



Otago  
Regional  
Council

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**Council  
MINUTES**

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council  
Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 25 June 2025, at 10:00 am.**

**PRESENT**

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

## **1. WELCOME**

Chair Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10 am and opened the meeting with a karakia. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), 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), and Kylie Darragh (Governance Support Officer).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for this meeting.

At 10:03 am Cr Laws joined the meeting.

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Pierre Marasti spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, there was an opportunity for questions from Councillors, the Chair thanked Mr Marasti for attending.

Geoff Kernick, spoke online, on behalf of the Guardians of Lake Hāwea, there was an opportunity for questions from Councillors, the Chair thanked Mr Kernick for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**It was moved by Cr Malcolm, seconded Cr Wilson**

*That the agenda be confirmed as published, time allowing, with the additional attachment included for matter 10.3 Rates Report and Rates Resolution: Annual Plan 2025-26 Rates Resolution Sensitivity and Property Examples.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict was to arise.

## **6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

*There was a correction to matter 10.1 Eco Fund; with that the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **7.1. Recommendations of the Finance Committee**

**Resolution CM25-157: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded**

*That the Council adopt the recommendations of the 27-28 May 2025 Finance Committee, Environmental Delivery Committee of 5 June 2025 and the 22 May Environmental Strategy and Planning Committee.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)**

The completed actions were reported on and will be removed after this meeting. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) invited any questions from Councillors, there were no further updates.

## **9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS**

### **9.1. Chief Executive's Report**

**Resolution: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.2. Chairperson's Report**

**Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Forbes left the meeting at 11:28 am.*

*Cr Forbes returned to the meeting at 11:31 am.*

## **10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **10.1. Regional Public Transport Plan Adoption**

[YouTube 48:30] This paper sought to approve the Regional Public Transport Plan Hearing Panel's recommendations and adopt the Otago Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 (RPTP). Jack Cowie (Transport Planner) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Transport and Planning) were available to respond to questions on the report. A division was called on recommendations 1 to 15 and on a subsequent additional recommendation.

**Resolution CM25-158: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation to increase the adult base fare to \$2.50 before Quarter 2 of the 2025/2026 financial year and outside of term time.
- 3) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation to move to a zonal fare structure in the future.
- 4) Notes** that the exact details of fare zones (e.g. relative fare levels) will be subject to further modelling and analysis outside the scope of this plan, and the modelling and any associated recommendations will be brought back to Council at a later date.
- 5) Notes** the panel's expectation that prices for multiple fare zones will be based on small/moderate increments of the base fare, and that there will be a small number of zones.
- 6) Notes** implementation of fare structure changes, including zones, fare capping and use of cash are to occur in line with the transition to Motu Move.
- 7) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation to discontinue free fares for children (5-12 years).
- 8) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation that the child and youth discounts (5-18 years) be set to 40% of the adult base fare (i.e. \$1.50 fare). These changes will take effect from 29 September in line with the base fare increase.
- 9) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation to discontinue free travel for SuperGold holders on the 3:35PM City—Palmerston service and the 3:40PM City—Warrington service or any other service outside off-peak. SuperGold concessions will continue to

*be available during off-peak. This change will take effect from 29 September in line with the base fare increase.*

- 10) Approves** the Hearing Panel recommendation to amend private share targets to 20% for 2024/25, 23% for 2025/26 and 25% for 2026/27.
- 11) Notes** the private share recommendation is based on proposed fare increases to adult fares, increasing to \$2.50, and child and youth fares to \$1.50, and a future zonal fare structure.
- 12) Notes** staff will continue to actively engage with NZTA on setting and reviewing private share targets.
- 13) Approves** the Panel's recommended changes to the draft RPTP document as per section 9 of the Hearings and deliberations report (Attachment 2) and marked up in the final RPTP document (Attachment 3)
- 14) Adopts** the amended Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 as final (Attachment 3).
- 15) Delegates** to the Chief Executive, the power to approve minor editorial changes to the draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 subsequent to this meeting.

**BY DIVISION**

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr Kelliher, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Robertson, Cr Noone, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson
AGAINST	Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm
ABSTAINED	

**MOTION CARRIED – 9 in favour, 2 against.**

**Resolution CM25-159: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Requests** that the Chairperson writes to and lobbies the Minister and Associate Education Minister and Minister of Transport expressing concern about the unintended consequences of raising the child fare to meet private share potentially affecting school attendance rates; and the inequity of higher private share being required in an area because of good existing patronage.

