

**Council  
MINUTES**

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held at the Council Chamber, Clutha District Council, 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha, Otago, Wednesday 25 March 2026, commencing at 10:30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

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

## **1. WELCOME**

Clutha District Council Mayor, Jock Martin, welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:30 am. Cr Neil Gillespie 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), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

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

*That the apologies for Chair Calvert and Cr Laws (for lateness) be accepted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**3.1 Caitriona Prunty** - Oamaru Community Shuttle Service spoke, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Malcolm thanked Caitriona for attending.

**3.2 Mary O'Brien** CCS Disability Action spoke via zoom on the Oamaru Community Shuttle, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Malcolm thanked Mary for attending.

*At 10:48 am Cr Laws joined the meeting.*

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**It was Moved Cr Wilson, Seconded Cr Kelliher**

*That the additional document:*

**1) Council Supplementary Agenda 25 March 2026 be accepted to this agenda by Council.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

**Enviroschools Council Presentation: Annual Review 2025**

Ian Telfer, Manager (Partnerships and Engagement), Leisa de Klerk (Enviroschools Regional Coordinator Dunedin) and Lexie Davidson (Enviroschools Regional Coordinator Central) presented the annual review.

Principal and Senior Teacher Kaz Bissett and students of Waiwera South School spoke on their Enviroschools activities which have helped reduce waste and promote a healthy environment in their school over the seven years of involvement with the Enviroschools programme.

Cr Malcolm thanked the Enviroschools team, the teachers and students in attendance.

There was a short adjournment for photos after this item.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

There are currently no open actions for Council.

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

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

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

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

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

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **10.1. Water Quality Annual Report 2025**

[YouTube 1:16] This report provided an annual update of the current state of water quality and ecosystem health based on results from the State of the Environment surface water monitoring network, from July 2024 to June 2025. This annual reporting is required by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. Portfolio Lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper. Ben Mackey (Manager Science) and Helen Trotter (Water Quality Scientist) were available online for questions.

**Resolution CM26-139: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **10.2. Clutha Liaison Group**

[YouTube 1:38] This report updated the Council regarding the formation of the Lower Clutha Liaison Group, presented the confirmed Terms of Reference for approval, and sought confirmation of the Councillor Representative for the Group. Portfolio Lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper, Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering) and Kirsten Tebbutt (Team Leader Planning and Partnerships) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-140: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-141: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

That the Council:

**2) *Approves the Terms of Reference for the Lower Clutha Liaison Group.***

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-142: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) *Appoints*** Councillor Robbie Byars as Councillor Representative, and Cr Kate Wilson as alternative representative, for the Lower Clutha Liaison Group.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Somerville voted against.

**Resolution CM26-143: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

- 4) *Thanks*** those community members who have put themselves forward to be members of the Lower Clutha Liaison Group.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*At 12:20 pm Council adjourned for lunch until 12:50.*

**It was Moved Cr Malcolm, Seconded Cr Somerville**

*To hear 10.6 Ōamaru Community Shuttle Trial next in the agenda.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.6. Ōamaru Community Shuttle Trial**

[YouTube 2:32] This paper sought direction from Council on the continuation of the Ōamaru Community Shuttle beyond the six-month trial period. Portfolio Lead Cr Sommerville introduced the paper, Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-144: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) *Notes*** this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-145: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 2) *Approves*** additional funding, of up to \$25,000 to be paid to the Freemasons Lodge Ōamaru Kilwinning 82 Trust, for the purposes of fuel costs, maintenance costs, insurance costs and any other ancillary costs approved by the Chief Executive, associated with the Ōamaru community transport trial, for the period 1 May 2026 – 30 September 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-146: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) *Notes*** the additional funding is not authorised to be used to contribute toward paying drivers.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-147: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

- 4) *Thanks*** the Oamaru Community Shuttle volunteers for enabling this service.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 10.3. Integrated Catchment Management Plan Review

[YouTube 2:40] This report presented the proposed implementation plan and options to accelerate the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) programme to Council. Cr Noone, portfolio lead introduced the paper. Jo Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Melanie White (Team Leader Integrated Catchment Management), Sophie Fern (Catchment Action Planner) and Joanne Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### Resolution CM26-148: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** the report on the Integrated Catchment Management Programme.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### Resolution CM26-149: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

That the Council:

- 2) **Approves** Option B for four further Catchment Action Plans to be delivered by the end of December 2027 to complete the initial rollout of the ICM programme. This includes the rollout order:
  - a) Dunedin and Coast commencing May 2026
  - b) Upper Clutha/Mata Au commencing June 2026
  - c) Lower Clutha/Mata Au commencing July 2026
  - d) North Otago commencing March 2027

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### Resolution CM26-150: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 3) **Endorses** that all Catchment Action Plans with a boundary on the coast include consideration of the Coastal Marine Area.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### An amendment was Moved Cr Byars, Seconded Cr Laws

That the Council:

- 4) **Approves** the updated Governance Structure for the ICM Programme including the current ICM Working Group being renamed the Integrated Catchment Management Governance Board to include only elected councillors and the Otago Catchment Communities representative as voting members and remove provision for mana whenua as members.

