

## Council MINUTES

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Aonui, 180 High Street, Dunedin, 29 April 2026, commencing at 1:00pm.**

**PRESENT**

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

## **1. WELCOME**

Chair Calvert welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1.00pm. Cr Robertson said a karakia to open the meeting. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Dianne Railton (Governance Team Leader), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

**Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:**

*That the apologies for Cr Laws, for lateness, be accepted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**3.1 Pierre Marasti**, spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, Chair Calvert thanked Pierre for attending.

**3.2 Tom Scott**, Public Health Policy Advisor, and **Dr Michael Butchard**, Medical Officer of Health, both from Te Whatu Ora spoke, Chair Calvert thanked both for attending.

**3.3 Paul Coffey** and **Emily Cambridge** spoke on behalf of Dunedin Tracks & Trails, Chair Calvert thanked both for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was confirmed as published.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations were held.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 March 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)**

The open action was reviewed, the Chief Executive confirming this action is now completed.

## **9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS**

### **9.1. Chairperson's Report**

**Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.2. Chief Executive's Report**

**Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 10.1. Priority Actions 2026-2028

[YouTube 36:44] This report revisited and clarified Council’s priorities for the remainder of the triennium. This reflected both the establishment of a new governance perspective and the need to respond to a changing operating environment, including the potential for local government reform. Councillors held a workshop on 19 March 2026 to explore and refine priority actions for the remainder of the triennium. Portfolio Lead, Chair Calvert, introduced the paper and was available to respond to questions. Two amendments were provided to the recommendations, both taken first separately.

#### Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **GCEA2:** *take our best endeavours to institute a mutually agreed way to provide opportunities for mana whenua to contribute to decision making processes.*

#### BY DIVISION

<b>FOR</b>	Cr Hollyer, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson
<b>AGAINST</b>	Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Calvert, Cr Gillespie, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm
<b>ABSTAINED</b>	None

#### MOTION FAILED

5 in favour, 7 against.

#### Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

- 5) **Approves** *the inclusion of an additional priority action for air quality; SPA4: Finalise a system to take effective action to reduce winter air pollution in the most seriously affected Otago towns.*

#### BY DIVISION

<b>FOR</b>	Cr Hollyer, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville
<b>AGAINST</b>	Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Calvert, Cr Gillespie, Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson.
<b>ABSTAINED</b>	None

#### MOTION FAILED

3 in favour, 9 against.

#### Resolution CM26-167: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** *this report.*
- 2) **Approves** *the proposed priority action list, subject to any further refinement from Council.*
- 3) **Notes** *that the priority actions will be integrated into Council’s reporting and planning processes.*
- 4) **Notes** *that one page ‘plan on a page’ will be developed for each priority action once the actions are confirmed.*
- 5) **Approves** *the inclusion of an additional priority action for air quality; CPA8 Identify priority locations for targeted resource investment into air quality improvement initiatives across the Otago region with a focus on the greatest environmental improvements in the lowest quality air sheds.*
- 6) **Notes** *that Council will need to consider the level of funding commitment for all priority actions which require investment over and above what is included in the approved annual plan.*

#### MOTION CARRIED

*Cr Robertson left the meeting at 2:44pm*  
*Cr Robertson returned to the meeting at 3:27pm*

### **10.2. Annual Plan 2026-27 Adoption**

[YouTube 1:48:20] The purpose of this report was to adopt the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2026-27 and enable the subsequent approval of rates and charges for the 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 financial year. Portfolio lead, Cr Malcom introduced the paper, Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner), Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Planning and Performance), Amanda Vercoe (General Manager Strategy and Customer), Nick Donnelly (General Manager Finance), were available to respond to questions on the report. An amendment was proposed.

#### **Resolution: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

**1) *Wilding Pine Rate:*** *current proposal is for \$2.46 per property, it is proposed that this is increased to \$5.00 per property.*

#### **MOTION FAILED**

2 in favour, 10 against.

#### **Resolution CM26-168: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

**1) *Notes*** *the resolutions from the 25 February 2026 Council meeting relating to the Annual Plan, including approval of the Otago Regional Council Schedule of Fees and Charges applicable from 1 July 2026.*

**2) *Resolves*** *that having considered the matters in section 100(2) of the Local Government Act 2002, it is financially prudent to have an annual operating deficit of \$1.26 million for the 2026-2027 Annual Plan year.*

**3) *Adopts*** *the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2026-27, as attached to this report.*

**4) *Approves*** *the delegation of minor editorial corrections and formatting of the Annual Plan 2026-27 to the Otago Regional Council Chief Executive.*

**5) *Notes*** *that the associated rates resolution for the 2026-27 year will be presented to Council in June 2026 for approval.*

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Laws voted against.

At 3:50 pm Council adjourned until 4:10 pm.

