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**Council  
MINUTES**

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**Minutes of the inaugural meeting for the 2025-2028 triennium of the Otago Regional Council  
held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on  
Wednesday 29 October 2025, commencing at 10:00 AM.**

[https://www.youtube.com/live/xXK\\_Af\\_Mk7A?si=uOK2KAaIGJ4cQXgC](https://www.youtube.com/live/xXK_Af_Mk7A?si=uOK2KAaIGJ4cQXgC)

**PRESENT**

Cr Robbie Byars  
Cr Hilary Calvert  
Cr Chanel Gardner  
Cr Neil Gillespie  
Cr Matt Hollyer  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Gary Kelliher  
Cr Michael Laws  
Cr Kevin Malcolm  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Alan Somerville  
Cr Kate Wilson

## 1. WELCOME

Chief Executive Richard Saunders opened with a karakia and welcomed Councillors-Elect, members of the public and staff to the inaugural meeting at 10:00 am. Staff present included Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Cara Jordan (Governance Support), Dianne Railton (Team Lead Governance), Deb Stuut (Manager Customer and Governance), Andrea Howard (Chief Advisor to the CE and Chair) and Simon Anderson (Partner, Ross Dowling Lawyers).

## 2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

## 3. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 3.1. Declaration of Office by Councillors

[YouTube 20:00] Chief Executive Richard Saunders called for each Councillor-Elect to read and sign the declaration which he then witnessed. After all declarations were attested to and signed, Mr Saunders congratulated the Councillors and welcomed them to the Otago Regional Council.

### 3.2. Voting System for electing the Chair and Deputy Chair

[Youtube 33:36] This report informed Councillors of the two voting options for the election of the chairperson, and deputy chairperson, as defined by Schedule 7, Clause 25 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

#### **Resolution CM25-215: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Resolves** *a voting option for the election or appointment of chairperson and deputy chairperson, defined by the Local Government Act 2002, as Voting system A*

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Resolution CM25-216: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

That the Council:

- 2) Agrees** *that in the event of a tie under voting system A, the candidate to be excluded from the next round of voting shall be resolved by lot as described in paragraph 5 of the report.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 3.3. Election of Chairperson

[YouTube 38:55] Once the voting procedure was determined, the Chief Executive then called for nominations for chairperson.

Cr Laws nominated Cr Calvert for Chairperson, and Cr Noone seconded. There was an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions of Cr Calvert. Cr Laws then spoke to the nomination of Cr Calvert.

#### **Resolution CM25-217 Cr Laws Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Appoints** *Cr Hilary Calvert as Chairperson.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mr Saunders announced Cr Calvert as Chairperson of the Otago Regional Council. Cr Calvert attested to and signed the Chairperson's declaration which was witnessed by Chief Executive Richard Saunders. Chairperson Calvert then took the Chair.

**At 10:22 am Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That Council adjourn until 10:45 am.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.4. Election of Deputy Chairperson**

[YouTube 1:04:00] Cr Laws nominated Cr Malcolm as Deputy Chair, Cr Noone seconded. Cr Malcolm spoke to Council about his nomination. There was an opportunity for Councillors to ask Cr Malcolm questions. Cr Laws spoke to the nomination of Cr Malcolm.

**Resolution CM25-218: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) *Appoints* Cr Kevin Malcolm as Deputy Chair of Otago Regional Council.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Calvert announced Cr Malcolm as Deputy Chairperson for Otago Regional Council.

*Cr Laws left the meeting at 11:35am.*

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 11:39am.*

**3.5. Councillor Legal Briefing**

[YouTube 1:12:38] The purpose of this report was to provide the Council with a summary of the legislative requirements that the Otago Regional Councillors need to be aware of and understand as elected members of the council. Simon Anderson (Partner, Ross Dowling Lawyers) was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-219: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) *Thanks, Mr Anderson, for his informative briefing and notes this report and the information contained in the attached Summary of legislation affecting Councillors.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.6. Meetings for 2025**

[YouTube 2:01:30] This report set out meeting dates for the remainder of 2025. The Chief Executive was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-220: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Byars Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) *Notes* this report.**
- 2) *Agrees* that Council meetings will take place on 5 November and 26 November 2026.**
- 3) *Notes* that a Council meeting schedule for 2026 will be presented to the 26 November Council meeting for consideration and adoption.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. INTRODUCTION FROM COUNCILLORS**

[YouTube 2:09:12] There was an opportunity for Councillors to introduce themselves.

**Resolution CM25-221: Cr Laws Moved; Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) *Formally*** acknowledges the service of former councillors Elliot Weir, Lloyd McCall and Tim Mephram for the 2022-2025 triennium to the Otago Regional Council.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. CLOSURE**

There was no further business, and the Chief Executive gave a closing karakia and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 12:06 pm.



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Chair

5 November 2025  
Date