**BY DIVISION**

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson
AGAINST	
ABSTAINED	

**MOTION CARRIED – all in favour.**

**At 12:02 pm Cr Malcolm moved Cr Weir seconded**

*That Council adjourn for a break until 12:30 pm.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 12:33 pm.*

**10.2. Annual Plan 2025-26 - Adoption**

[YouTube 2:36:30] The purpose of this report was to adopt the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2025-26 and enable the subsequent approval of rates and charges for the 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 financial year. As part of adopting the Annual Plan, this report enabled Council to formally approve changes to the draft estimates and work programme, which were provided to the community for feedback. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner) and Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-160: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Mepham Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** the recommendations from Council's 27-28 May 2025 Annual Plan Deliberation meeting have been communicated to council management for action and inclusion in 2025-26 work programmes.
- 2) **Notes** the changes that have been made to the approved draft Annual Plan financial estimates that are included in the Annual Plan 2025-26, as attached to this report.
- 3) **Approves** the Otago Regional Council Schedule of Fees and Charges applicable from 1 July 2025.
- 4) **Resolves** that having considered the matters in section 100(2) of the Local Government Act 2002, it is financially prudent to have an annual operating surplus of \$730,000 for the 2025-2026 Annual Plan year.
- 5) **Adopts** the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2025-26, as attached to this report.
- 6) **Approves** the delegation of minor editorial corrections and formatting of the Annual Plan 2025-26 to the Otago Regional Council Chief Executive.

**BY DIVISION**

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson.
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws.
ABSTAINED	

**MOTION CARRIED – 9 in favour, 2 against.**

**10.3. Rates Report and Rates Resolution**

[YouTube 3:26:40] The purpose of this report was to provide details of each of the rates to be set, and to recommend that Council adopts the rates resolution for the 2025-2026 financial year. There was an additional document added late to this report "Annual Plan 2025-26 Rates Resolution Sensitivity and Property Examples". Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) and Sarah Munro (Manager Finance - Reporting) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-161: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Mepham Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Receives** this report and the attached 2025-2026 Rating Resolution examples report.
- 2) **Adopts** the Rating Resolution for the 2025-2026 financial year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against.

**10.4. Environmental Funding**

[YouTube 3:30:25] This paper presented options to Council for approval for the delivery model of the new 'large-scale environmental fund'. This paper had been laid on the table and returned with some changes which were outlined by the CE. Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-162: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** Option 1 which endorses staff progressing to implement the Prioritised Funding Model 1: Structured Purchasing – ROI, RFP or Direct Engagement, aligned

*where appropriate to CAP implementation as the model to be used for managing the large-scale environmental fund.*

- 3) Notes** that the establishment date and funding of the large-scale environmental fund is subject to decisions made during the current Annual Plan process and Staff will prepare a finalised implementation timeline post Annual Plan decisions.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.5. Draft ORC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy**

[YouTube 3:54:30] This paper sought Council endorsement of the draft Otago Regional Council Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy so that public consultation can commence in the second half of 2025. Michael Bathgate (Aukaha) and Hoani Langsbury (Biodiversity Reference Group), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy) and Shay van der Hurk (Senior Advisor Strategy) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-163: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Council*

- 1) Remove** the word 'western' in relation to the reference of 'western science' in the document.

**BY DIVISION**

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson
AGAINST	Cr Weir
ABSTAINED	Cr McCall

**MOTION CARRIED – 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstained.**

**Resolution CM25-164: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Endorses** the draft Otago Regional Council Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy for public consultation
- 2) Notes** the designed version of the Strategy will be circulated to councillors, prior to public consultation commencing.
- 3) Notes** public consultation is planned to commence in the second half of 2025, for four weeks.
- 4) Notes** that the Strategy Team will work with the Biodiversity Strategy Reference Group to consider any amendments following consultation.
- 5) Notes** that the Strategy Team will present a final version of the Strategy to Council for adoption before the 30 June 2026 LTP target.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**At 2:33 pm Cr Robertson moved; Cr Wilson seconded:**

