

# **ORC Priority Outcomes for 2026-2028**

# Science and Resilience

- Action 1: Review science programmes against the needs of the community and catchment. Identify any gaps in capability and/or coverage and establish how to close such gaps.
- Action 2: Presentation for councillors on current risk position of flood and drainage infrastructure and confirm any risks created by any deferred maintenance decisions. Arrange for draft to be given to irrigation specialists for comment prior to presentation.
- Action 3: Review of flood and drainage rates (Taieri Clutha and Toko) in view of possible unfairness of rural/ urban/ all of catchment split taking into account who exacerbates and benefits. Consult with community before returning it for review of Council.
- Action 4: Make information which we hold readily available through the website, including natural hazard information. Look at whether we can make this available on a property scale by clicking on the address. Can/ should include info from outside our organisation where possible.
- Action 5: Have science and resilience work plans clearly illuminate which activities are mandatory and which are undertaken as a result of council choices. (Note: This will not be as straight forward as it may seem)

# Strategy and Planning

- Action 1: Report to be provided on the issues in the coastal environment, started by staff and developed in conjunction with our community in its various guises. While planning isn't happening we still want to be able to hand over an understanding of the opportunities, issues and challenges.
- Action 2: Councillors to receive a briefing on how a UNESCO Biosphere could support ORC's commitment to mana whenua, integrated catchment management and existing statutory functions, with the proposed ICM governance model identified as a strong candidate.
- Action 3: In non regulatory space create a group including staff, water users and councillors to review, assess and remove barriers for good practice irrigation, including any inadvertent part we may be playing in creating barriers.

# Environmental Delivery

- Action 1 Rabbits: establish an ongoing working group including staff, councillors, rural and lifestyle property owners and pest control operators, pest scheme operators and agencies to develop effective rabbit control processes. Scope to include both regulatory and non regulatory actions, such as reducing MMS to a lower voluntary level.
- Action 2 Lagarosiphon: urgently review current information about opportunities to eliminate this weed and the costs of doing so. Explore how we might fund this work including reserves, environmental fund, as a modified joint venture, and any other possible funding.
- Action 3 Wilding pines: a priority for attention when the government and those causing the harm are making a proper contribution as well.

# Environmental Delivery

- Action 4: Our aim is to complete all proposed integrated catchment management plans within the next 2 years. Staff and portfolio leads to develop a paper framing completing those planned and the initiation and completion of others within that timeframe and with a strong emphasis on non regulatory actions and making improvements from the learnings of the completed plans. The paper will also look at funding required and where this could come from, including the large scale Environmental Fund.
- Action 5: Audit and Risk to complete a deep dive into consenting, and compliance condition activities to ensure they are operating fairly, transparently, at an appropriate cost, efficiently and in a timely fashion. This would include monitoring and enforcement of above.
- Action 6: Finalise operation of Environmental fund including requirements that any funds allocated will be used to achieve a priority action plan as outlined in this paper, while having proper audit procedures and maintaining an awareness that this fund is not to provide funds for business as usual work which is already in the budget.

# Public Transport

- Action 1: Continue pressure and seek collaboration on government to look more holistically at school bus services so as they can be made to fit the needs of MOE guidelines while supporting Public Transport through farebox/ rates/ NZTA.
- Action 2: Recreate transport liaison groups in both Queenstown and Dunedin. Membership to be determined but will include a councillor, staff member, bus user group representative, disabled assembly person bus driver and bus company representative. Terms of reference to be established but should include timeliness of buses including from the hub, at the end of the route and from the beginning of the route, any barriers to accessibility, any issues with schedules which may prevent drivers from being timely. This group to provide report quarterly to council.
- Action 3: Quarterly report to include which services are not meeting the 1 minute before to 5 minutes after requirement and what is being done with these. Also to look at any barriers to including the timeliness requirement along the way and particularly at the hub.

# Public Transport

- Action 4: Complete Oamaru trial and provide options for funding options for an ongoing service. ( this action to feed into LTP planning and appropriate consultation). Investigate how to provide bridging arrangements between trial and LTP process.
- Action 5. Gain and maintain a thorough understanding of all community, MOE, private and commercial transport options outside of existing PT services. Where there are gaps, investigate options for ORC to support private and/or community transport options.

# Governance and Community Engagement



- Action 1: Continue to prioritise sound relationships with ministers and officials in central government. Also any relevant opposition equivalents.
- Action 2: Review of comms functions and website to optimise ease of communication with us by others (see Action 4 science and delivery).
- Action 3. Communicate regularly with TAs particularly around our regulatory function interface. Discuss with TAs how these functions work within a unitary authority.
- Action 4: Respond to community survey by adjusting work plans where appropriate and communicating our response.
- Action 5: Richard, Kevin and Hilary to develop protocol around following up on commitments made to the community and councillors to ensure nothing falls through the cracks.

# Cross portfolio actions

- Action 1: explanation:

On the basis that the goal is to achieve the greatest improvement we can in freshwater health for the resources available, the best way forward could be to accelerate integrated catchment management work and identify best solutions through interrogating current available science and establish where best to focus our work.

Action: staff with portfolio leads to report back by June council meeting where best place to focus resources would be. Report to include effect of spending resources on Waihola, Dunstan, Lake Hayes and the Manuherekia.

- Action 2: Repeat for top 3 lakes (see earlier Lagarosiphon action).
- Action 3: Establish optimum method of dealing with gravel extraction and willow issues, to provide easy clear and efficient ways of attending to issues and liaising with the community around such issues.
- Action 4: Review administration of contracts, particularly PT. (audit and risk programme) Also whether our KPIs best reflect our work programmes and intended consequences.

# Cross portfolio actions

- Action 5: Review intended outcomes of proposed Land and Water Plan to establish whether we could begin non regulatory initiatives to achieve these outcomes. There is work to be led by councillors with the ability to ask Richard for staff help when required.
- Action 6: Form a councillor/ staff liaison group with the Manuherehia water users to ensure where possible that ORC mitigates barriers as they progress their Falls Dam proposal.