

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 May 2017, following the Finance and Corporate Committee

Membership:

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

Apologies:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30am on Monday 1 May 2017

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017, having been circulated, for adoption.

ACTIONS

Status report on the resolutions of the Communications Committee.

Report No.	Meeting	Resolution	Status
2016/1107 Director report	23/11/16	<i>That the report be noted and that a schedule of activities be provided and indicate where councillors have an open invitation to attend, and include the details of venue and time</i>	
Notice of Motion	23/1/16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That all Otago Regional Council controlled or generated public meetings, within the wards of elected member be advised to those members, as both a courtesy and to improve ORC's communication strategy.</i> 2. <i>That, prior to announcement, all elected members be informed of any decisions or pronouncements by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Chief Executive, especially those elected members within the ward to which the announcements/decisions directly apply.</i> 	
2017/0664 Director's report	22/3/17	<i>That ORC construct a simple explanation of water issues and how they interact, for water quality and water quantity.</i>	

PART A – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2017/0742 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 13/04/2017

Reporting on the community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff for the period 4 March to 13 April 2017

The report includes a list of upcoming events the Stakeholder Engagement directorate are involved in, as at April 2017.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 March 2017, commencing 2:57 pm

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

Apologies: No apologies recorded.

Leave of absence: No leave of absence recorded.

In attendance: Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Scott MacLean
Lauren McDonald (Committee Secretary)
Emma van der Merwe (Minute Taker)
Suzanne Watt
Penny Farrell

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum held.

MINUTES

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

PART A – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2017/0664 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 03/03/2017

The report provided an update on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff for the period 21 January to 3 March 2017, including a calendar of events for this period.

Moved Cr Laws
Seconded Cr Hope

That ORC construct a simple explanation of water issues and how they interact, for water quality and water quantity.

Motion Carried

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Kempton

That the report be noted.

Motion Carried

The meeting was declared closed at 3:12 pm.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document ID: A991795
Report Number: 2017/0742
Prepared For: Communications Committee
Prepared By: Stakeholder Engagement Directorate
Date: 13 April 2017

Subject: Communications Committee – Report April 2017

This report records stakeholder engagement activity between 4 March and 13 April 2017.

1. WATER QUALITY

Engagement activities and events under the council's rural water quality programme (W3) have been undertaken during this period with a range of stakeholders. The specific objective for stakeholder engagement activity, as outlined in the 2016-17 Annual Plan, is to achieve landholder awareness of the rules at 90%. This is measured using a stakeholder survey (underway at present).

1.1. Field days, workshops, and presentations

1.1.1. Industry-led activities

i. Ara Institute of Canterbury – 13 March

ORC Liaison staff presented to 10 students at an Ara Institute of Canterbury Primary Industry course, with an emphasis on sustainability and farming. The course is run through both the Timaru and Oamaru Ara Institute campuses. This was the third time staff had presented at this course and the feedback from staff and students was positive. Particular interest was shown in the Otago effects-based Water Plan and minimum flow regimes.

ii. Beef and Lamb LEP1 workshop – 21 March

Approximately 11 landowners or land managers attended this workshop held in Clinton. Liaison staff presented on the Regional Plan Water and made clear the ways farmers could contact us for assistance. Throughout the afternoon, discussion centred on activity in waterways, overseer requirements and willow maintenance.

iii. South Otago Dairy Working Group – 21 & 29 March

A meeting was held for the South Otago Dairy Working Group with environmental monitoring and liaison staff in attendance. The group discussed how to promote and educate around the management of effluent during the autumn. Messaging around having the pond empty and the end of the season was also promoted.

The group had also facilitated a field session. On 29 March, Nick Tait (Dairy NZ) and Brian Goodger (Fonterra) held the session at a property in the

Crookston where discussion included the methods and techniques of effluent application and effluent fail safe systems.

iv. Beef and Lamb hill country development day – 31 March

In Millers Flat, ORC liaison specialists presented to approximately 80 people on the prohibited activity rules of the Regional Plan: Water. The field day focused on the economics of hill country development, and turning tussock to pasture. The day included a farm tour of three places near Lake Onslow.

v. Integrity Soils Master Class – 6 & 7 April

ORC liaison staff attended a soil health event in Balclutha which was sponsored by Beef and Lamb, BioAg and Southern Humates. There were about 20 farmers from Otago with others from Southland and Canterbury. The main questions were around using a regenerative farming system while meeting the rules of the Water Plan for Otago.

1.1.2. Community-led activity

i. Pathways for the Pomahaka – 23 March

In conjunction with DairyNZ a field day was held on farm in Crookston with an emphasis on effluent management, including the technology available to help with this. The event was attended by farmers, rural professionals and sales representatives.

ii. North Otago Sustainable Land Management Society (NOSLaM) – 6 & 10 April

The North Otago Sustainable Land Management Society (NOSLaM) are working towards creating fit-for-purpose water testing and farmer extension model in North Otago which delivers on the objectives of the Otago Water Plan.

