LOWER CLUTHA LIAISON GROUP
MINUTES

1. MEETING DETAILS

Date: **6 October 2026**
Time: **1pm**
Venue: **Boardroom, Te Pou ō Mata Au**

2. WELCOME

Stewart Morrison opened the meeting at 1.02pm and welcomed attendees.

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Name	Role	Attending	Apology
Liaison Group Members			
Stewart Morrison	Inch Clutha	Y	
Evan Dick	Kaitangata	Y	
David Botting	Balclutha		Y
Mike Hurring	Barnego		Y
Craig Sheppard	Paretai	Y	
Peter Silvester	Contact Energy		Y
Richard Mckey	Contact Energy	Y	
Robbie Byars	Councillor	Y	
Kate Wilson	Councillor		Y
Otago Regional Council Staff			
Tom Dyer	GM Science and Resilience		Y
Brett Paterson	Manager Engineering	Y	
Dan King	Team Leader Operations & Maintenance	Y	
Nathan Anderson	Team Leader Assets & Delivery	Y	
Kirsten Tebbutt	Team Leader Partnerships & Planning	Y	
Hayley Nicholson	Engagement Specialist	Y	
Alison Weaver	Principal Regulatory Advisor	Y	
Titus Naidoo	Principal Asset Engineer		Y

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Brett Paterson, Manager Engineering

Brett introduced Alison Weaver.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Stewart Morrison

Stewart confirmed not much to report. Spring has seen continuous weather that is creating challenging conditions, drains have worked well to take the capacity.

6. BYLAW REVIEW

Alison Weaver, Principal Regulatory Advisor

Alison presented the reported, covering the reasons for the review of the bylaw, timeframe to have to review and explained the two phases of the review, confirming that the review was currently in phase one of the process. She explained easiest way to look at if a bylaw is appropriate is to consider what would it be like if there was no bylaw. Alison discussed the other mechanisms to address the problem and also explained what the purpose of the designation is for, making the distinction from the purpose of the bylaw. She confirmed the bylaw has been effective over 25 years protecting the works and ensuring ORC has access to the infrastructure.

Discussion
Kirsten confirmed the feedback ORC is seeking from the group is whether they think that the bylaw is the most appropriate way to provide protection. She ran through the reasons why the bylaw is considered the most appropriate way.

The group indicated they agree it is the most appropriate way. The indicated interest to participate in phase two.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2027 – 2057

Nathan Anderson, Team Leader Assets and Delivery

On behalf of Nate Brett introduced the report and explained the need for the strategy, what is sets out, what infrastructure it covers, and its relationship with the Long Term Plan. He outlined the approach across the 30 years.

He clarified the workshop on Friday 9 October is to present the draft strategy and seek feedback from the group on the draft. Feedback will be shared with councillors at the October workshop.
Kirsten confirmed there is a second opportunity for feedback through the special consultative period for the Long Term Plan.

Discussion
A member raised the questioned on an outcome on p8 of the draft in terms of prioritizing environmental outcomes over scheme performance. In response Brett indicated that ORC would look to incorporate better environmental outcomes in decision making as could be but not at the cost of scheme performance.

The Split Lagoon situation was discussed in terms of performance as part of the drainage scheme and environmental conditions of the lagoon. Brett confirmed that these types of discussion points is the type of feedback the team are looking for at the strategy workshop.

8. RATES REVIEW

Brett Paterson, Manager Engineering

Brett summarised the background and process undertaken so far in the review. He shared the engagement event attendance numbers, number of submissions and number of people wanting to be heard, and what happens after the hearings.

Discussion
The group indicated there were satisfied with the process ORC followed in the consultation period. They discussed the feedback members submitted and raised the out of scope feedback on the split between targeted and general rates. Brett confirmed that the Long Term Plan consultation period is the time to share that feedback on the split.

9. UPDATE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Kirsten Tebbutt, Team Leader Planning & Partnerships

Kirsten presented the draft changes and explained the reasons for them.

Discussion
A member raised if the quorum is required. Kirsten confirmed it was approved by Council and is 60% of the assigned seats in the group, acknowledging that the Clutha District Council and mana whenua seat is not counted at the moment, as they are not assigned.

The group confirmed they approved the draft amendments.

10. ASSETS AND DELIVERY UPDATE

Nathan Anderson, Team Leader Assets and Delivery

Nate gave a brief summary of each project and highlighted some points from the report:

Puerua Outfall

This project is completed.

Kaitangata drain 222 floodbank
Summarised the outstanding issues, plan is to correct those issues in the summer season.

Drain 222 Sills
Design has been completed that replaces the old stop logs with new, raised and lowered by winching from the bridge. ORC is working with WAE and EGIS to finalise the design and consent.

LC17 repairs (Riverside Rd)
Design is complete and resource consent is granted. Still have to complete a subdivision process. Once completed the project can go out to tender, anticipate sometime this summer.

