



Otago
Regional
Council

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 21 May 2025, at 1:00 PM.

https://www.youtube.com/live/_JdcFF3gJTg?si=6qRjYYsgaZuJS9Hb

PRESENT

Cr Gretchen Robertson	<i>(Chairperson)</i>
Cr Lloyd McCall	<i>(Deputy Chairperson)</i>
Cr Gary Kelliher	<i>(online)</i>
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(online)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
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 pm. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), online, Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Libby Caldwell (Manager, Environmental Implementation), Elodie Letendre (Environmental Funding Lead), Sophie Gibson-Pinn, (Community Coordinator Biosecurity - Coastal), Emma Hodgkin (Frequency Senior Associate Project Management) Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Toan Nguyen (Senior Natural Hazards Adaptation Specialist), Ann Conroy (Team Leader Natural Hazards Adaptation).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded:

That the apology for Cr Forbes be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Pierre Marasti from Extinction Rebellion spoke to Council. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Pierre for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of their need to manage any conflicts of interest. Cr Mepham and Cr Wilson declared conflicts and confirmed they would sit back from the table when the matters were heard.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 20 November 2024, 19 March 2025 and 9 April 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions are scheduled to be reviewed in the June Council meeting.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

9.1. Chief Executive's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Chairperson's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1. Eco Fund Applications Recommendations

[YouTube 1:04:55] This paper sought endorsement of the recommended applications for council to provide funding for the ECO Fund March 2025 round. Cr Mepham and Cr Wilson sat back from the table for this report. Cr Somerville acknowledged Edward Ellison with grateful thanks for his work on this fund over the years. Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Elodie Letendre (Environmental Funding Lead) were present to respond to question on the report. An additional recommendation was added to the resolution.

Resolution CM25-153: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the reallocation of \$3,502 and \$35,000 from the internal budgets of Biodiversity operations and Land and Water operations respectively to provide funding towards the projects from Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau - Sinclair Wetlands and the Manuherekia Catchment Group (option 1 under budget reallocation).
2. **Approves** the funding recommendations of the ECO Fund Assessment Panel for the March 2025 round to a total value of \$1,059,178, as outlined in tables 3 to 8 (option 1 under general recommendations).
3. **Notes** that the annual review of the ECO Fund will be completed by October 2025 and the outcome of this review will be presented to Council for endorsement to enable the funding categories and criteria to be communicated prior to the next round in early 2026.
4. **Requests** that the Chair write a letter of thanks to Edward Ellison for his time spent supporting the ECO fund process.

MOTION CARRIED

Eight in favour, two abstained.

Cr Mepham and Cr Wilson abstained from the vote.

10.2. Site led programme update and funding recommendation for 2024/25

[YouTube 1:37:35] This paper provided an update on the current Site-Led Terrestrial Pest Management Programmes and sought approval for the allocation of a Site-Led budget to the areas as defined within the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029. Sophie Gibson-Pinn (Community Coordinator Biosecurity - Coastal) Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were present to respond to questions on the report. Cr Mepham sat back from this paper.

Resolution CM25-154: Cr Weir Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report and progress made to support the Site-Led Terrestrial Programmes to date.
2. **Approves** the allocation of \$59,626 to support biosecurity work on the first round of sites funded last financial year: Aramoana and Sandymount – Sandfly Bay sites.

3. **Approves** the allocation of \$133,811 to support the initiation of work at the second round of sites: Okia – Papanui – Taiaroa Hill and Leith Saddle – Mihiwaka.

MOTION CARRIED

Six in favour, three against, one abstained.

Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr Wilson voted against. Cr Mepham abstained from the vote.

At 2:50 pm it was moved Chair Robertson, seconded Cr Noone:

That Council adjourn for ten minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Weir left the meeting at 3:04 pm.

Cr Weir returned to the meeting at 3:08 pm.

10.3. Environmental Funding

[YouTube 2:15:40] This paper presented options to Council for approval of the delivery model of the new 'large-scale environmental fund'. Emma Hodgkin (Senior Associate Project Management Frequency Ltd), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were present to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-155: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Lays** the paper on the table.

MOTION CARRIED

8 in favour, 2 against.

Cr Somerville and Cr Weir voted against.

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 4:41 pm.

Cr Wilson returned to the meeting at 4:42 pm.

10.4. Head of Lake Whakatipu Natural Hazards Adaptation Programme

[YouTube 3:20:10] This paper updated Council on the progress related to the development of a natural hazards adaptation strategy for the Head of Lake Whakatipu (Whakatipu-Wai-Māori) area. To present the final version of the Head of Lake Whakatipu Natural Hazards Adaptation Strategy, including a 'Condensed' version or overview for Council's consideration and adoption. Jean-Luc Payan (Manager, Natural Hazards) Toan Nguyen (Senior Natural Hazards Adaptation Specialist), Ann Conroy (Team Leader, Natural Hazards), were present to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM25-156: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Notes** the progress of the Head of Lake Whakatipu natural hazards adaptation programme.
3. **Endorses** the Head of Lake Whakatipu Natural Hazards Adaptation Strategy detailed report (Appendix 1).
4. **Notes** the actions outlined for ORC in the Strategy Action Plan (Appendix 1, Section 10).
5. **Notes** the 'Condensed' overview document (Appendix 2).

MOTION CARRIED

All in favour.

14. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 4:51pm.

Chairperson

Date

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