

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 2 August 2017, following the Communications Committee**

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 Ella Lawton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr Noone

Leave of Absence: Cr Neill

In attendance:

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 10:00am on
Monday, 31 July 2017.**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017, having been circulated for adoption.

ACTIONS - (Status report on the resolutions of the Policy Committee).

Report No.	Meeting	Resolution	Status
2017/0867 Plan Change 1D: Flow requirements for River Takes	14/6/17	<i>That a draft communications strategy to explain Plan Change 1D be provided to the next round of Council meetings</i>	OPEN

PART A – FOR RECOMMENDATION

Item 1

2017/0820 **Director’s Report on policy progress to July 2017.** DPPRM, 14/07/17 -

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 27 May to 14 July 2017, including: national policies, strategies and plans; ORC policy, plans and strategies; water quantity planning; regional transport

The report “*Strategic analysis of options to improve management of ecosystems and biodiversity for Otago Region*”, completed by Wildland Consultants, is circulated separately with the agenda.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 14 June 2017, commencing at 4:45pm

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: Crs Deaker and Noone

Moved Cr Robertson
Seconded Cr Scott

That the apologies be accepted.

Carried

In attendance: Peter Bodeker (CE)
Nick Donnelly DCS)
Gavin Palmer (DEHS)
Fraser McRae DPPRM)
Scott MacLean (DEMO)
Michele Poole (Acting DSHE)
Denise Anderson
Suzanne Watt
Dale Meredith
Lauren McDonald (Committee Secretary)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were noted.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2017, having been circulated were adopted of the motion of Crs Hope and Neill.

ACTIONS

Status report on the resolutions of the Policy Committee.

Report No.	Meeting	Resolution	Status
2017/0679 Director's report on policy progress to March 2017	22/3/17	<i>Request legal clarification of appropriate mediation reporting to councillors</i>	CLOSED Report 2017/0770 3 May 2017.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2017/0867 **Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for River Takes.** DPPRM,
09/06/17

The report provided the reasoning for the continuation of Plan Change 1D. The plan change provides clarification on the difference between residual and minimum flows, the affects on deemed permit replacement, issues identified with existing plan provisions, outcomes of a plan change and timeframes for plan change.

Cr Robertson summarised the report and the recommendation to formally proceed with Plan Change 1D.

Discussion was held on the current Water Plan, provision of clear communications to the community on the definition of residual and minimum flows, their conditions and encouragement to complete deemed permit replacement by 2021.

A request was made for a visual explanation of minimum flow and residual flow applications to rivers and tributaries to assist with the communication strategy for the plan change.

Mr McRae confirmed a colour code identifier of residual and minimum flows could be applied on a regional scale level map rather than catchment specific. He advised that communications on minimum flows at catchment meetings could include an explanation on where this fits in with residual flows.

Mr McRae confirmed that no review of existing residual flows was been undertaken as part of the plan change and therefore there was no need for applicants to delay completion of applications.

A request was made to ensure as part of formal presentations there is a visual explanation to clearly set out the framework of the plan change.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Scott

That Council resolve to proceed with Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for River Takes.

Motion carried

A suggestion was made for another workshop to be held.

Discussion was held on the specifics to be included in the communications strategy to be prepared by staff. The communications plan to include the actions to be taken for engagement and education of the community on the purpose and process for Plan Change 1D.

Moved Cr Laws
Seconded Cr Bell

That a draft Communications strategy to explain Plan Change 1D be provided to the next round of Council meetings.

Motion Carried.

PART B - FOR NOTING

Item 2
2017/0820 **Director's Report on policy progress to May 2017.** DPPRM, 26/05/17

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 13 April to 26 May 2017, including: national policies, strategies and plans; ORC policy, plans and strategies; water quantity planning; regional transport

The report "*Otago Regional Council Home Heating Survey*", completed by Key Research, 2016, was circulated separately with the agenda.

Discussion was held and Mr McRae responded to questions from councillors on NES for Plantation Forestry; the regional council role re natural hazard risk for urban development; a proposed plan change to set water quality limits for the Lower Waitaki Aquifer.

Cr Noone returned to the room at 5:18pm

A concern was raised on the gaps in understanding in regard to the Housing Accord and Special Housing Areas Act and the appropriate management of natural hazards by district and regional councils.

A suggestion was made for the issue of urban development and management of natural hazards to be raised at the Regional Sector Meeting and the Mayoral Forum to understand if there are also issues from the TLAs.