Over this reporting period, Liaison staff have been collaborating with NOSLaM to get the project up and running. A joint media release will soon be issued to promote the project, and ORC's funding contribution to a part-time position to help coordinate the project.

NOSLaM presented the project to ORC Councillors on 6 April.

On 10 April liaison staff attended a meeting of all the wider stakeholders (industry, community and statutory organisations) who were previously involved in the Kakanui Community Catchment Project and who will now support the NOSLaM project. At least 3 meetings of this group will be held each year, with an emphasis on collaboration.

1.1.3. Council-led activity

i. Environmental Extension Group meeting

This group met on 27 March to discuss progress with the overall rural water quality project. Representatives from stakeholder industry groups discussed their projects relating to water quality, and ORC staff gave an update on communications relating to the water quality project, discussed relevant water

projects in the annual plan, and held a workshop on environmental risk assessments to get input from those present. The group meets twice a year.

ii. Blueskin A & P show – 9 April

ORC Liaison staff and Councillor Noone attended the Blueskin A&P show on Sunday 9 April. There were approximately a dozen enquiries on the day which centred on the annual plan and septic tanks. Positive feedback on the annual plan brochure design and content was received.

iii. Environment Canterbury Visit – 10 April

Four staff on the Environmental Risk Assessment project development team visited Environment Canterbury to learn about the various on-farm activities undertaken by the Southern Zone Team. It also focused on what land users get out of ECAN visits, as well as how they established their project from the outset.

The learnings taken from their initial project development and pilot programme, as well as feedback from land users is being taken on board to shape the development of the Environmental Risk Assessment project.

iv. Water quality survey

Versus Research, on behalf of ORC, is conducting a telephone survey of 300 rural Otago residents between 3-28 April to measure understanding of the water plan rules, and action people are taking to comply with them. Results will be received mid-May.

v. Urban Water Quality Strategic Workshop

A water quality strategic workshop is being organised with key stakeholders from throughout the region. Held at the Dunedin Art Gallery from 26 to 27 April, around 50 people are expected to attend.

The workshop will focus on:

- objectives of discharge and water quality management
- guiding principles in developing Otago's overall discharge management framework
- what a proposed framework to achieve integrated management and the management of cumulative effects could look like

vi. Ballance Farm Environment Awards

ORC sponsors the Quality Water Management Award at this event, which was held on 7 April at the Glenroy Auditorium in Dunedin. Around 200 people attended and ORC's new water quality video was shown. The winners of the award (Ben and Tanya Davie from Clydevale) will be profiled in the winter edition of Waterlines. A field day at the supreme award winner's farm (Simon and Kirstin Engelbrecht from Palmerston) will be held on 19 May (councillors are welcome to attend).

vii. Farm visits

In response to numerous enquiries, liaison staff has visited 6 farms to talk about the Water Plan for Otago rules.

1.2. Media and promotion for rural water programmes

1.2.1. Irrigation NZ Magazine

Communications staff are currently working on articles for the next issue of IrrigationNZ News, which is due out mid-June. Articles will include a case study of a farmer embracing irrigation technology, providing an update on the minimum flow setting process, giving feedback on the water consent (deemed permit) forum held in late March, outlining what North Otago farmers are doing to achieve good water quality, and reminding irrigators of off-season maintenance they should be doing.

1.2.2. Waterlines

The winter edition of Waterlines newsletter will be distributed in May and includes write-ups about: an estuary study, a wetland restoration project, 2016/17 dairy inspection results, North Otago farmers working together to improve water quality, tips for winter grazing, a day in the life of an environmental officer (lake testing), a case study about a farmer using technology to help with irrigation, a profile of Fish and Game, information about deemed permit transitions, and an update on the Manuherikia minimum flow.

We'll also include a diagram showing how all the different activities the ORC undertakes are connected.

1.2.3. 'Good Water in Otago – ORC' Facebook page

There are currently 594 'likes', and we post approximately twice a week. Total reach from 13 March to 9 April was 8784, which is a 903% increase on the last reporting period.

1.2.4. On-Stream

The fourth issue of this e-newsletter was sent on 27 March to 276 subscribers. It included a feature on State of Environment reports and why they are useful for landholders, updates from the liaison specialists, and promoted the Fish & Flow web portal.

2. WATER QUANTITY

Engagement activities and events under the council's Water and Deemed Permit renewal project (W4) have been undertaken during this period with a range of stakeholders. The objective for stakeholder engagement activity is to support permit holders to form groups to manage water availability at a local level.