### **10.3. Process for developing the Long-Term Plan 2027-37**

[YouTube 3:13] The purpose of this report was to initiate the development of the core statutory document for Otago Regional Council, the 2027–37 Long-Term Plan (LTP). It outlined the proposed process, high level timeframes, governance arrangements, and the role of elected members in delivering the plan. Portfolio lead, Cr Malcolm, introduced the paper, Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner), Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Planning and Performance), Amanda Vercoe (General Manager Strategy and Customer), and Nick Donnelly (General Manager Finance), were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-169: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Endorses** the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 process outlined in this report and attachments.
- 2) **Notes** the role of the Otago Regional Council elected members in the LTP process.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 4:23 pm.*

*Cr Malcolm returned to the meeting at 4:25 pm.*

**10.4. Large Scale Environment Fund**

[YouTube 3:25] This report presented options to Council for adoption of the delivery model of the Large-scale Environmental Fund. Portfolio lead, Cr Noone, introduced the paper and Soraya Engelken (Project Delivery Specialist Freshwater and Biodiversity), and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-170: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** Option 3 (combination of targeted investment and open expressions of interest).
- 3) **Approves** staff finalising the detailed design, criteria and administration process for the selected model.

**BY DIVISION**

<b>FOR:</b>	Cr Calvert, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws
<b>ABSTAINED:</b>	None

**MOTION CARRIED**

8 in favour, 4 against.

**10.5. Taieri Rates Adjustment - Revised 2025-2026 Rates Resolution**

[YouTube 4:21:30] This paper was brought for Council to consider setting 2025/2026 rates again for the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme. Portfolio lead, Cr Malcolm, introduced the paper and Sarah Munro (Group Financial Controller), and Nick Donnelly (General Manager Finance), were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-171: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Revokes** the following table included in section 3.1 of the 2025/2026 Rating Resolution for the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme rate as approved at the 25 June 2025 Council meeting:

Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme		
Classification	Rate in \$ on Capital Value	Revenue Sought \$
WF1	0.00142572	\$1,097,796
WF2	0.00142572	
EF1	0.00003203	\$135,683

EF2	0.00003203		
EF3	0.00003203		
EF4	0.00003203		
EF5	0.00003203		
EF6	0.00003203		
EF7	0.00003203		
EF8	0.00003203		
EF9	0.00003203		
EF10	0.00003203		
EF12	0.00003203		
EF13	0.00003203		
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,233,478</b>

3) **Adopts** the following table as the 2025/2026 Rating Resolution for the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme rate:

Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme		
Classification	Rate in \$ on Capital Value	Revenue Sought \$
WF1	0.00142572	\$1,097,796
WF2	0.00142572	
EF1	0.00003066	\$135,682
EF2	0.00003066	
EF3	0.00003066	
EF4	0.00003066	
EF5	0.00003066	
EF6	0.00003066	
EF7	0.00003066	
EF8	0.00003066	
EF9	0.00003066	
EF10	0.00003066	
EF12	0.00003066	
EF13	0.00003066	
<b>Total</b>		

**MOTION CARRIED**

At 5:22pm Cr Robertson left the meeting.

At 5:24 pm Cr Robertson joined the meeting.

### **10.6. Options for Air Quality Improvement Initiatives**

[YouTube 4:22:53] This report provided options to consider spending \$600,000 of the anticipated underspend from FY25-26 on non-regulatory initiatives to improve air quality and human health outcomes in the region. Portfolio lead, Cr Gillespie, introduced the paper, Anita Dawe (General Manager Regional Planning and Transport), and Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), online, were available to respond to questions on the report. There was an amendment to the recommendations.

#### **Resolution CM26-172: Cr Gillespie Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes this report.**
- 2) Notes the inclusion of an additional priority action in the resolution for paper 10.1 which enables Councillors to consider investment in air quality initiatives alongside investment opportunities to deliver on other priorities.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Resolution CM26-173: Cr Gillespie Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) Directs the \$600,000 of anticipated underspend from FY25-26 to be held in reserves.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Somerville and Cr Robertson voted against.

### **10.7. Otago Public and Active Transport Connectivity Strategy**

[YouTube 4:30] The purpose of this report was to seek Council direction on whether to proceed with developing a regional Public and Active Transport Connectivity Strategy to progress the multi-modal actions agreed in the Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035. Portfolio lead, Cr Somerville introduced the paper, Robyn Hyde (online) and Anita Dawe (General Manager Regional Planning and Transport), were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-174: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes this report.**
- 2) Approves the development of a Public and Active Connectivity Strategy for Otago, with work to commence from July 2026 (Option 1).**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Gardner left the meeting at 5:47pm*

*Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 5:49pm*

### **10.8. Recreational Water Quality Annual Report**

[YouTube 4:51] This report provided an overview of the programme and accompanied the report card summarising the results of weekly monitoring undertaken during the 2025-26 season. Portfolio lead, Cr Kelliher, introduced the paper, Ben Mackey (Manager Science) and Helen Trotter (Water Quality Scientist), were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM26-175: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes this report.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None for this meeting.

**12. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 6:08 pm.

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Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date