*That Council adjourn for ten minutes.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.6. Regional Deals**

[YouTube 4:49:27] Otago Regional Council (ORC), Central Otago District Council (CODC) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) have formed a strategic partnership to develop a proposed Regional Deal for the Otago Central Lakes (OCL) region, aimed at unlocking long-term investment and coordinated regional development. Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) and Andrea Howard (Chief Advisor to CE and Chair) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-165: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Approve** the proposal to establish a Joint Committee with Queenstown Lakes District Council and Central Otago District Council to ensure the region is well positioned should the light touch proposal for a Regional Deal progress.
- 2) Appoint** the Chair to represent the Otago Regional Council on the Joint Committee.
- 3) Nominates** Cr Alexa Forbes Council to represent the Otago Regional Council on the Joint Committee (alongside the Chair).
- 4) Note** that the Joint Committee will appoint a Joint Subcommittee to oversee any negotiations undertaken by the central government.
- 5) Approve** the Memorandum of Agreement and in doing so appoint the Joint Committee based on the powers and delegations outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.7. Revised Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives**

[YouTube 5:19:00] This paper sought to approve the revised Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (SIPO) incorporating changes resolved at the 6 March 2025 and 4 June 2025 Audit and Risk Subcommittee meetings. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-166: Cr Mephram Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Approves** the revised Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (attached) which incorporates the changes recommended by the Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.8. Port Otago Statement of Corporate Intent**

*Cr Laws left the meeting at 3:30 pm.*

[YouTube 5:22:20] This report received Port Otago's Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for the three years to 30 June 2028. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-167: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Receives** this report and the attached Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago Limited to 30 June 2028.
- 2) Endorses** the Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago to 30 June 2028.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.9. Regional Software Holdings Limited Statement of Intent 2025-2026**

[YouTube 5:35:10] This report sought to receive the Regional Software Holdings Limited's Draft Statement of Intent for 2025-2026, Half Yearly Report for the period ended 31 December 2024 and Annual Report for year ended 30 June 2024. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was present to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-168: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** this report and the attached draft Statement of Intent 2025-2026 and Half Yearly Report for the period ended 31 December 2024.

- 2) **Endorses** *Regional Software Holdings Limited's intention to replace a vacant Council appointed director with an additional independent director.*
- 3) **Endorses** *Regional Software Holdings Limited's intention to appoint an Independent Chair noting appointment of the Chair is a Board decision.*
- 4) **Notes** *that staff have amended processes to ensure that future RSHL matters are reported to Council at the appropriate time.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **10.10. Documents Signed Under Council Seal**

[YouTube 5:45:30] This report informed the Council of delegations which have been exercised requiring application of the Council Seal during the period of 1 July 2024 to 9 June 2025. Amanda Vercoe (GM Customer and Strategy) was available to respond to questions.

#### **Resolution CM25-169: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

*That the Council:*

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **10.11. Delegations: Update to Council Delegations**

[YouTube 5:47:11] This paper updated specific delegations in the ORC Delegations Manual following the adoption of a new ORC committee structure in March 2025. Amanda Vercoe (GM Customer and Strategy) was available to respond to questions.

#### **Resolution CM25-170: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** *this report.*
- 2) **Resolves** *to replace "Co-Chairs Regional Leadership Committee" with "Co-Chairs Environmental Delivery Committee" in the ORC Delegations Manual, specifically in Part B- the delegations Council makes to ORC staff and elected members under the Resource Management Act.*
- 3) **Approves** *retrospectively the delegations exercised by the former Co-Chair of the Regional Leadership Committee, Cr Elliot Weir, on 10 June 2025 to appoint two independent decision makers on time sensitive matters.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Noone left the meeting at 3:43 pm.*

*Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 3:48 pm.*

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 3:56 pm.*

#### **10.12. 2024 ORC Climate Strategy - Implementation and Effectiveness Report**

[YouTube 5:47:40] This paper provided an annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of the 2024 Climate Strategy, which is a level of service target in the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan. Rebecca McLeod (Principal Advisor Strategy), Ema Kurbos-Cooper (Advisor Strategy), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM25-171: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

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

**MOTION CARRIED**



**13. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Robertson declared the meeting closed at 4:01 pm with a karakia.



23 July 2025

Chairperson

Date