
Council MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Waitaki District Council, 20 Thames Street, Ōamaru, on Wednesday 23 July 2025, at 10:00 am.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/J6J2-OMKfn8?si=NehAoFrkfW86VCiH>

PRESENT

Cr Gretchen Robertson	<i>(Chair)</i>
Cr Lloyd McCall	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
Cr Alexa Forbes	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(online)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
Cr Tim Mepham	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Elliot Weir	
Cr Kate Wilson	

1. WELCOME

Mayor Kircher welcomed Otago Regional Council Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:00 am at the Waitaki District Council, in Ōamaru. The mayor wished the ORC well in its focus of ensuring that all Otago communities get what they need. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience) online, Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering), Ian Telfer (Manager Partnerships and Engagement) and online Warren Hanley (Senior Resource Planner Liaison), Tanith Robb (Senior Policy Analyst), Fleur Matthews (Manager, Policy and Planning), Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport).

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Pierre Marasti spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Pierre for attending.

Jim Thomson spoke as an ORC ratepayer. There was an opportunity for questions, Chair Robertson thanked Mr Thomson for attending.

Ash Muston, online, and Mark Smith, both from the Public Service Association, in room, spoke on the Living Wage Accreditation. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Ms Muston and Mr Smith for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There was a correction to matter 10.3 CM25-161 of the minutes to be amended, with that noted it was moved:

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 25 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed.

8. CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1. Chief Executive's Report

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

Resolution: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

1) Notes this report.

- 2) **Notes** that no additional funding is required in the 2025/26 annual plan for the delivery of an investigation into using funds from the managed fund to increase ORC's contribution to pest management and control.

MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Chairperson's Report

Chair Robertson and Cr Wilson gave updates on their attendance at the Local Government New Zealand Conference and Regional Sector Tour (hosted by the West Coast Regional Council).

Chair Robertson also responded to questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Cr Wilson returned to the meeting at 12:07 pm.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. ORC Submission on Proposed Changes to National Direction

[YouTube 2:07:27] This paper sought approval of the Council's submissions on the four packages of new and amended national direction under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Warren Hanley (Senior Resource Planner) online, Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning) online, Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land) online, and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Transport and Planning) online, were available to respond to questions on the report. Each package was reviewed separately.

At 12:23 pm it was moved Chair Robertson, seconded Cr Kelliher:

That Council adjourn until 1:00 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

On commencement at 1:00 pm the motions below were put forward:

Resolution CM25-172: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the draft Council submissions on packages 1, 2 and 3 of national direction.
- 3) **Delegates** to the Chair to provide the final sign off on the Council submissions, including any minor or editorial changes.
- 4) **Directs** staff to engage with Otago's territorial authorities on package 4 and finalise the ORC submission through the existing submission working group process.
- 5) **Delegates** to the Chair to provide final sign off on any Council submission on package 4 following input from the submissions working group.
- 6) **Delegates** authority to the CEO to sign off on behalf of Council the ORC staff submissions.
- 7) **Notes** the Council submissions and the staff submissions will be lodged by the submission due dates.

MOTION CARRIED

At 1:12 pm Cr Laws left the meeting.

At 1:56 pm Cr Laws returned to the meeting.

9.2. Revised Charter for Te Rōpū Taiao Murihiku

[YouTube 3:44:50] This paper sought Council approval for the Otago Regional Council to sign the revised Charter of Understanding, He Huarahi mō Ngā Uri Whakatupu, confirming its commitment to ongoing cooperation with tangata whenua of Murihiku Southland alongside other Otago and Southland councils. Ian Telfer (Manager Partnerships and Engagement), Sarah Martin (Senior Advisor Iwi Partnerships and Engagement) online, and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-173: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** that the Charter of Understanding between local authorities and tangata whenua of Murihiku Southland has been reviewed and updated through a regionally coordinated process, with input from all signatory parties.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Chair Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson.
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Noone, Cr Malcolm.
ABSTAINED	None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM25-174: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 2) Agrees** to endorse the revised Charter of Understanding, He Huarahi mō Ngā Uri Whakatupu, and delegates to the Chief Executive and Chairperson to agree any minor editorial changes, and then delegates to the Chairperson to sign.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson.
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone.
ABSTAINED	None

MOTION CARRIED

9.3. Flood Recovery Update 3

[YouTube 4:52:50] This paper provided an update on the progress of repairs to flood damaged sites from the three open flood recovery programmes arising from the 2022, 2023 and 2024 events. Brett Patterson (Manager Engineering) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-175: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Receives** this report.
- 2) Notes** the progress of the flood damage repairs.
- 3) Notes** the updated cost estimates and financial implications of flood damage repairs.

