



Otago
Regional
Council

Council MINUTES

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 11 February 2026, commencing at 2:00 pm.

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME

Cr Malcolm said a reflection to open the meeting at 2:00 pm. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), 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), and Marianna Brook (Principal Advisor Mayoral Forum and Local Government Reform), Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and planning) Warren Hanley (Senior Resources Planner Liaison).

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Cr Malcolm seconded by Cr Wilson.

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the addition to item 6.2, Attachment 6.2.2 Resource Management Draft Submission.

MOTION CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

An amendment to the minutes under matter 8.3 Consideration of Meeting Schedule 2026 was noted to remove words 'with or without ' from the recommendation.

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1. Response to the Government's Simplifying Local Government Proposal

[YouTube 14:47] This paper sought approval for Otago Regional Council's (ORC's) submission on the Government's Simplifying Local Government proposal. Marianna Brook, Amanda Vercoe and Cr Malcolm were available to respond to questions on the report. An additional motion was added to the recommendations.

Resolution CM26-101 Moved Cr Robertson Seconded Cr Wilson

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the addition of the supplementary text to the response of question 10, to the draft.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-102 Moved Cr Laws Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the edit of Question 2, bullet point 2 to end at the word 'community'.

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Byars, Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner, Cr Hollyer, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Somerville
AGAINST:	Cr Gillespie, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Wilson
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED

7 in favour, 5 against.

Resolution CM26-103 Moved Cr Wilson, Seconded Cr Malcolm

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 2, bullet point 3.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-104 Moved Cr Malcolm Seconded Cr Somerville

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 3.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-105 Moved Cr Somerville Seconded Cr Noone

That the Council:

1. **Agrees** not to answer Question 4.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-106 Moved Cr Robertson Seconded Cr Wilson

That the Council

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 5.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-107 Moved Cr Wilson Seconded Cr Robertson

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 6.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-108 Moved Cr Noone Seconded Cr Byars

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 7.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-109 Moved Cr Wilson Seconded Cr Somerville

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 8.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-110 Moved Cr Wilson Seconded Cr Gillespie

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the answer drafted for Question 9.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:00 pm It was moved by Cr Robertson, Seconded by Cr Wilson

That the Council adjourn for 5 minutes

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-111 Moved Cr Laws Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the edits to the draft of question 10.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-112 Moved Cr Malcolm Seconded Cr Wilson

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the edits to the Cover Letter as drafted.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-113 Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this paper.
2. **Approves** the attached response (including cover letter and online submission) to the Government's Simplifying Local Government proposal.
3. **Authorises** the Chair to make minor amendments or additions to the letter or submission if required before the due date.

MOTION CARRIED

6.2. Resource Management Reform Submission

[YouTube 1:47:15] This report provided a draft Otago Regional Council submission on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill (the Bills) for Council consideration and approval. Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Warren Hanley (Senior Resource Planner Liaison) Anita Dawe (General Manager Regional Planning and Transport) and Cr Wilson were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-114: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** section 52 and the removal of section 53 on the Fast Track process.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Robertson and Somerville voted against.

Resolution CM26-115: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** section 68 and 69 the removal of section 70 and 71.

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Byars, Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Somerville, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson
AGAINST:	Cr Robertson and Cr Somerville
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED

Ten in favour, two against.

Resolution CM26-116: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the Fresh Water Farm Plans sections as in the draft document.

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Gilliespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm , Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson.
AGAINST:	Cr Byers, Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner, Cr Kelliher
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED

Eight in favour, four against.

Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Byars Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the removal of section 1.1 and 7 from the draft document.

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Byars, Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws
AGAINST:	Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson.
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION FAILED

Five in favour, seven against.

Resolution CM26-118: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the wording for 1.1 "ORC supports iwi involvement in the planning process as set out in the Bills and acknowledges the importance of our relationships with Kai Tahu" to the draft submission.

MOTION CARRIED

An addendum for section No. 33 was circulated to Council.

Resolution CM26-119: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the additional text to section 33 to the draft document.

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson
AGAINST:	Cr Byars, Cr Calvert, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED

Seven in favour, five against.

Resolution CM26-120: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Approves** the draft Otago Regional Council submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill, subject to any further changes directed by Council.
3. **Approves** Cr Kate Wilson and Cr Neil Gillespie to approve any final changes to the draft Otago Regional Council submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill, and to sign out the final submission.
4. **Delegates** to the Chief Executive the authority to correct any minor errors in the submission as needed (in addition to any changes directed through recommendations above).
5. **Confirms** that Chair Calvert and the two portfolio leads, Cr Wilson and Cr Gillespie attend the Environment Committee in support of its submission.

MOTION CARRIED

7. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 5:20 pm.



Chair

25 February 2026
Date