Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Aonui, Otago Regional Council, 180 High Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 26 August 2026, commencing at 10:30 am

https://www.youtube.com/live/kHA7NVfJvHs?si=anajEs94ssC4K9yR

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME

Chair Calvert opened with a reflection and welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:30 am. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Dianne Railton (Team Leader Governance) and Kylie Darragh (Governance Support Officer).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded:
That the apologies for Cr Kevin Malcolm, and Cr Neil Gillespie, for possible early departure, be accepted.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 Peter Foster spoke on sea levels affecting South Dunedin, the Chair thanked Mr Foster for attending.
3.2 Pierre Marasti spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, the Chair thanked Mr Marasti for attending.
3.3 Mark Smith, spoke on behalf of Living Wage NZ, the Chair thanked Dr Smith for attending.

4. PETITION

Mr Tony Cummings of the Dunedin Area Citizens Association presented a petition to Council. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) confirmed its receipt. There was an opportunity for Mr Cummings to speak, the Chair thanked him for attending.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That *the additional report of the Supplementary Agenda for 26 August 2026, be received and added to the agenda under Item* ***11.4 Large Scale Environment Fund;***
also that the late addition of the ***Public Excluded Agenda: 1.1 Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Council's Position on Signing*** *be accepted for the reason that it cannot wait for a later Council meeting date.*
MOTION CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

A correction was noted by Chair Calvert to the previously approved June Council Minutes.
Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That *the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*
MOTION CARRIED

8. PRESENTATIONS

Port of Otago representatives presented their Year End Update August 2026, to Council. Tim Gibson (Chair), Kevin Winders (Chief Executive), Stephen Connolly (Chief Financial Officer), Pat Heslin (Deputy Chair) and Chris Hopkins (Director) were present to respond to questions on the report. There was an opportunity for questions from Councillors, Chair Calvert thanked the Port for attending.

9. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions from resolutions of the Council were reviewed.

10. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

10.1. Chairperson's Report

Chair Calvert was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

***1) Notes** the report.*

MOTION CARRIED

10.2. Chief Executive's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded

That the Council:

***1) Notes** the report.*

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Calvert moved, Cr Robertson seconded

That Council adjourn until 12:30 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

11. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

11.1. End of Year Non-Financial Performance Report

[YouTube 2:04] This report provided the Council's quarter 4 non-financial service performance results. This completed reporting for the 2025-26 reporting period and confirmed the year-end performance position (subject to external audit) for year two of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34. Portfolio lead Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Planning and Performance) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-223: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes** this report.*
2) ***Notes** that the Attached Performance Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 being quarter four of the 2025-26 financial year.*
3) ***Notes** that the full audited performance results are included in the Statement of Service Provisions (SSP) section of the Annual Report 2025-26, which will be presented to the Audit and Risk committee and Council in October 2026.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws left the meeting at 12:34 pm.

11.2. Quarter 4 Finance Report - 30 June 2026

This report presented Council's Financial Reports for the 12-month period to 30 June 2026 being Quarter 4 of the 2025-26 financial year. This was the preliminary unaudited financial result for the 2025-26 financial year and excluded the revaluation of Port Otago Limited. Portfolio lead Cr Gardner introduced the report, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-224: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report and the attached Financial Reports for June 2026 (Quarter 4 of the 2025-26 financial year).*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 12:42 pm.

11.3. Proposed Review of the Flood Protection Management Bylaw 2022

[YouTube 2:11] This report sought approval to commence the review process for the Otago Regional Council Flood Protection Management Bylaw 2022 under the Local Government Act 2002. Portfolio lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper. Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering) and Kirsten Tebbutt (Team Leader Planning and Partnerships) online, and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-225: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the preferred option (option 2) to commence a review of the Flood Protection Management Bylaw 2022 under the Local Government Act 2002.*

MOTION CARRIED

11.4. Large-Scale Environmental Fund

[YouTube 2:17] This report sought Council approval of the Large-scale Environmental Fund Governance Group Terms of Reference, eligibility and assessment criteria, and supporting project plan template. Cr Gardner introduced the paper as co-chair of the governance group. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Soraya Engelken (Project Delivery Specialist Freshwater & Biodiversity) and Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-226: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Calvert Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the Terms of Reference, eligibility and assessment criteria, and supporting project plan template for the Large-scale Environmental Fund Governance Group (Attachments 1, 2, and 3) and confirms the Governance Group may commence operations in September 2026.*
3) ***Confirms*** *the delegation framework: the Governance Group will approve projects up to $250,000 per annum for up to three years (maximum $750,000 per project) that are "fully aligned" with the approved criteria and principles (meaning they meet all eligibility criteria and most assessment criteria as defined in Attachment 2). Council will decide projects exceeding this threshold, extending beyond three years, or not fully aligned with the criteria.*
4) ***Notes*** *that the Governance Group will report quarterly to Council on fund operations, investment decisions, commitments, expenditure, remaining budget, approved projects, progress against agreed outcomes, and any matters escalated to Council.*