Discussion
The group raised the Riverside Road bank stabilisation options considered. Nate confirmed there is no great way to stabilise it, options include requiring massive quantities of rock which is cost prohibitive. Other methodologies looking at redirection can be done, but this is also cost prohibitive.
Realignment will take time. Above the water line ORC is attempting to pull it back, flatten it to allow plantings enough time to establish to be effective to combat the erosion. In response to a member's question to rock the location Brett indicated there are location issues in using this methodology, in addition to cost. Nate explained the approaches available and the implications of choosing hardening the river in pieces or in totality.

In response to a question about the reinstatement of road Nate confirmed ORC has spoken with Clutha District Council and confirmed that as the realignment happens the road will be realigned and then the road can be re-opened.

11. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Dan King, Team Leader Operations & Maintenance

Dan highlighted some points from the report:

- The 2025/2026 work programme was successfully deliver across the scheme. The report doesn't show reactive works.
- This years' work programme doesn't differ too much from the previous year

Discussion
In response to a member question regards the Operation teams' input to the tender process Dan and Brett explained the methodology for tendering and procurement process. Brett explained there is an evaluation panel established to ensure the process is transparent and consistent across the tenders. The team also completes a contract review process at the end of delivery, which can inform future tender processes.

A member fed back the landowners are happy with the delivery in Kaitangata.

A member indicated that Paretai landowners have concerns with drainage performance and covered some of the issues. They explained local landowners have responded to deal with the issue before using a tractor pump. They indicated that the tractor pump was helpful in dealing with the issues.

The group questioned if ORC is looking at another outfall. Brett confirmed that ORC did look at climate effects on the infrastructure but is not aware of study looking at another outfall. Need to understand how the water moves in the area. Recommended to bring this issue to the strategy workshop for discussion. Brett confirmed the strategy is developed in alignment with the coastal adaptation work natural hazards is doing. Records showing the original scheme design are not available, only maps.

In response to a question about an issue with regards to a location where landowner activities are impacting the scheme, Brett confirmed he has attempted to contact the landowner without success so far, but the landowner is interested in discussing matters with ORC and the team will continue to pursue meeting with them. Brett confirmed the preference is to reach agreement to resolve the issues.

ORC is applying for resource consent to clean out the drain and tree issues near the property that a member raised, so that work can be completed. It is in this year's programme.

Action
Dan to send Craig Sheppard the list of drains that are on the Paretai side that are included in the programme this year.

ORC to consider the drainage and pumping coming out of the Paretai.

12.2026/27 BUDGETS

Brett Paterson, Manager Engineering

Brett presented the report covering FY2025-2026 and the current financial year budget.

He highlighted some points from the report:

- The scheme dipped into reserves, this was expected and was to fund capital works.
- Ran through the operational budget and capital expenditure from 25-26 explaining how the costs are split and timings on project delivery.
- Explained the central government funding claims cycles and the impact it has on finances

Discussion
Kuriwao Endowment Fund, Brett confirmed provides revenue into the scheme using the interest only, not the capital.

Pump station telemetry upgrades

Nate gave an update on the pump station upgrades project. Was held back from 2025 to wait for RIF money. It is under final review before going to tender. Will improve ability to monitor pump station performance, providing ORC greater capacity to understand what is going on at any time and enhance response in an event. The data can be used for general performance over time. Telemetry for Alexandra is built into the draft Infrastructure Strategy.

Action
Brett to provide capital value of the Kuriwao Fund for the group.

13. PLANNING AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Kirsten Tebbutt, Team Leader Planning & Partnerships

Kirsten summarised two of the items in the report:

- Nothing additionally to report on Clutha Pumped Hydro Limited, may see the application this year, but not guaranteed.

- Continuing to meet with Contact Energy Ltd (CEL) regularly. Q2,3 and 4 financial claims have been made by ORC and accepted by CEL.

14. QUESTIONS ON OTHER PRE-CIRCULATED MATERIALS

15. GENERAL ITEMS

The members brought five items for discussion:

- **Paretai Waitepeka Outfall**
  Brett confirmed this is in the draft Infrastructure Strategy with allowance for investigation, planning, design and construction/physical work. Indicated this can be discussed in more detail at the strategy workshop on the 9th October.

- **Puerua silt removal**
  Brett confirmed ORC will monitoring to see what it does naturally first and if it does not perform will intervene.

- **Drain and channel maintenance**
  Box culverts are included in the draft strategy, including investigation and design. Can be discussed at the strategy workshop.

- **Condition of concrete posts**
  A member raised the issue and impact of poor condition of concreate posts. Brett explained this is the responsibility of landowners, recommend lessees check the conditions of their lease and their responsibilities. There are provisions in The Fencing Act 1978 to deal with it if required.

- **Establishment of Tokomairiro Liaison Group**
  ORC is still trying to establish interest from this area for having one. Work in progress. It would cover the area of the scheme.

Webpage for access to agenda and minutes
The members confirmed this works for group, will continue to make these available online

Annual Chairpersons meeting
Hayley provided an update where progress is at with arranging that meeting and will come back to the Chair and members early in the new year.

Action
ORC Ops and Maintenance and the group to work together to look at the condition of the fenceposts. Group can send any sites in particular to the team and they will look at it.

16. NEXT MEETING

Date: To be confirmed, likely March/April 2027

Meeting closed at 2.43pm