2.1. Water and deemed permit renewal project

i. Water user group meetings

The following meetings with priority groups are now scheduled:

Upcoming meetings – round 1	
Lowburn District	3 May
Crown Terrace	TBC May
Coal Creek (Teviot)	TBC May

Upcoming meeting – round 2	
Strath Taieri	4 May

Round 2 meetings

Round 2 meetings comprise ORC staff facilitating water users groups connecting with affected parties such as iwi, DoC, and the Otago Fish and Game Council. The meetings allow water users groups to gain a good understanding of the fish and river flow information for the catchment and the associated values, prior to formal discussions with the affected parties. These meetings help assist water user groups to seek written approval, as part of the application to replace their deemed permits.

At the meetings, science staff present fish and flow data (which can now be accessed on the ORC website – see the Fish and Flow portal later in this section). The three affected parties then outline the worth and importance of the data. The catchment groups who have a thorough appreciation of river behaviours within their properties are a valuable source of local ‘knowledge feedback’ feedback to the statutory group as part of the final determination of the agreed residual flows.

ii. Other water quantity activity

a) Deemed permit forum – 29 March

ORC hosted the Deemed permit forum in Alexandra on 29 March. Over 140 people attended from a variety of backgrounds, i.e. permit holders, lawyers, consultants and interested parties.



Attendees at the forum – 29 March

b) HortNZ Field Trip – 9 & 10 March

ORC Staff and Councillors attended a Central Otago field trip organised by HortNZ. The purpose of the trip was to gain an appreciation of the importance of the horticulture industry in Central Otago with respect to

climatic condition, soil types and availability of water. Aspects of the deemed permit replacement process were raised during the day among other issues the horticulture sector is currently facing.

2.2. Policy-based water quantity projects

i. Flow requirements for water takes drop-in sessions.

Drop-in sessions were held from 20-27 February in Oamaru, Ranfurly, Cromwell, Arrowtown, Balclutha, and Dunedin, with around 160 people attending the sessions.

ii. Manuherikia minimum flow

Drop-in sessions were held in Oturehua, Omakau, and Alexandra from 21 to 23 March. Those sessions discussed the options available for managing low flows, and review the latest science report on the Manuherikia catchment.

2.3. Media and promotion for the water quantity programmes

i. Consents fees and charges flyers

Updated consents fees and charges flyers were added to the website to reflect the costs experienced by consent applicants, new flyers are currently in the process of being printed.

3. ENVIROSCHOOLS

As set out in the Annual Plan 2016-17, ORC provides the regional coordination of the Enviroschools programme in Otago.

i. Senior Secondary School Student hui

A one-day hui for Dunedin senior secondary school students, who are members of their schools' Enviro-groups, was held at Sinclair Wetlands / Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau on 2 April. The focus was on sharing ideas and identifying strategies for overcoming barriers they encounter as they implement sustainability practices in their schools. We had time to get involved in some hands-on restoration work at the wetlands.



Students learning about restoration work at the Sinclair Wetlands / Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau.

ii. Biodiversity workshop

Enviroschools teachers from QLDC and CODC areas attended a one-day workshop on biodiversity and eco-sourcing seeds run by Bill Nagle from the Clyde Railhead Community Eco-nursery. A number of the Enviroschools in the CODC area are involved in a project to create lizard habitats at their schools, which requires sourcing local plants. The teachers took away lots of ideas for involving students in plant propagation.



Teachers discovering the finer details of propagating from eco-sourced seeds with Bill Nagle.

iii. Enviroschools hui

Three of the Otago Enviroschools facilitators and Dr Zink attended a three day training hui run by the Toimata Foundation, the National body for Enviroschools. The focus was on a series of new resources for schools. Having three days together as a team was invaluable to developing a shared understanding of future direction for Enviroschools in Otago.

iv. New Schools joining Enviroschools in Dunedin

Three new schools have signed up as Enviroschools in Dunedin. Dr Zink fields regular requests from Early Childhood Centres and Schools across Otago to join Enviroschools. Currently Dunedin is the only district with additional capacity to take on new schools.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITY

As set out in the 2016/17 annual plan, we are committed to promoting community knowledge and awareness of the council's activities, and encouraging community participation in both decision-making processes and projects that promote sustainable use of resources. The following outlines a range of activity – both general and project-specific – that has been undertaken to support this target.

4.1. Media

Over the reporting period, 16 media releases were prepared.

4.2. Website

i. www.orc.govt.nz

There have been 51,530 visits to the ORC website during this period, up 19% on same time last year.

ii. www.lawa.org.nz

There have been 768 visits to the Otago section of the LAWA website, up 184% on the same time last year.

iii. www.otagocdem.govt.nz

There have been 2284 visits to the Otago CDEM website. We don't have comparative statistics from this time last year.

