



Minutes of a meeting of the Data and Information Committee
held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at
1:00 pm

Membership

Hon Cr Marian Hobbs (Co-Chair)
Cr Alexa Forbes (Co-Chair)
Cr Hilary Calvert
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Carmen Hope
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Co-Chair Cr Alexa Forbes welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:15 am.

Staff present: Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive Officer), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor), Liz Spector (Committee Secretary), Rachael Brown (Sr Analyst Freshwater and Land), Rachel Ozanne (Environmental Scientist), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Sharon Hornblow (Natural Hazards Analyst), Sam Thomas (Coastal Scientist), Julie Everett-Hincks (Manager Science), Hugo Borges (Environmental Resource Scientist), Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead).

For our future

1. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies for Cr Laws be accepted.

Moved: Cr Hope

Seconded: Cr Wilson

CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published. Cr Forbes noted that the Update on Biodiversity Mapping Project paper would be considered first.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to address the Committee were made.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There are no previous minutes of the Data and Information Committee.

6. ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions of the Data and Information Committee.

7. MATTERS FOR NOTING

7.1. Update on Biodiversity Mapping Project

Action 3.1 of Council's Biodiversity Action Plan is to complete biodiversity mapping and ecological prioritisation of potential sites for active management. This report provides an update on the Biodiversity Mapping and Ecological Prioritisation Project, which is on track to be completed by 30 October 2020. Rachael Brown (Senior Strategic Analyst Freshwater and Land) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Several Councillors had questions about the use of the term "priorities" in relation to the project. Ms Elsum noted the word was used in a technical sense and reflected ecological values based on scientific data. After further discussions, Cr Robertson moved:

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** that Phase 1 (mapping) of the Biodiversity Mapping and Ecological Prioritisation Project is complete and Phase 2 (zonation analysis) is on track to be complete by 30 October 2020.

Moved: Cr Robertson

Seconded: Cr Hobbs

CARRIED

Cr Calvert left the meeting at 01:17 pm.

7.2. Update on the Geology and Ground Conditions of South Dunedin and Harbourside

The paper summarised recent South Dunedin geological and seismic hazard work undertaken by ORC and external scientific research programmes and proposed next steps for continued development of a work programme focusing on improving understanding of ground conditions in South Dunedin and Harbourside.

Sharon Hornblow (Natural Hazards Analyst), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) and Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. After a discussion of the report, Cr Hobbs moved:

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the current state of knowledge of the geology and ground conditions of South Dunedin and Harbourside.
- 3) **Makes** this information publicly available through the National Geotechnical Database and ORC's Otago Natural Hazards Database.
- 4) **Provides** this information to Dunedin City Council for incorporation into building control, utility infrastructure and land use planning decisions.

Moved: Cr Hobbs

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Cr Kelliher left the meeting at 01:27 pm.

Cr Kelliher returned to the meeting at 01:36 pm.

7.3. State of the Environment (SOE) Report Card

As of July 2020, the ORC monitors 114 river, stream and lake sites across the Otago region as part of its long-term State of the Environment monitoring programme. Values are measured monthly at each site and include: water temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, turbidity, total suspended solids (TSS), soluble and total nitrogen and phosphorus, and E. coli. This report is generated annually and published to the ORC website. The work informs the Comprehensive State of the Environment report that is compiled every five years which provides a detailed review of water reporting on regional state and trends in river and lake health and performance against the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM), and the effectiveness of the Water Plan. The next 5-year report will cover the period to June 2022.

Rachael Ozanne (Environmental Resource Scientist) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Ms Ozanne noted this was the first time the annual report had been formally presented to Councillors. A discussion was conducted about ways to make the report easier to comprehend for a layperson. Chief Executive Gardner said this was a difficult report to put into an easier-to-read format, but that staff was working towards this.

Cr Deaker noted a function of the Data and Information Committee was to receive information. He said the committee potentially also played a role in distribution of that information to interested stakeholders. He suggested the report would be pertinent for the Otago Catchment Group and suggested it be forwarded directly to them.

After further questions and discussion, a motion was made.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Forwards** a copy of the report to the Otago Catchments Group.

Moved: Cr Deaker

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Cr Hobbs further moved:

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** the report.

Moved: Cr Hobbs

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

7.4. Proposed Estuary Monitoring Programme

The Otago Regional Council has regulatory obligations under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to monitor estuaries in its region. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) requires an integrated approach to managing freshwater systems, with the lowest sensitive receiving environment such as estuaries used for limit setting in the river systems; therefore, an improved estuary monitoring network is needed to provide data to inform this process. This report was provided to note the staff proposal to expand the estuary monitoring programme to create a representative State of the Environment monitoring network for estuaries.

Sam Thomas (Coastal Scientist) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. After discussion of the report, a motion was made.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

- 2) **Notes** the proposal to expand ORC's estuary monitoring programme to create a representative SoE monitoring network for estuaries.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Hobbs

CARRIED

Cr Deaker left the meeting at 02:42 pm.

Cr Deaker returned to the meeting at 02:48 pm.

8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Co-Chair Forbes closed the meeting at 02:49 pm.



Co-Chairperson

10 March 2021

Date