MOTION CARRIED

9.4. South Dunedin Future – Programme Update and Community Engagement Results

[YouTube 5:10:18] The purpose of the paper was to present the key findings from the recent community engagement activities relating to the South Dunedin Risk Assessment and seven Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin; and to provide an outline of the workplan and schedule through to completion of the South Dunedin Future programme, in December 2026. Jonathan Rowe (Programme Manager) Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) online, and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-176: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** the South Dunedin Future Engagement Report – Stage 4 Engagement: 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin.
- 2) Notes** the community engagement results will be combined with further technical and economic analysis to assess the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin, to produce an initial shortlist of futures for further investigation.
- 3) Notes** a fully developed shortlist of potential adaptation futures for South Dunedin is expected to be completed in late-2025 and presented to Councils in early-2026.
- 4) Notes** the work plan and schedule for the final two phases of the South Dunedin Future programme, which is expected to be completed by December 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5. Update to the Regional Coast Plan to Reflect Changes to Aquaculture Settlement Areas off the Otago Coast

[YouTube 5:31:00] This paper sought Council approval for an amendment to the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago (Amendment 2), which introduced a new Plan map identifying Aquaculture Settlement Areas within Otago's Coastal Marine Area (CMA), as required under section 85AA of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and to make consequential alterations. Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning) online, and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Transport and Planning) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-177: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Approves** Amendment 2 to the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago in attachment 1 to this report.
- 3) Approves** the further minor and consequential changes to the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago in attachment 2 to this report.
- 4) Affixes Council's** seal to Amendment 2 to the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago.
- 5) Resolves** to make Amendment 2 and the further minor and consequential changes operative from 1 August 2025, and publicly notify these amendments and their operative date on 31 July 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:02 pm it was moved Chair Robertson, seconded Cr Wilson:

That Council adjourn for 15 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

9.6. Prioritisation of Improvement Areas Identified in Te Korowai Evaluation Report

[YouTube 5:51] This report responded to Council's 19 February 2025 resolution that: 'Asks the Chief Executive to present a programme of business transformation to the July Council Meeting that will include options for prioritised areas of improvement listed in Te Korowai Evaluation Report'. Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner) online, and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report. The recommendations were amended in the meeting.

Resolution CM25-178: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Notes** the list of operational improvement items and the planned approach to addressing these points (attachment one).
- 3) Request** that staff prepare a report on the prioritisation of the Te Korowai actions to be presented to Council in the new triennium.

MOTION CARRIED

9.7. Living Wage Accredited Employer

[YouTube 6:05] This report outlined the opportunities and risks associated with ORC becoming a Living Wage Accredited Employer. Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate) and Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-179: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Initiates** the process for ORC's application for living wage accreditation.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Somerville, Cr Weir
AGAINST	Cr Forbes, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mephram, Cr Noone, Chair Robertson, Cr Wilson
ABSTAINED	None

MOTION FAILED

Resolution CM25-180: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) Directs** staff to report back to council with a draft implementation plan for living wage accreditation for council to discuss, including cost estimates for meeting the necessary criteria.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr Noone, Chair Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcom, Cr McCall, Cr Mephram
ABSTAINED	None.

MOTION CARRIED

9.8. Remuneration Authority Determination 2025/2026

[YouTube 6:48] This paper noted the 2025/26 Local Government Members Remuneration Determination, and adopt the 2025 Councillor Expenses, Reimbursements and Allowances Policy. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) and Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-181: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the updated remuneration rates for local authority members.
- 3) **Approves** the 2025 ORC Councillor Expenses, Reimbursements and Allowances Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

9.9. Update on Unit 3 School Services

[YouTube 7:00] This paper sought to approve the extension of Unit 3 (Dunedin Network) targeted school routes until a new Unit 1 contract begins. Jack Cowie (Transport Planner), Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead - Transport), and Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) online, were available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM25-182: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Agrees** to extend the targeted services in Unit 3 (routes 40, 95, and 96) until September 30, 2026.
- 3) **Notes** that route 96 (Dunedin North Intermediate to Pine Hill) is expected to be withdrawn once the route 5 timetable is amended to provide better after-school service. In this case, better means departure times that align with end of school time.
- 4) **Notes** that future service reviews will include consideration of whether school travel patterns served by these routes can be integrated into the core network.
- 5) **Notes** that the cost of the services is included in the 2025/2026 Annual Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion were submitted.

11. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded:

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

1. Confidential Minutes of Council 20 February 2025
 - 3.1 Unit 1 and 2 Tender
 - 3.2 Award of Lake Whakatipu Ferry Service Contract
 - 3.3 Chief Executive Annual Performance Review and KPI's for 2025/2026

It was also moved that:

Andrew Wilson from Spatial Ascent Ltd (Unit 1 and 2 Tender)

Rachel Pinn from RS Pinn Consultants Ltd (Whakatipu Ferry Services Contract)

Doug Craig from RDC (for Chief Executive Performance Review)

be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public was excluded, because of their knowledge of the respective reports. This knowledge, which was of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, and relevant to those matters because of their expertise.

MOTION CARRIED

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 20 February 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 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.
3.1 Unit 1 and 2 Tender	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 Award of Lake Whakatipu Ferry Service Contract	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	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

	<p>carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage – Section 7(2)(j)</p>	<p>information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</p>
<p>3.3 Chief Executive Annual Performance Review and KPI's for 2025/2026</p>	<p>To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)</p>	<p>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.</p>

12. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 4:29 pm.



Chairperson

Date

27 August 2025