4.3. Social media

We had 2000 followers on our ORC Facebook account at the end of this reporting period. The reach during February was 59,495 people, a 540% increase on the same period last year. We had 787 followers on Twitter.

4.4. Annual Plan

The submission period for the draft Annual Plan 2017/2018 opened on 3 April. The consultation document was distributed region-wide in the week of 3-7 April. Awareness building has also included media releases and print advertising. A series of community info sessions in Dunedin, Mosgiel, Oamaru, Balclutha, Alexandra, Cromwell, Ranfurly, Queenstown and Wanaka has been delivered, led by the Chairman with the support of members of the Executive team and Stakeholder Engagement team. A Facebook Q+A session is scheduled

for the evening of 4 May; social media engagement will be a focus in the lead up to this session.

4.5. Passenger Transport

i. Wakatipu public transport network

Consultation on the proposed changes to the Wakatipu public transport network is underway. Stakeholder engagement has included five drop-in sessions at key locations in the Wakatipu and distribution of a consultation document with community newspapers in the area. Submissions close 21 April.

ii. ‘Connecting Concord’

Following the petition to reinstate the bus service from Concord to South Dunedin and the connection between Concord and Green Island, residents of Concord, Green Island and Abbotsford have received information on the proposed solution and an invitation to submit on the Regional Land Transport Plan (consultation closes 28 April).

iii. City Rise/Canongate

A survey of residents in City Rise is planned for distribution in the first week of May; this will scope the potential level of uptake if the bus service in this area were to be reinstated.

4.6. Science, Hazards and Engineering

i. Leith flood protection scheme

Communications are ongoing for the current stage of the Leith flood protection scheme. The Love the Leith river trail, increasing public awareness of the Leith’s history and ecology as well as the flood scheme, is continuing through until the end of the April school holidays and has been promoted as a school holiday event. The trail was also included in the Wild Dunedin Festival.

A communications system is in place with the University of Otago to ensure that they have regular and timely information.

ii. Southern lakes events with Catchments Otago

The Lab at the Lake event held on 2 April in partnership with the University of Otago’s Catchments Otago research theme group had strong attendance; around 450 people engaged with lake science via live fish displays, face painting of fish based on the species living in Lake Wanaka, clarity tubes, a ‘dress up as a lake scientist’ photo op, water quality display content, ‘Lab-in-a-box’, a check clean dry display, and more. Feedback was very positive, with strong engagement from the public and great questions asked. About 50 people attended the 31 March ‘The Lakes and I’ PechaKucha night, also held in partnership with Catchments Otago.

iii. River management strategies – draft reports

Draft river management strategies will be presented at public meetings on 26 and 27 April for the Shag River/Waihemo and Waianakarua Rivers. Stakeholder Engagement staff are working with science staff to organise and promote the meetings.

4.7. Biosecurity

i. Wallabies

A guidebook outlining how to identify wallabies and what to do if wallaby or signs of wallaby are found is currently being printed.

Field days in Ranfurly and Tarras are to be held on 15 and 16 May to get landholders in one room to give them information about how to identify wallaby signs, and gather information about sightings in the areas. This will be supported with advertising and promotion in other areas of Otago.

Liaison staff are continuing to promote ORC's wallaby biosecurity response at appropriate opportunities and asking for members of the public to report sightings.

ii. UrbanNature Expo

Communications and engagement staff will work with environmental monitoring staff to have a stand at the DCC-led UrbanNature expo in Woodhaugh Gardens from 11-3 on Sunday 23 April. We will concentrate on education around identifying Old Man's Beard, and giving advice on what to do if it is found.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report is noted.

Caroline Rowe
Director Stakeholder Engagement

Annex: Stakeholder Engagement Events Calendar (as at 20 April 2017).

Stakeholder Engagement Event Calendar

May

- 3 Burn Cottage
- 4 Strath Taieri deemed permit round 2 meeting 3pm Middlemarch Hall
- 4 Facebook Q+A on Annual Plan, 7-8:30 pm
- 8 Beef and Lamb LEP 2 workshop – Mosgiel
Invermay Agricultural Research Centre Puddle Alley, Mosgiel
- 12 Southern Wood Council Awards, Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
- 15 Wallaby Field Day, 11-1, Ranfurly Hotel
- 16 Wallaby Field Day, 11-1, Tarras Community Hall
- 16 Beef and Lamb LEP 2 workshop – Tapanui
Tapanui Community Centre
- 18 Beef and Lamb LEP 2 workshop – Clinton
Clinton Community Centre
- 19 Ballance Farm Environment Supreme Award Winner Field Day
800 Stoneburn Road, RD 3, Palmerston
- TBC Water Quality Strategy consultation
- TBC Coal Creek Water users group (Teviot)
- TBC Crown Terrace

June

- TBC Arrow minimum flow consultation