
Science and Resilience Committee MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Science and Resilience Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 3 September 2025, commencing at 1:00 pm.

PRESENT

Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Alan Somerville	<i>(Chair)</i>
Cr Alexa Forbes	<i>(online)</i>
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(online)</i>
Cr Tim Mephram	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Elliot Weir	
Cr Kate Wilson	

1. WELCOME

Chair Somerville welcomed Councillors, members of the public, guests and staff to the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Anita Dawe (GM Transport and Planning), Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Cara Jordan (Governance Support), Ann Conroy (Team Leader Natural Hazards Adaptation), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Julion Wright (Natural Hazards Analyst), Toan Nguyen (Senior Natural Hazards Adaptation Specialist), Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst), Pete Weir (Team Leader Natural Hazards), Janet Ashcroft (Legal Counsel), Kerstin Strauss (Team Leader RPS, Air and Coast), Vyvienne Evans (Policy Analyst), Daniel King (Team Leader Operations and Maintenance), Brett Patterson (Manager Engineering), Ben Mackey (Manager Science), Pete Ravenscroft (Team Leader Biodiversity), Sami Khan (Senior Scientist - Freshwater Ecology), Ciaran Campbell (Scientist - Freshwater Ecology), Markus Dengg (Scientist - Science Facilitation), Scott Jarvie (Senior Scientist - Terrestrial Ecology), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Nathan Anderson (Senior Flood Hazard Analyst).

Guest presenters included James Russell (Tonkin and Taylor), Natalie Dixon (Beca) and Sam Parsons (Boffa Miskell).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Noone Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to address the Committee under Public Forum were received.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

Cr Kelliher joined the meeting at 1:02 pm.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the minutes of the Science and Resilience Committee meeting held on 4 June 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. No changes were noted.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Roxburgh Debris Flow Hazard Management Update

[YouTube 10:15] An update was provided on progress, engagement and programme planning for the Roxburgh Debris Flow Hazard Management Programme. Ann Conroy (Team Leader Natural Hazards Adaptation), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) and Julion Wright (Natural Hazards Analyst) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-111: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report and the work programme update.
- 2) **Endorses** the next steps and engagement activities for the next 6 months described below.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Clutha Delta Natural Hazards Adaptation

[YouTube 21:12] The report updated progress with the Clutha Delta natural hazards adaptation work programme, including findings of investigations into seismic hazard risks and an assessment of river morphology (bed levels) trends at Balclutha. Appreciation was expressed for the plain language version of the report. Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst), Ann Conroy (Team Leader Natural Hazards Adaptation), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) and James Russell (Tonkin + Taylor) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-112: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the reports by Tonkin + Taylor Ltd; Clutha Delta Liquefaction Vulnerability Study dated 23 June 2025 and Clutha Delta seismic risk assessment dated 20 August 2025.
- 3) **Notes** the reports by NIWA; Clutha River morphology trends at Balclutha dated 12 May 2025 and Plain language report on river bed changes at Balclutha dated 30 June 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone left the meeting at 2:09 pm.

Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 2:11 pm.

9.3. Communication and Disclosure of Natural Hazards Information

[YouTube 1:16:05] The report outlined how natural hazard information is disclosed and communicated by Otago Regional Council and updated recent legislative changes. Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) was available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-113: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.4. Otago Active Fault Mapping and Fault Awareness Areas

[YouTube 1:19:30] An update was provided on the review process for Otago active fault mapping and the development of a fault awareness area dataset. Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst) and Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-114: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the report by GNS Science, Review and update of active geological fault and fold characterisation in the Otago Region dated June 2025.
- 3) **Notes** the Fault Awareness Area (FAA) GIS dataset developed for Otago active faults.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5. Operations and Maintenance Annual Work Plan Update

[YouTube 1:31:10] The report summarised performance against the 2024/25 annual maintenance programme, and gave an overview of the proposed 2025/26 annual maintenance programme for the flood protection schemes in Lower Clutha and Lower Taieri, as well as the drainage schemes in Tokomairiro, East Taieri, and West Taieri. Daniel King (Team Leader Operations and Maintenance) and Brett Patterson (Manager Engineering) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-115: Cr Mephram Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the completion of the 2024/25 annual maintenance programme.
- 3) **Notes** the proposed 2025/26 annual maintenance programme.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Committee adjourn for a break from 2:37 pm until 2:55 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

9.6. Freshwater Biodiversity Science Programme Update

[YouTube 2:02:10] An overview was provided on the freshwater biodiversity science work programme. Pete Ravenscroft (Biodiversity Team Leader Science), Ciaran Campbell (Scientist Freshwater Ecology) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-116: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.7. Wetland Programme Update

[YouTube 2:38:25] An update was provided on the wetland mapping and monitoring programme. Sami Khan (Senior Scientist – Freshwater Ecology) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-117: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.8. Artificial Lakes and Water Storage in Otago

[YouTube 2:47:30] The report presented a stocktake and status update of artificial water storage in the region. Markus Dengg (Water Quality Scientist) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-118: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against.

9.9. An overview of the Envirolink scheme and ORC's involvement

[YouTube 3:10:17] An overview was provided of how the Envirolink scheme funds research organisations to transfer scientific knowledge to regional councils. It provided an outline of the projects that Otago Regional Council has been successful in having funded. Scott Jarvie (Senior Scientist Biodiversity) and Ben Mackey (Manager Science) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-119: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.10. Nature Based Solutions

[YouTube 3:15:15] The report presented findings from the Ministry for the Environment funded Nature-based Solutions studies to complete "Modelling of Te Hikapupu Catchment to Investigate Flood Mitigation". Nathan Anderson (Senior Flood Hazard Analyst), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Sam Parsons (Boffa Miskell) and Natalie Dixon (Beca) were available for questions.

Resolution SRC25-120: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

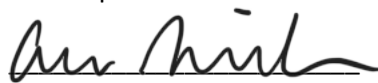
- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against.

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Somerville declared the meeting closed with a karakia at 5:06 pm.

 - 26.9.25

Chairperson

Date



Chief Executive

9 October 2025

Date