

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 March 2017, commencing at 11:01am

Membership:

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

Apologies: Nil

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Scott MacLean
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Nick Donnelly
- Marian Weaver (for the Director PPRM)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as listed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017, having been circulated were adopted on the motion of Crs Noone and Hope.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 2

2017/0679 **Director’s Report on policy progress to March 2017.** DPPRM,
22/03/17

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 21 January to 10 March 2017.

The following appendices were circulated separately with the agenda.

Appendix 1: *Waterways Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Findings’, a report prepared by Versus Research for the Otago Regional Council, December 2016*

Appendix 2: *Literature review of the risks and adverse effects from discharges of stormwater, wastewater, industrial and trade waste, and other hazardous substances in Otago*

Appendix 3:

- *Coastal Environment of Otago Natural Character and Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes Assessments*
- *Natural Features and Natural Landscapes Assessments*
- *Natural Character Assessment Sheets for:*
 - *Clutha District*
 - *Dunedin City*
 - *Waitaki District*

Clean Water 2017

A request was made for staff to table a paper to the 5 April Council meeting. The submission deadline was confirmed as 28 April 2017.

Review of RPS

During the course of discussion, staff provided explanations of the principles of court assisted mediation, the role of delegated staff, confidentiality of mediation outcomes and the report back process.

A request was made for the Chief Executive to seek a legal opinion on the definition/interpretation of the word “parties” in the Environment Court mediation process. The legal opinion to include how this affects the role of councillors, where a delegation has been made to staff. This information to be circulated to councillors.

Cr Kempton left the room at 11:14am and returned at 11:18am

Water Quality, Biodiversity and Coastal Strategies

Discussion was held on the reports attached to the Director’s report for waterways research and coastal values assessment to be received by Council. Staff confirmed once the reports were endorsed by Council they would be circulated to all parties and be available on the ORC website.

A request was made for an executive summary be included with these reports at release, providing a brief on the purpose of the report.

Moved Cr Scott
Seconded Cr Laws

Request legal clarification of appropriate mediation reporting to councillors.
(This motion was taken as the third recommendation of the report).

- a) *That the reports on the waterways research and coastal values assessments are received.*
- b) *That this report is noted.*
- c) *Request legal clarification of appropriate mediation reporting to councillors*

Motion carried

PART B - FOR NOTING

Item 1

2017/0719 **Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes.** DPPRM,
22/03/17

The report sought Council approval to proceed with preparation of Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes, under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.

Discussion was held on matters including: when a residual flow is appropriate; how a residual flow is set; understanding of natural character and instream values; where residual flows should be monitored.

Staff commented on the report and responded to questions from Councillors.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Laws

That the recommendation "That Council proceed with preparation of Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes, under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act." be left to lie on the table until activated again.

A division was called. Vote: For 10, Against 1

Motion carried

A request was made for staff to prepare a workshop to discuss the issues raised at the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 12:25pm



Chairperson