
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 27 August 2025, commencing at 1:00 pm.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/live/WVlLvGWXtdk?si=C2IAMQnx4fsTqOgO>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/live/mSahicaNliU?si=DOlmb2-l8rulsQE7>

Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/live/31zo0_TYyZ8?si=FegDKnDrx0nay2vq

PRESENT

Cr Gretchen Robertson *(Chair)*

Cr Lloyd McCall

Cr Alexa Forbes

Cr Gary Kelliher

Cr Michael Laws

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 1.00 pm. 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), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Malcolm be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 Upper Clutha Angling Club: Simon Gibb and Spiro Anastasiou joined online. There was an opportunity for questions, Chair Robertson thanked both for attending.

3.2 Chris Ford: Disabled Persons Assembly joined online. There was an opportunity for questions, the Chair thanked Mr Ford for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was moved Cr Robertson, seconded Cr Noone:

1) Recommendation to change the agenda due to the availability of Edward Guy (Rationale) and Simon Anderson (Ross Dowling); that the proposed public excluded part of this meeting be held after item 9. Chair and Chief Executive Reports.

It was moved Cr Robertson, seconded Cr Forbes:

2) Recommendation to approve the addition of the report for matter: 3.2 Decision on Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown to the public excluded agenda.

It was moved Cr Robertson, seconded Cr Noone:

3) Recommendation to include the letter from Hon Chris Bishop to the Chairs Report.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 23 July 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

The Action Register was reviewed with an opportunity for updates.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

9.1. Chairperson's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1) Notes this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Chief Executive's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1) Notes this report.

MOTION CARRIED

13. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded:

It was moved that the public be excluded under LGOIMA 48(1)(a) from the following parts of this meeting, namely:

1. Confidential Minutes of Council 23 July 2025
- 3.1 Decision on Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown
- 3.2 Update on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement

It was also moved that Edward Guy (Rationale) be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, and relevant to that matter because of their expertise of the matter.

and Simon Anderson (Ross Dowling) be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, and relevant to that matter because of their provision of legal advice on the pORPS.

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 Confidential Minutes of Council 27 July 2025	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	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

	information – Section 7(2)(b)(ii). To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h) To enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – Section 7(2)(i) To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage – Section 7(2)(j) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)	proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
3.1 Decision on Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown	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). To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)	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.
3.2 Update on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement	48(1)(a) To maintain legal professional privilege – 7(2)(g). 48(1)(d) a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the local authority in those proceedings- (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.

		and 48(1)(d) that the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies.
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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.

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.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws voted against.

The Council meeting in public restarted at 3:23 pm (Part 2).

10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1. Outram Floodbank Stability Assessment Outcomes

[Youtube Pt2 5:29] The purpose of this report was to inform Council of the outcome of the Outram Floodbank Stability Assessment completed in November 2024. Pam Wilson, (Infrastructure Engineering Lead) Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-185: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** the report by Beca Limited; Outram Floodbank Stability Assessment, dated 21 November 2024.
- 2) Approves** the proposal to remove further physical works from the Long-Term Plan to address the resilience of the floodbank at Outram and address operational recommendations as part of business-as-usual activities.

MOTION CARRIED

10.2. Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme Project Budget Revisions

[YouTube Pt 2 13:11] The purpose of this report was to communicate and seek approval for project budget revisions arising from project progression and priority across the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme. Pam Wilson, (Infrastructure Engineering Lead) Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-186: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the reallocation of \$1,092,000 from the Outram Floodbank Resilience Improvements project to the Silver Stream Capacity Maintenance project.
- 3) **Notes** that the remaining budget of \$3,564,000 from the Outram Floodbank Resilience project will be resolved through the Annual Plan 2026/27 and Long-Term Plan 2027-2037.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Weir returned to the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Cr Laws left the meeting at 3:38 pm.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 3:39 pm.