MOTION CARRIED

11.5. Approval of ORC Compliance Plan

[YouTube2:54] This paper sought Council's approval of the ORC Compliance Plan 2026 - 2029. Portfolio lead Cr Noone introduced the paper. Simon Wilson (Manager Compliance), James Adams (Senior Policy Analyst), Melanie Heather (Principal Compliance Specialist) online, and Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-227: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the ORC Compliance Plan 2026 - 2029, included at Attachment 1.*
3) ***Delegates*** *to the Chief Executive the power to approve minor corrections (editing errors) to the Compliance Plan if needed.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gardner left the meeting at 1:46 pm.
Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 1:51 pm.

11.6. Sub-Regional Public Transport Investigations Business Case

[Youtube 3:01] This paper reported on the ORC Annual Plan 2025/26 direction to investigate how to transport workers from Alexandra/Cromwell to Queenstown. Portfolio lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper. Stacey Hitchcock (Senior Transport Lead), Grace Longson (Transport Planner), and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-228: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the endorsement of the Central Lakes Sub-Regional Public Transport Investment Case.*
3) ***Notes*** *the preferred option for a Central Lakes sub-regional public transport service trial and notes that it will be included as part of the broader transport improvements package for ORC's draft 2027 Long-Term Plan considerations.*
4) ***Notes*** *the preferred option for a Central Lakes sub-regional public transport service trial will be included in ORC's public transport service improvement programme for inclusion in Otago's 2027-2030 Regional Land Transport Plan and 2027-2030 National Land Transport Programme bid.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws voted against.

11.7. 2025/26 Annual Public Transport Performance Report

[YouTube 3:36] This paper updated Council on the performance of Public Transport and Total Mobility services for the full 2025/26 Financial Year, being 1st July 2025 – 30th June 2026. Portfolio lead Cr Somerville introduced the paper. Julian Philips (Implementation Lead-Transport), Gemma Wilson (Analyst Transport) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-229: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this summary of public transport activity in Otago for 2025/26.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Calvert moved, Cr Wilson seconded
That Council adjourns until 2:35 pm
MOTION CARRIED

11.8. Emergency Management Otago - Annual Update

[YouTube 4:09] This reported on Otago Regional Council's delivery of its responsibilities under the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Agreement, for the 2025/26 year. Portfolio lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper Matt Alley (Group Manager Emergency Management Otago) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-230: Cr Gillespie Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

11.9. Progress on implementing the Dunedin Future Development Strategy

[Youtube 4:20] The purpose of this report was to provide Council with an update on the progress of the implementation of the Dunedin Future Development Strategy (FDS) actions. Portfolio lead Cr Wilson introduced the paper. Iffy Ukonze (Policy Analyst) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-231: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *the progress on implementing the Dunedin Future Development Strategy.*
2) ***Notes*** *that subject to current legislative reform, this is expected to be the final Future Development Strategy Implementation Plan required by Council.*

MOTION CARRIED

11.10. Annual Returns of Inactive Subsidiaries

[Youtube 4:22]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. Portfolio lead Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-232: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Robertson 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 for the 2026 year under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.*
    b. *That no auditors be appointed for Regional Services Limited for the year ending 30 June 2027 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 for the 2026 year under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.*
    d. *That no auditors be appointed for Regional Pest Services Limited for the year ending 30 June 2027 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 for the 2026 year under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.*

f. *That no auditors be appointed for Regional Monitoring Services Limited for the year ending 30 June 2027 under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.*

MOTION CARRIED

11.11. Draft Living Wage Implementation Plan

[YouTube 4:25] This paper sought Council direction on whether staff should proceed with developing an implementation plan for ORC to become a Living Wage Accredited Employer. Portfolio lead Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate) and Ema Kurbos-Cooper (Advisor Strategy) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-233: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

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

MOTION CARRIED

***2) Directs** staff to develop an implementation plan for ORC to achieve Living Wage Employer Accreditation.*

By division

For:	Cr Laws, Cr Robertson and Cr Somerville.
Against:	Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Kelliher, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson and Cr Calvert.
Abstained:	Nil

MOTION FAILED

3 in favour, 8 against.

12. RECOMMENDATION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC.

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:

That the public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):

1.1 Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Council's Position on Signing

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 Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Proposed Amendment and Council's Position on Signing	*To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest – Section 7(2)(c)(ii).* *To enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with the Crown 7(2)(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.*

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.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against.

13. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 4:06 pm.

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Chairperson Date