

Taieri Liaison Group Meeting Minutes

Date: 8 October 2025

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Dunedin International Airport

1. Attendance

Name	Role	Attending	Apology
Liaison Group Members			
William Kirkland	East Taieri		✓
Simon Parks	East Taieri	✓	
Julie Struthers	East Taieri	✓	
Colin Scurr	West Taieri	✓	
David Wilson	West Taieri	✓	
Matt Kerr	West Taieri	✓	
Nick Rodger	Dunedin International Airport Limited		✓
Andrew Simms	Mosgiel Taieri Community Board	✓	
Lloyd McCall	Councillor	✓	
Kate Wilson	Councillor	✓	
Otago Regional Council Staff			
Tom Dyer	GM Science and Resilience	✓	
Renee Pearson	Catchment Action Planner	✓	
Brett Paterson	Manager Engineering		✓
Dan King	Team Leader Operations and Maintenance	✓	
Emma Ahlezon	Taieri Action Plan Coordinator	✓	
Pam Wilson	Infrastructure Engineering Lead		✓
Kirsten Tebbutt	Engagement Strategy and Planning Lead	✓	

2. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Notes

The notes from the previous meeting were **passed as a true and correct record**.

3. Chairman's Report – Simon Parks

- Simon met with ORC members (Tom, Brett, and Kirsten) to debrief after the May meeting and discuss follow-up actions.
- Highlighted that earlier input from the Group can drive meaningful change in decision-making processes.
- **Community Drop-in Sessions:**
 - Should be better advertised, with direct invitations sent to Liaison Group members.
 - Low farmer attendance noted, particularly around concerns about the Outram Floodbank and emergency response plans.
 - Follow-up required with Mark Laurance regarding photos.
- General frustration about the Beca report and perception that Council could have addressed floodbank issues better.
- Discussion regarding the overall visibility of the Group and its membership (suggestion regarding the implementation of a Facebook page that lists members names and contact details). The Group is keen to show separation from the ORC's comms channels and will implement this independently of ORC.

- Proposal to hold a Liaison Group meeting in February, around the same time as the Engineering Community Drop-in.

Post Meeting Note – Scheduled for 31 March 2026

4. Introduction to the Taiari/Taieri Catchment Action Plan

Presenter: Renee Pearson – Catchment Action Planner, ORC

- Non-regulatory, community-led plan bringing together multiple existing efforts under a single coordinated framework.
- **Approach:** Whole ecosystem – “mountains to sea,” incorporating existing plans.
- **Timeline:**
 - Establishing the group now.
 - 4–6 half-day workshops planned for February 2026.
 - Plan development through surveys, drop-ins, and meetings.
 - Endorsement target: November 2026.
- Aim to boost ongoing actions and align with endorsed plans (Catlins, Upper Lakes).
- Plan divided into Upper, Mid, and Lower Taieri catchments.
- New funding will be available.
- Community input is essential due to varied needs across the catchment.
- Flooding will be managed with a whole-catchment approach.
- Liaison Group will receive updates and opportunities to provide feedback.
- Progress available via the ORC website hub.

5. Rates Update

Presenter: Tom Dyer – ORC

- Circulated rates paper taken as read.
- Explained system map showing areas of benefit: West 89%, East 11%.
- ORC plans a full rates review (including rate split) ahead of the next LTP, using specialist consultants.
- The current model and map are available online and used by the Rates team.

Post Meeting Note – all public information on how rates are fixed etc is available on the Council's website: <https://www.orc.govt.nz/your-council/rates/>

6. Operational Update

Presenter: Dan King – ORC

- Reviewed previous year's plan and KPIs.
- ORC to consider different reporting structure for greater transparency; errors identified in reporting.
- Discussion regarding cost and process for tree removal, with particular reference to Mill Creek. Operational rationale explained, being to reduce debris in pump stations and long-term maintenance costs.

7. Projects Update

Presenter: Tom Dyer (on behalf of Brett Paterson)

Contour Channel:

- Tenders closed, good response with no over-budget bids.
- Evaluation underway, award expected November.
- Start date: post Christmas.
- Landowner communication and project management to be improved.

Silver Stream:

- Stage 1 nearly complete; rain delays noted.
- Fulton Hogan performing well; will be awarded Stage 2 post-Christmas.
- Simon P raised concerns about fill disposal and inefficiencies.
- Tom D acknowledged issues and explained constraints under consent conditions.

8. Planning and Resource Management Activities

Presenter: Kirsten Tebbutt – ORC

- Provided overview of her role (written report provided).
- Discussion covered Port Otago developments, fast-track consents, and impervious surfaces affecting drainage.
- Engineering will be providing information but not advice on the Southern Link Inland Port proposal due to perceived conflict of interest (Port Otago/ORC).
- Simon P raised concerns about runoff and contribution to drainage maintenance costs.
- Tom D confirmed these issues are included in the rates review and scheme redesign discussions.
- Ongoing consideration of drainage capacity, pump upgrades, and level of service requirements.
- Silver Stream Beautification project – Kirsten to share Bylaw approval. *(post meeting note – approval and recommending report have been uploaded to the shared files)*
- Andrew noted a proposed change to roading network on the Taieri in conjunction with the development of the Inland Port. *(post meeting note – Kirsten has been in touch with both Port Otago and NZTA and flagged ORC's interests in any such proposal)*

9. General Items

- **Membership of Liaison Group:**
 - Andrew Simms stepping down from MTCB; replacement to be appointed by MTCB (direct appointment).
 - Discussion regarding the appropriateness of co-opting a member from the Outram Community. Will require further discussion.
 - Post meeting note: Neil Goodger may be an appropriate candidate, Tom D to discuss with S Parks, and he may provide a paper for the next meeting to further discuss this matter.
- **Public Meeting:** Planned for February, alongside or following ORC drop-in session.
 - Information to be shared via Facebook, website, Taieri Network, and newsletters.
- **Scheme Trip:** Proposed bus/convoy trip
- **Next Meeting:** February – combined focus on project updates, catchment planning, and engagement improvements.
- **Meeting review:** Seeking feedback on meeting tone.

Acknowledgement:

Andrew Sims thanked for his contribution – this was his final meeting.

10. Meeting Close

Time: 7:23 p.m.