A request was made to write a letter to the Mayoral Forum, Regional Sector Group and directly to each of the local members of parliament outlining the concerns.

Moved Cr Scott

Seconded Cr Noone

- a) *That the report on home heating is received.*
- b) *That this report is noted.*

Motion carried

The meeting was declared closed at 5:41pm.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document ID: A1019118
Report Number: 2017/0937
Prepared For: Policy
Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management
Date: 14 July 2017

Subject: **Director's report on Policy Progress July 2017**

This directorate report contributes toward the following Strategic Plan Goals:

1. Active resource stewardship
2. Active regional partnerships
3. Realisation of new opportunities

1. POLICY RESPONSES

1.1 National Policies, Strategies and Plans

The following were received over the seven week period to 14 July 2017:

Agency	Number	Document
Ministry for the Environment	1	National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres
Ministry for Primary Industries	1	National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquiculture

The following responses were made over the seven week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
None		

1.2 Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

The following were received over the six week period to 26 May 2017:

Agency	Number	Document
QLDC	5	Resource Consent application
DCC	2	Resource Consent application

Staff continued to assist Dunedin City with activity classification and natural hazard management in their development of the city district plan review “2GP”.

ORC received notice of withdrawal for the application at 38 Richmond Street, South Dunedin, ending the appeal. It is understood the applicant will consider another option for development on that site that will not require public notification.

1.3 Other Proposals

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
None		

2. ORC: POLICY, PLANS AND STRATEGIES

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement

Twenty six appeals have been received on the proposed Regional Policy Statement. In addition to most of these parties lodging an interest in becoming party to another appellants' appeal, a further 18 new parties have joined in, as provided for under Section 274 of the RMA.

A third week of Court assisted mediation was completed in the week commencing 19 June. Good progress was made in resolving outstanding issues. All parties are now considering possible amendments. Council will update the Environment Court by 31 July, identifying which, if any, appeals remain unresolved and need Court time.

2.2 Urban Water Quality Strategy

The 1-day workshop between Council, territorial authorities, iwi and the NZ Transport Agency has been postponed until Wednesday 23 August, to enable more people to attend.

As a consequence, the timeline to complete the Strategy has been adjusted, with the final draft presentation to Council being delayed to September. The adjusted timeline follows:

Table 1: Timeline to complete urban water quality strategy

Action	Who	By
Key stakeholders consider 1 st draft	Key stakeholders	Tue 22 Aug
ORC councillors feedback to UWQ Reference Group	ORC councillors	Tue 22 Aug
1-day workshop with key stakeholders [at Alexandra]	ORC [all councillors are invited] Key stakeholders	Wed 23 Aug
Finalise strategy	UWQ Reference Group	Thu 31 Aug
Proposed Strategy considered by Policy Committee	Policy Committee	Wed 13 Sep
Council adopts Strategy	ORC	Wed 27 Sep

2.3 Biodiversity Strategy

Wildland Consultants Ltd have finalised their report, 'Strategic Analysis of Options to Improve Management of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Otago Region' which provides an important input to developing Council's Biodiversity Strategy. A copy of this report is attached, for information.

The Biodiversity Reference Group have considered this report and have noted that the strategy will be developed over the next few months, in accordance with the timeline that follows.

The Group noted that there is some overlap with the work of the Pest Reference Group, as pest management is an important action in maintaining and improving biodiversity within the region.

Cr Andrew Noone, as chair of the Pest Reference Group, is being invited to join the Biodiversity Group in guiding strategy development. A Stakeholder Forum on Biodiversity and Pests, proposed for later this year, would cover both work streams.

Table 1: Biodiversity Strategy development timeline

Action	Who is involved	Time
Develop draft strategy	Staff, Biodiversity Reference Group	Jul-Sep 2017
Key Stakeholder Forum [Biodiversity/Pests]	Councillors, staff, stakeholders	Oct 2017
Online feedback on draft strategy	Stakeholders, community	Nov-Dec 2017
Develop initial implementation plan	Staff	Sep-Dec 2017
Adopt strategy	Council	Feb 2018
Launch strategy	Council, stakeholders	Mar 2018

2.4 Air Strategy

A draft Air Strategy is being prepared to deliver good air quality throughout Otago. It will focus on how ORC intends to work with key stakeholders and the wider community. The initial draft will be presented at a Council workshop in August. Online feedback will be sought on the draft, and there will be a meeting with key stakeholders later this year to build on existing work being done in this area.

