



Otago
Regional
Council

Science and Resilience Committee MINUTES

**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Science and Resilience Committee held in the
Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin
on Wednesday 4 June 2025, commencing at 1:00 pm.**

PRESENT

Cr Gary Kelliher	<i>(Co-Chairperson)</i>
Cr Alan Somerville	<i>(Co-Chairperson)</i>
Cr Alexa Forbes	
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(Online)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
Cr Lloyd McCall	
Cr Tim Mepham	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Elliot Weir	
Cr Kate Wilson	

1. WELCOME

Chair Kelliher welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1:00 pm. Cr Somerville opened the meeting with a karakia. Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) gave an overview of the Committee restructure from Safety and Resilience to Science and Resilience.

Staff present included Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Cara Jordan (Governance Support), Ben Mackey (Manager Science), Jason Augspurger (Principal Scientist), Sarah Harrison (Scientist - Air Quality), Pete Ravenscroft (Team Leader Biodiversity), Erik Button (Scientist - Land and Soil), Mark Crawford (Scientist - Land and Soil), Sam Thomas (Senior Scientist - Coast), Helen Trotter (Scientist - Water Quality), Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst), Andrew Welsh (Spatial Analyst) and Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards). Staff online were Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) and Scott Jarvie (Senior Scientist - Terrestrial Ecology). External guests included Dr Marc Schallenberg (University of Otago), Dr Dean Olsen (Freestone Freshwater) and Ben Youngman (WAI Wanaka). Dr Clive Howard-Williams (NIWA) was online.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for the meeting.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to address the Committee under Public Forum were received.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the minutes of the Safety and Resilience Committee meeting held on 6 March 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

There are no open actions for this Committee.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Cr Laws joined the meeting online at 1:19 pm.

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 1:28 pm.

Cr Laws left the meeting at 1:53 pm.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 1:56 pm.

Cr Noone left the meeting at 2:03 pm.

9.1. Otago Deep Water Lakes Technical Advisory Group update

[YouTube 11:30] The paper provided an update on the progress of the Otago Deep Water Lakes Technical Advisory Group. Feedback from the Committee was requested to nominate a preferred funding level for proposed deep lake monitoring and research programmes from which to base a more developed proposal. Ben Mackey (Manager Science), Jason Augspurger (Principal Scientist), Dr Marc Schallenberg (University of Otago), Dr Dean Olsen (Freestone Freshwater), Dr Clive Howard-Williams (NIWA) and Ben Youngman (WAI Wanaka) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-101: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Requests** the Technical Advisory Group to develop a more detailed research and monitoring plan at a funding level aligned with Proposal 1.
- 3) **Requests** that the Technical Advisory Group works to identify funding opportunities from external sources.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 2:06 pm.

Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 2:07 pm.

Cr Malcolm returned to the meeting at 2:08 pm.

9.2. Annual Air Quality Report 2024

[YouTube 1:11:30] The report presented the results of the State of the Environment monitoring for air quality for the calendar year 2024. Sarah Harrison (Scientist Air Quality) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-102: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Somerville left the meeting at 2:14 pm.

Cr Somerville returned to the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Cr Noone left the meeting at 2:16 pm.

Cr Wilson returned to the meeting at 2:19 pm.

Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 2:23 pm.

9.3. Update on Regional Indigenous Biodiversity Monitoring

[YouTube 1:20:20] The paper provided an update on the development of monitoring programmes for indigenous biodiversity. Pete Ravenscroft (Team Leader Biodiversity) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-103: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report

MOTION CARRIED

9.4. Land and Soil Monitoring Update

[YouTube 1:33:45] The report provided an annual update on the Land and Soil work programme. Erik Button (Scientist - Land and Soil), Mark Crawford (Scientist - Land and Soil) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-104: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5. Coast and Estuaries Monitoring Programmes

[YouTube 1:43:40] The report provided an update on the current state of estuary sedimentation in Otago estuaries and the next steps in the estuary programme. The report also highlighted the current monitoring occurring in the coastal space and the next steps for the impending coast plan. Sam Thomas (Senior Scientist - Coast) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-105: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** that next steps include a comprehensive estuary and coastal state of the environment report for the coast plan, including catchment threats, habitat threats and issues to provide not only information for the coast plan, but also for targeted management. These reports will be presented to the Council.

MOTION CARRIED

9.6. Type Localities of Terrestrial Animals, Plants and Fungi in the Otago Region

[YouTube 1:55:08] The paper provided an overview of the type localities for terrestrial species found in Otago, which are those species formally described in the scientific literature from type specimens collected in the Region. Scott Jarvie (Senior Scientist - Terrestrial Ecology) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-106: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** this work is part of a broader programme to inform management of biodiversity in the Otago Region.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 2:58 pm.

9.7. Regionally Endemic Species in Otago

[YouTube 2:04:26] The paper provided an overview of regionally endemic species in the Otago Region, meaning they do not occur naturally anywhere else on Earth. Scott Jarvie (Senior Scientist - Terrestrial Ecology) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-107: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** this work is part of a broader programme to inform management of biodiversity in the Otago Region.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:03 pm Cr Noone Moved, Cr Malcom Seconded

That the Committee adjourn for 15 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

9.8. Recreational Water Quality Annual Report

[YouTube 2:23:20] The report provided an overview of the contact recreation programme that monitors faecal bacteria and potentially toxic cyanobacteria across 16 freshwater and 16 coastal sites in the Otago Region to assess risks to human health during the summer bathing period. The report also summarised the results of weekly monitoring undertaken during the 2024-25 season. Helen Trotter (Scientist - Water Quality) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-108: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.9. CDEM Partnership Report

[YouTube 2:31:40] The report outlined the delivery of Otago Regional Council's responsibilities under the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Agreement for the second half of 2024-2025. Tom Dyer (General Manager Science and Resilience) was available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-109: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded

That the Committee

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone left the meeting at 3:52 pm.

9.10. Otago Region Natural Hazards Exposure

[YouTube 2:39:38] The report updated the Committee on a region-wide natural hazards assessment programme, including presenting a report analysing natural hazards exposure within the Otago region. Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst), Andrew Welsh, (Spatial Analyst) and Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-110: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Endorses** the report Otago Region Natural Hazards Exposure Analysis.
- 3) **Notes** the next steps in the work programme including commencement of the natural hazards prioritisation workstream.

MOTION CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Cr Somerville ended proceedings with a karakia. Chair Kelliher declared the meeting closed at 4:03 pm.



Chairperson

3 September 2025

Date