10.3. Liaison Groups in the Lower Clutha and Tokomairiro Areas

[YouTube Pt2 19:39] This paper sought endorsement of a proposed draft terms of reference and approach to establish the Lower Clutha/Mata Au Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme Liaison Group and the Tokomairiro Drainage Scheme Liaison Group. Kirsten Tebbut (Engagement, Strategy and Planning Lead Engineering) online, Brett Patterson (Manager Engineering) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-187: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Endorses** the approach and scope outlined to establish Otago Regional Council Liaison Groups for Flood Protection and Drainage schemes.
- 2) **Endorses** the draft terms of reference for discussion at the first meeting of the Liaison Groups.
- 3) **Notes** the staff recommendation to establish Liaison Groups for Flood protection and Drainage Schemes covering Lower Clutha/Mata Au and Tokomairiro Schemes with the priority being the establishment of the Lower Clutha/Mata Au Liaison Group in the 2025 calendar year.
- 4) **Notes** the staff recommendation to establish the community representative members of Liaison Groups through a General Meeting of Scheme Ratepayers.
- 5) **Notes** that reports will be prepared for future meetings to seek a nominated Councillor for the groups and to approve the final terms of reference.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:44 pm Cr Robertson moved, Cr Forbes seconded:

That the Council adjourn due to a fire alarm.

MOTION CARRIED

Council restarted at 4:10 pm (Part 3).

10.4. Total Mobility

[YouTube Pt 3 4:40] This paper sought direction from Council on options for managing expenditure for Total Mobility services. Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) online, Laura Faulkner (Community Transport) and Anita Dawe (GM Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-188: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report.*
- 2) Notes** *the forecast expenditure for Total Mobility services for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.*
- 3) Directs** *staff continue to provide Total Mobility service provision, in accordance with Option 2 for Q 1 and 2 2025/26.*
- 4) Directs staff** *to Investigate and provide Council with recommendations on levers (b) and (e) (provided below as per Option 4) to implement in Q 3 and 4 of 2025/26, subject to final sign-off by Council.*
- 5) Directs** *staff bring back a report with further detail before the end of the year.*

MOTION CARRIED

10.5. Amendment to the Water Plan to give effect to legislative change to the Resource Management Act 1991

[YouTube Pt3 28:02] The purpose of this paper was to provide Otago Regional Council with a summary of the recent changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan) introduced by the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025. These changes extend the expiry date of certain water permits in Otago and override, amend and revoke specific provisions in the Water Plan. Simon Wilson (Manager Compliance) Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy) and Anita Dawe (GM Panning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Cr Wilson sat back from the table for this item.

Resolution CM25-189: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *the amendments to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago made by the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025.*
- 2) Directs** *that public notice of the amendments made by the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act be given on 1 September 2025.*

MOTION CARRIED

10.6. Jobs for Nature Projects Update

[Youtube Pt3 39:39] This report provided the final summary on two Jobs for Nature projects that Council has been involved in over the last four years. These projects are the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) funded Toitū Te Hākapupu/Pleasant River Catchment Restoration project (July 2021 – June 2025) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) funded Maintaining the Gains project (December 2021 – March 2025). Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Soraya Engelken (Project Delivery Specialist - Freshwater and Biodiversity) Melanie White (Project Delivery Specialist - Freshwater and Biodiversity) online, Rob Phillips (Co-Chair Te Hākapupu), online, and Joanna Gilroy, (General Manager Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-190: Cr Noone Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the work completed by all parties involved in these long-term projects and thanks them for their commitment to the projects and Otago's environment.

MOTION CARRIED

10.7. Annual Returns of Inactive Subsidiaries

[YouTube Pt 3 1:08.30] This paper sought to pass resolutions in lieu of holding annual general meetings for Council's three wholly owned inactive subsidiaries. The resolutions were to not hold an annual general meeting and to not appoint an auditor for each company. Sarah Munro (Group Financial Controller) was available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-191: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Approves** the following resolutions:
 - a. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
 - b. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.
 - c. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Pest Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
 - d. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Pest Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.
 - e. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Monitoring Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
 - f. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Monitoring Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.

MOTION CARRIED

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion were submitted.

14. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 5:06 pm.



Chairperson

24 September 2025

Date