



Otago
Regional
Council

Environmental Strategy and Planning Committee MINUTES

**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Environmental Policy and Science Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin
on Thursday 22 May 2025, commencing at 1:00 pm.**

PRESENT

Cr Lloyd McCall	<i>(Co-Chairperson)</i>
Mr Edward Ellison	<i>(Co-Chairperson)</i>
Cr Gary Kelliher	<i>(Online)</i>
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(Online)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
Cr Tim Mepham	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	<i>(Online)</i>
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Elliot Weir	
Cr Kate Wilson	
Ms Karen Coutts	<i>(Online)</i>

1. WELCOME

Chair Edward Ellison welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1:00 pm. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Robert Win (Team Leader Biosecurity), Michelle Ewans (Biosecurity Specialist - Terrestrial) and Cara Jordan (Governance Support). Staff online included Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) and Nick Donnelly (GM Finance).

2. APOLOGIES

The Committee noted an apology from Councillor Forbes.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to address the Committee under Public Forum were received.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the agenda be confirmed as published.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the minutes of the Environmental Science and Policy Committee meeting held on 20 February 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. The report on Otago Deep Water Lakes has been moved to the 4 June 2025 Science and Resilience Committee Meeting.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Regional Pest Management Plan review

[YouTube 13:20] The paper updated the Committee on progress to review the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 – 2029 (RPMP) and sought endorsement of the RPMP Review Project Plan. An amendment was made to recommendation 3 to change Environment Southland to all South Island Regional and Unitary Councils. Michelle Ewans (Biosecurity Specialist–Terrestrial), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), and Joanna Gilroy (General Manager Environmental Delivery) were available for questions.

Resolution ESP25-101: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends that the Council endorse** the Regional Pest Management Plan Review Project Plan as submitted (Attachment 1) (Option 1).
- 3) **Endorses** staff progressing conversations with staff at all South Island Regional and Unitary Councils to explore an opportunity to develop a cross-region pest management plan (Option 1).
- 4) **Endorses** the establishment of a Councillor Reference Group to oversee the development of the renewed Regional Pest Management Plan Review (Option 1).

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution ESP25-102: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) **Nominates** Cr Noone and Cr Malcolm as members of the proposed Councillor Reference Group to oversee the development of the renewed Regional Pest Management Plan, with Cr Wilson as the alternative representative.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Rabbit issues in Public/Crown land

[YouTube 48.31] The paper provided information regarding complications faced by private land occupiers undertaking rabbit management on land bordering Public/Crown land. Robert Win (Team Leader Biosecurity), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), and Joanna Gilroy (General Manager Environmental Delivery), were available for questions.

Resolution ESP25-103: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr McCall Seconded


That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends that Council endorse Option 1** that the Chair write a letter to the appropriate ministers highlighting the limited rabbit management on Crown/public land in Otago which has effects on private land occupiers' ability to manage rabbit populations on their land and opportunities for pest management approaches and programmes on Crown/public land.

MOTION CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Ellison declared the meeting closed with a karakia at 2:05 pm.



Chairperson

27 August 2025

Date