Otago Regional Council

Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Korokia Board Room, Alta House, Terrace Junction 1092 Frankton Road, Frankton, Queenstown, Otago, on Wednesday 23 September 2026, commencing at 10:30 am

PRESENT

Cr Hilary Calvert	*(Chair)*
Cr Kevin Malcolm	*(Deputy Chair)*
Cr Chanel Gardner	
Cr Neil Gillespie	
Cr Matt Hollyer	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	*(online)*
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Kate Wilson	

1. WELCOME

The meeting opened at 10:30 am, Mayor John Glover welcomed the Otago Regional Councillors to Queenstown and spoke on the challenges for differing sectors working to fix the roading and water network issues of Queenstown. The current rapid population growth of the region was highlighted as both a challenge and a positive. There was an opportunity for councillors to ask questions of Mayor Glover.

Cr Hollyer said a reflection. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) online, Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE) online, Andrea Howard (Chief Advisor to the CE and Chair) and Kylie Darragh (Governance Support Officer).

At 10:46 am Mayor Glover left the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the apologies for Cr Byars be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That an apology be noted for Cr Laws.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1. Alasdair Morrison spoke on behalf of the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board, online, there was an opportunity for questions from councillors, Chair Calvert thanked Mr Morrison for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Accepts*** *to the agenda the amended Recommendation to Exclude the Public now including the LGOIMA reasons for the supplementary paper.*
2) ***Accepts*** *the additional supplementary confidential paper '1.1 Trial of Expanded Ferry Timetable' and the late confidential paper: 'Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Reapproval', and*
3) ***Accepts*** *that these papers are to be heard as matter 2.2 and 2.3 respectively of the Confidential Council Agenda.*

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of their need to stand aside or sit back from the table if a conflict of interest arises.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 August 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Actions of Council were reviewed.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

8.1. Chairperson's Report

Cr Calvert was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That *the report be noted.*
MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Chief Executive's Report

Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded
That *the report be noted.*
MOTION CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Review of Fares 2026

[YouTube 39:55] The purpose of this report was to provide Council with an analysis of the public transport fare changes consultation submissions and to seek decisions on any changes to Otago's public transport fare structure, including the introduction of zonal fares, fare capping, and the removal of cash payment. Portfolio Lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper. Jack Cowie (Transport Planner), Grace Longson (Transport Planner), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Deb Stuut (Manger Customer and Governance) were available online to respond to questions on the report.

Cr Hollyer left the meeting at 11:38 am.
Cr Hollyer returned to the meeting at 11:40 am.

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 11:41 am.
Cr Wilson returned to the meeting at 11:43 am.

At 11:50 am Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That *Council adjourn for ten minutes.*
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-235: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report and the accompanying technical note "Fare Changes Submissions Analysis 2026" [Attachment 1 of the report].*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-236: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

2) *With respect to the Dunedin bus network:*

b. Approves *the implementation of* ***four Dunedin zones*** *(Dunedin, Waikouaiti/ Palmerston, Hampden and Ōamaru) from 1 November 2026, corresponding to the following fare structure:*

One zone	*$2.50*
Two zones	*$4.00*
Three zones	*$7.50*
Four zones	*$10.00*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-237: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

3) ***Notes*** *that from 1 October 2026 until 31 October 2026, passengers travelling on the Ōamaru – Dunedin bus service will pay a flat fare of $2.50.*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-238: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

4) ***Approves*** *for the implementation of the Queenstown network zonal fares:*

a. *One zone (Queenstown) corresponding to the $2.50 flat fare structure currently in place (status quo).*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

5) ***Approves*** *the implementation of fare capping following the launch of Motu Move in Otago:*

d. *Implement <u>two</u> trips daily and <u>eight</u> trips weekly fare caps with <u>no increase</u> in the base fare.*

By Division

For:	Cr Somerville, Cr Robertson, Cr Hollyer
Against:	Cr Wilson, Cr Noone, Cr Malcolm, Cr Kelliher, Cr Gillespie, Cr Gardner, Cr Calvert
Abstained:	None

MOTION FAILED

3 in favour, 7 against.

Resolution CM26-240: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

6) ***Approves*** *to amend the Queenstown ferry fare structure to include the following elements for implementation upon the launch of Motu Move in Otago:*

a. *Fare caps of $20 per day and $60 per week for adult fares, equivalent to two trips daily and six trips weekly as a 12-month trial.*

By Division

For:	Cr Gardner, Cr Hollyer, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson
Against:	Cr Gillespie, Cr Malcolm, Cr Kelliher, Cr Calvert
Abstained:	None

MOTION CARRIED

6 in favour, 4 against.

