP. He advised that the upcoming review of the Pest Management Strategy for Otago would provide the opportunity to review rabbit control and allow the Council and the community to speak to rabbit control in the region, as part of the Annual Plan process.

Discussion was held on the importance of a monitored and controlled release of the K5 virus to ensure the most effective use of the virus is maximised.

The importance of a well managed communication and engagement plan with the community for the release of the virus in Otago was reiterated by the Chairman.

Mr Bodeker advised that the elected members needed to be aware that the EPA had yet to approve the importation of the virus. He raised, that should approval not be given by the EPA, or the timeframes be later than sought, then thought on advice to landowners was needed.

A suggestion was made for an in-depth analysis of rabbit control under the Pest Management Plan over the past 10 years, including the impacts of the change in land use in rabbit prone areas, which would provide context to the Pest Management Strategy Review, and also for the analysis and review to be discussed and lead by the Pests Reference Group.

An amendment to the staff recommendation was made to remove the wording of “up to \$50,000”.

Moved Cr Laws  
Seconded Cr Deaker

*That reserve funding is approved for the coordinated release of the Korean strain of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV-1 K5) at strategic locations throughout Otago.*

Discussion was held on whether a reserve funding level should be set or left as an undefined amount.

*Cr Noone left the room at 10:08am*

The motion put to vote.

**The motion was lost**

Moved Cr Woodhead  
Seconded Cr Kempton

*That reserve funding of up to \$50,000 is approved for the coordinated release of the Korean strain of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV-1 K5) at strategic locations throughout Otago.*

**Motion carried**

## **PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 2

2017/0569 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 20/01/17**

The report provided information on the regulatory activity including water, air, pest, contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017

*Cr Kempton left the room at 10:12am*

Cr Scott summarised the report.

Discussion was held in regard to the process to be followed for complaints received by elected members.

*Cr Lawton left room at 10:14am and Crs Kempton and Lawton returned at 10:15am.*

Moved Cr Laws  
Seconded Cr Scott

*That the Chief Executive be requested to provide a paper to the next committee round on establishing effective Council management communications in regard to constituent complaints.*

**Motion carried**

Moved Cr Woodhead  
Seconded Cr Hope

*That this report is received.*

**Motion carried**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:30am and reconvened at 10:47am*

Item 3

2017/0593 **Lagarosiphon in Otago. DEMO, 20/01/17**

The covering report summarised the three Lagarosiphon Management Plans in place for Otago for Lake Wanaka, Lake Dunstan and the Kawarau River.

Mr MacLean advised that LINZ is the lead agency, as the landowner, for these management plans, with the ORC's role in support of the management plan.

Discussion was held on:

- ORC's regional and partnership role in regard to pest management and water quality of the central and southern lakes and rivers.
- the need for central government to be more proactive in its funding support of control work in Otago.
- possible inclusion of funding for lagarosiphon control in the Annual Plan.
- review of, and consultation on lagarosiphon control as part of the Pest Management Strategy Review, including responsibilities for high value areas.

Mr MacLean advised that the ORC cannot do work on a landowners property without their support. He confirmed that he and Mr Bodeker had meet with the Guardians of Lake Dunstan, who are frustrated by the funding level and the management plan in place. Mr MacLean confirmed he has been working with the Guardians of Lake Dunstan over the last year to enable them to make a robust submission to the Annual Plan for lagarosiphon control.

Discussion was held on the progress made with lagarosiphon control in Lake Wanaka and what impact this may have for Lake Dunstan.

Mr MacLean advised that as Lake Dunstan is on the downstream end of where lagarosiphon originates, that unless lagarosiphon was total eradicated upstream, it would always be present in Lake Dunstan. He confirmed that when Lake Dunstan was being constructed that it was identified as having a latent risk of providing an ideal habitat for lagarosiphon.

*Cr Noone returned to room 11:08am*

Moved Cr Laws

Seconded Cr Noone

*That ORC approach central government ministers with the intention of improving and further resourcing lagarosiphon control management in the Southern Lakes.*

**Motion carried**

Moved Cr Robertson  
Seconded Cr Noone

*That this report is received.*

**Motion carried**

*Cr Lawton left the room at 11:28am*

Item 4

2017/0571 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**  
DPPRM, 20/01/17

The report detailed the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

*Cr Lawton returned at 11:30am*

Moved Cr Kempton  
Seconded Cr Robertson

*That this report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 5

2017/0594 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 20/01/17

The report provided the consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

Mr McRae advised there have been two appeals received for Oceana Gold Ltd consent decisions.

Moved Cr Deaker  
Seconded Cr Robertson

*That this report is noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 6  
2017/0599 **Progress Report 1C - Deemed Permit Replacements and Water Groups, DPPRM, 23/01/17**

The report provided the progress on Project 1C implementation of the Regional Plan: Water policies for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

A question was raised on the progress made since the previous report in November 2016.

Mrs Weaver advised that there were still 400 outstanding deemed permits to date. The timing of the receipt of these renewals was unknown but that work continued to encourage deemed permit holders to apply for consent. She advised that she anticipated slow progress until 2019, due to the 2020 deadline for permit holders.

A question was raised on what statistics could be provided on the access made to the information on the ORC website for Project 1C. Mrs Rowe advised she would review this information and respond.

A question was raised regarding the estimated workloads and resources required between now and the 2020 deadline to process the consents.

*Cr Laws left the room at 11:39am*

Mr Bodeker advised that a resource review was underway at moment and the Terms of Reference would be circulated to councillors when completed.

Moved Cr Hope  
Seconded Cr Robertson

*That this report is noted.*

**Motion carried.**

The meeting was declared closed at 11:42am.

Chairperson