3. WATER QUANTITY PLANNING

3.1 Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: Integrated water management

Council received 1 appeal on Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: integrated water management, while a further 15 Section 274 parties to the proceedings notices have been lodged.

Environment Court-assisted mediation was held on 8 and 9 December 2016, with some 25 people attending. Further hydrological, cultural, and ecological investigations and a social impact assessment have been undertaken as a result of this mediation.

The parties reported back to the Court on 28 April 2017 on progress and potential dates for reconvened mediation. The appeal was referred back to mediation and court facilitated expert conferencing. Court facilitated expert conferencing was held on 6 June and mediation continued on 4 July. The parties will report back to the Court by the end of July.

3.2 Development of Proposed Plan Change 5D Cardrona: Integrated water management

Preliminary work is being undertaken to resume the development of an integrated water management plan change for the water resources in the Cardrona catchment and the Wanaka Flats (the Cardrona River, Cardrona Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer and Wanaka-Cardrona Aquifer).

Project management materials (including Terms of Reference, Project Execution Plan, Programme Gantt chart, Risk Register) have been prepared, and existing technical reports are being updated.

The next consultation round on the options for managing water quantity in the catchment is tentatively scheduled for mid-late 2017.

3.3 Development of Proposed Plan Change 5C: Manuherikia Catchment: Integrated water management

Community consultation on options for the plan change occurred on 21-23 March in Oturehua, Omakau and Alexandra. Drop-in sessions were held from 1:00-3:00 pm and 6:30-8:00 pm at each location. At the drop-ins the community had the opportunity to discuss the options with council staff, take information on the options home with them, and provide feedback. Feedback could also be provided via a feedback form, an online feedback form or via email. Feedback was received from 120 individuals/groups. This feedback has been summarised, sent to those who provided feedback and the summary made available on the council website.

Along with receiving community feedback, a Social Impact Assessment, Cultural Impact Assessment, and an Economic Assessment are being commissioned. These reports are anticipated to be received in the third quarter of this year.

We will be going back to the community, but not until after the economic and social reports are available. We are continuing to work with the wider community.

A draft plan change will then be developed, using all technical and scientific investigation to date, all consultation feedback, and the economic, cultural, and social reports. The draft plan change will then be workshopped with councillors and consulted with the community for feedback later this year, before a proposed plan change is formally notified.

3.4 Development of Proposed Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes

The first series of community consultation related to the development of Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes took place during March 2017. A policy committee workshop held on 18 May 2017 included discussion on the background and likely scope of the plan change. The conclusion from that workshop was that a recommendation to continue to develop the plan change should go to Council. A report containing a recommendation to continue to develop the plan change was considered by Council on 28 June and Council resolved to continue to develop the plan change.

A second series of community consultation related to the development of the plan change will take place 7-10 August at a number of locations.

3.5 Proposed Plan Change 3E: Arrow catchment and Wakatipu Basin Aquifer

Preliminary work is being undertaken on development of a minimum flow plan change for the surface water in the Arrow catchment, and the connected Arrow Bush Creek Ribbon Aquifer and the Wakatipu Basin aquifers.

Project management materials (including Terms of Reference, Project Execution Plan, Programme Gantt chart, Risk Register) have been prepared and existing technical reports are being updated.

The first stage of consultation took place 26-27 June 2017, plus there was a key stakeholder workshop on 30 June 2017.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORT

The South Island Regional Transport Committee chairs have prepared a joint submission on NZ Transport Agency's draft strategic long-term view.

Otago Regional Council and Environment Southland are collaborating on the development of a common strategic results framework for the 2017/18 update of the Otago and Southland Regional Land Transport Plans 2015-21. This will aid the committees to track progress towards their common desired outcomes.

5. GENERAL

Arrowtown Mahu Whenua Gateway

With Councillor Lawton I attended the second meeting of this Arrowtown based group. The group is seeking to work with Mt Soho properties and make connections with the management of their 53,000 ha QE II covenants.

A wide range of interested parties have been identified and the group is looking to connect with them – in the case of ORC that could include coordination of river works and consenting for river bed disturbance activities.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- a) *That the report by Wildlands Consultants, 'Strategic Analysis of Options to Improve Management of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Otago Region', is received.*

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Annex: Strategic biodiversity options for ORC by Wildlands Consultants