Resolution CM26-241 Moved: Cr Hollyer Seconded: Cr Somerville

That the Council:

7) ***Approves*** *to amend the Queenstown ferry fare structure to include the following elements for implementation upon the launch of Motu Move in Otago:*

- ***a.*** *Fare concessions the same as those in place for bus services; and*
- ***b.*** *Free transfers within 45 minutes of tagging off the first trip for any trip including the ferry, with no extra fare on top of the higher ferry fare.*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-242 Moved Cr Hollyer Seconded Cr Somerville

That the Council:

8) ***Approves*** *on cash fare payments:*

- ***b.*** *Maintain cash fares, whose definition is a fare that is 20% higher than card fares, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, except where special fares continue to apply such as at Queenstown Airport.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Establishment of Transport Liaison Groups

[YouTube 2:17] The purpose of this paper was to progress the development of Transport Liaison Groups, one to support the Dunedin network and one to support the Queenstown network. The establishment of Transport Liaison Groups (TLG) is a Council priority action. Cr Somerville, Portfolio Lead, introduced the paper, and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-243: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*

2) ***Approves*** *the establishment of two Transport Liaison Groups, one for the Dunedin public transport network and one for the Queenstown public transport network.*

3) ***Adopts*** *the draft Terms of Reference, subject to any amendments directed by Council.*

4) ***Notes*** *that the Terms of Reference will be discussed and confirmed at the first meeting of the respective Liaison Groups.*

5) ***Requests*** *the Transport Portfolio Leads, Cr Hollyer and Cr Somerville, to work with staff to finalise the proposed membership lists and directs staff to engage with identified groups to seek appointments to the liaison group.*

6) ***Agrees*** *the meeting frequency for each liaison group will be at least 4 monthly.*

7) ***Notes*** *that staff will provide an update on membership by 30 November 2026.*

8) ***Appoints*** *Cr Somerville and Cr Calvert to the Dunedin Transport Liaison Group; Appoints Cr Hollyer and Cr Gillespie to the Queenstown Liaison Group.*

MOTION CARRIED

At 1:15 pm Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That *the Council adjourn until 1:30 pm*
MOTION CARRIED

9.3. Flood Recovery Programme Update 4

[YouTube 3:07] This report provided an update on the progress of repairs to flood damaged sites from the three flood recovery programmes being 2022, 2023 and 2024 events. Cr Kelliher, Portfolio Lead, introduced the paper. Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), and online Nathan Anderson (Team Leader - Assets and Delivery), Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering), online Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-244: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *that the flood recovery program is complete.*
3) ***Notes*** *that the three projects receiving Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) programme funding will now be reported within the RIF programme.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.4. Regional Infrastructure Fund Funding Update

[YouTube 3:14] This report update Council on the nine Regional Infrastructure Fund funding agreement projects with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (Ministry). Cr Kelliher, Portfolio Lead, introduced the paper. Nathan Anderson (Team Leader - Assets and Delivery) online, Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering), online Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-245: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *that all the projects are underway and progressing in alignment with the funding agreements.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.5. North East Valley Flood Risk Mitigation

[YouTube 3:24] This report updated Council on the programme for investigations into reducing the flood risk in North East Valley (Lindsay Creek). Cr Roberston, Portfolio Lead introduced the paper. Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), and online Nathan Anderson (Team Leader - Assets and Delivery), Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-246: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *the Lindsay Creek Flood Risk Reduction programme progress.*
3) ***Endorses*** *the proposed approach to community engagement.*
MOTION CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

None received.

11. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:

That *the public be excluded from the following parts of this meeting, namely:*

That the public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):
1.1 Public Excluded Minutes of Council 29 July 2026
1.2 Public Excluded Minutes of Council 26 August 2026
2.1 Approval of end of life of Bee Card Scheme Activities
and
Supplementary Agenda 1.1 Trial of Expanded Ferry Timetable
Late Paper: Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Reapproval

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1.1 Minutes of Council 29 July 2026	To enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with the Crown. 7(2)(i) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
1.2 Minutes of Council 26 August 2026	To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest – Section 7(2)(c)(ii) To enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with the Crown. 7(2)(i)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

2.1 Approval of end of life of Bee Card Scheme Activities	To maintain legal professional privilege – Section 7(2)(g)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Supplementary Agenda 1.1 Trial of Expanded Ferry Timetable	To protect information where the making available of the information—would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information – Section 7(2)(b)(ii)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Reapproval	To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest – Section 7(2)(c)(ii) To enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with the Crown. 7(2)(i)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

It was also moved that:
Mr Paul Everett the RITS Contract Manager for Regional Software Holdings Limited (RSHL) be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the Regional Integrated Ticketing System. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, and relevant to that matter having knowledge of the coordination of the roll out for the National Ticketing Solution.
MOTION CARRIED

12. CLOSURE
There was no further business, and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 2:18 pm.



_____ 28 October 2026
Chairperson Date