A division was called:

#### Vote

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

**MOTION FAILED**

**Resolution CM26-152: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 4) **Approves** the updated Governance structure for the ICM Programme including the current ICM Working Group being renamed the Integrated Catchment Management Governance Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-153: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 5) **Approves** (with amendments regarding reporting) the Terms of Reference for the new Integrated Catchment Management Governance Board

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-154: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 6) **Nominates** Councillors Noone (Chair) / Councillor Malcolm/ Cr Gillespie and Cr Byars to be Councillor representatives on the Integrated Catchment Management Governance Board

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-155: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 7) **Nominates** Councillor Gardner as the representative on the Dunedin and Coast Governance and Delivery Group

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-156: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 8) **Nominates** Councillor Malcolm and Councillor Noone as the representative on the North Otago Governance and Delivery Group.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-157: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

That the Council:

- 9) **Nominates** Councillor Gillespie as the representative on the Clutha Mata-au Governance and Delivery Group

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-158: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

- 10) **Nominates** Councillor Noone and Councillor Wilson as alternative, as the representative on the Lower Clutha Mata-au Governance and Delivery Group

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-159: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

**11) Notes** the existing roles of Councillor Wilson (Taiari), Councillor Byars (Catlins) and Councillor Hollyer (Upper Lakes) on the respective Governance and Delivery Groups

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-160: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

**12) Endorses** the Implementation Plan Summary included as Attachment Two.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-161: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

**13) Agrees** that any alternate Councillor may attend a Governance and Delivery Group meeting where the nominated Councillor is unable to attend.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Laws left the meeting at 2:11 pm.*

*Cr Gardner left the meeting at 2:10 pm.*

*Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 2:12 pm.*

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 2:14 pm.*

*Cr Noone left the meeting at 2:15 pm.*

*Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 2:16 pm.*

*Cr Laws left the meeting at 2:15 pm.*

*Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 2:16 pm.*

**10.4. Q1-Q2 Public Transport Performance Report**

[YouTube 3:43] To update Council on the performance of Public Transport and Total Mobility for Q1 and Q2 of the 2025/26 Financial Year, July 2025 - December 2025. Portfolio Lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper, Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), and Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead – Transport), Christine Rout (Implementation Planning Advisor), Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-162: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

**1) Notes** this summary of public transport activity in Otago for Q1-Q2 2025/26.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.5. Community Transport**

[YouTube 4:09] The purpose of this report was to seek Council direction and approval to progress the community transport actions agreed in the Regional Public Transport Plan 2025 to 2035. Cr Somerville portfolio lead introduced the paper. Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) and Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-163: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the significant body of work to understand the community transport landscape in Otago and the views of communities already compiled through the Regional Public Transport Plan.
- 3) **Approves** the development of a community transport programme policy framework that empowers and enables communities.
- 4) **Notes** the value of supporting communities to deliver community transport services.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Cr Malcolm, seconded by Cr Somerville**

*That Council adjourn for a ten minute break, returning at 3 pm.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.7. 2026 ORC Community Survey - Draft Results Report**

[YouTube 4:41] The purpose of this report was to provide the draft results report for ORC's 2026 community survey. Cr Laws Portfolio Lead introduced the paper. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) and Vicki Roach (Marketing and Brand Team Lead) were available to answer questions, and Natalie Richards of Versus Research gave a high level presentation of the survey results. The Chief Executive agreed to provide a further breakdown of data which shows those respondents who rated particular questions a 4.

**Resolution CM26-164: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the draft 2026 community survey results.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-165: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) **Agrees** Option C approach for deeper consideration of the community feedback report and development of an action plan (Option C: **Directs** the Chief Executive to develop a draft action plan and bring back to council by June 2026).

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.8. Regional Software Holdings Limited Statement of Intent 2026-27**

[YouTube 5:16] This report provided the Regional Software Holdings Limited's Draft Statement of Intent for 2026-27 and Half Yearly Report for the period ended 31 December 2025. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-166: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report and the attached draft Statement of Intent 2026-27 and the Half Yearly Report for the period ended 31 December 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 12. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Malcolm declared the meeting closed at 3:43 pm.



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Chairperson

29 April 2026  
Date