Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Aonui, 180 High Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 29 July 2026, commencing at 10:30 am

https://www.youtube.com/live/PqMKK74Qm3M?si=ErDhysH1hvl2I5vp

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME

Cr Gardner opened the meeting with a reflection. Chair Calvert welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:30 am and acknowledged the recent passing of Waitaki District Council Councillor Jim Hopkins. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Dianne Railton (Team Leader Governance), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Laws for an early departure be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 Don Robertson, online spoke on matter 9.2 Otago Deep Water Lakes Research and Monitoring Proposal, the Chair thanked Dr Robertson for attending.

3.2 Pierre Marasti spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, the Chair thanked Pierre for attending.

3.3 Simon Telfer spoke on behalf of the Wanaka Upper Clutha Community Board, the Chair thanked Simon for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was Moved Cr Calvert, Seconded Cr Malcolm

That the Supplementary agenda for 29 July 2026, be received and added to the agenda item under Item 9.1 Rates Review.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Byars Seconded

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 June 2026 be received and 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'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

8.1. Chairperson's Report

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

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

1) ***Notes*** *this report*
2) ***Delegates*** *authority to the Chair and Deputy Chair to provide support and input on behalf of Otago Regional Council to any correspondence from Otago Mayors, or independently, to Government regarding local government simplification in Otago, ensuring ORC's priorities are highlighted including the importance of catchment management and managing environmental matters and authorises the Chair to approve ORC's formal endorsement of such correspondence.*

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Byars, Cr Gillespie, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Wilson, Chair Calvert
AGAINST	Cr Gardner, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville
ABSTAINED	None
CASTING VOTE	Chair Calvert

MOTION CARRIED
6 in favour, 6 against, 1 casting vote from Chair.

8.2. Chief Executive's Report

Richard Saunders was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the report be noted.

MOTION CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Rates Review

[YouTube 1:08:20] This paper updated the Council on the early feedback from the Lower Clutha and Lower Taieri Flood and Drainage Scheme Liaison Groups in respect of the review of rates across the Lower Taieri and Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Schemes. Cr Kelliher introduced the paper. Brett Paterson (Manager Engineering), Kirsten Tebbutt (Team Leader Planning and Partnerships) online, Hayley Nicholson (Engagement Specialist) online, and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-205: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *the Statement of Proposal and the draft consultation plan.*
3) ***Approves*** *public consultation on the proposed options, noting the Council's preferred option, in accordance with the draft consultation plan, under the Local Government Act 2002, subject to any changes discussed.*
4) ***Delegates to the Chief Executive*** *the authority to correct any minor typographical errors in the Statement of Proposal as required prior to notification.*
5) ***Delegates*** *authority to Councillors Robertson, Kelliher, Wilson and Gardner to hear submissions on the outcome of the Scheme Rates review and make recommendations to Council on adopting the confirmed option.*
6) ***Notes*** *that a quorum of three Councillors will be required to hear submissions.*
7) ***Delegates*** *Councillor Noone authority as an alternate for the group should it be required.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Byars abstained from the vote.

9.2. Otago Deep Water Lakes Research and Monitoring Proposal

[YouTube 1:24] This report presented a proposed monitoring and research programme to support evidence-based management of Otago's deep lakes, for consideration by the Council. This proposal was requested by the June 2025 Science and Resilience Committee. Portfolio lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper. Ben Mackey (Manager Science), Jason Augspurger (Principal Scientist), Hugo Borges (Senior Scientist - Lakes), Associate Professor Marc Schallenberg (Southern Lakes Laboratory, Otago University) and David Plew (Earth Sciences NZ) online, were available to respond to questions on the report.

At 12:32 pm It was moved Cr Robertson, Seconded Cr Noone

That Council adjourn for 5 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Decides** not to include funding for this Deep Lakes Research and Monitoring proposal in the draft Long-term Plan.*
2) ***Notes** the work of the Otago Deep Water Lakes Technical Advisory Group in producing this proposal, and thanks the participants for their contribution and expertise.*

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Calvert.
AGAINST:	Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson.
ABSTAINED:	None.

MOTION FAILED

Resolution CM26-206: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Receives** the Otago Deep Water lakes monitoring and research programme for consideration as part of the development of the upcoming Draft Long-Term Plan.*
2) ***Directs** governance and staff to continue to explore potential funding contributions from potential partners and deliver a Council Workshop to inform Governance roles and oversight to seek funding.*

BY DIVISION

FOR:	Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson, Chair Calvert
AGAINST:	Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher
ABSTAINED:	None.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-207: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes** the work of the Otago Deep Water Lakes Technical Advisory Group in producing this proposal, and thanks the participants for their contribution and expertise.*

MOTION CARRIED

At 1:40 pm it was Moved Cr Wilson, Seconded Cr Robertson
That Council adjourn until 2:15pm
MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws left the meeting at 1:40 pm.
Council reconvened at 2:18 pm

9.3. Natural Hazard Prioritisation

[YouTube 4:00:20] This paper updated Council on the findings of the Otago region natural hazards prioritisation work programme. Portfolio lead Cr Kelliher introduced the paper. Tim van Woerden (Senior Natural Hazards Analyst) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-208: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Endorses*** *the report* Otago Region Natural Hazards Prioritisation Method*, dated June 2026.*
3) ***Notes*** *the natural hazards prioritisation findings.*
4) ***Endorses*** *the use of natural hazards prioritisation findings as a basis for ORC Natural Hazards planning for the 2027-2037 LTP, and engagement for the proposed LTP activities.*
5) ***Notes*** *the next steps in the work programme.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.4. Risk Appetite Framework

[YouTube 4:17] This report presented the Risk Appetite Framework to Council for adoption. It follows the Council workshop on 28 May 2026, subsequent refinement of the framework based on the feedback from the workshop, and the Audit and Risk Committee discussion on 25 June 2026. The report seeks one decision from Council - on the treatment of the Mana Whenua Partnership category and Council's adoption of the framework. Co-Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee Cr Malcolm introduced the paper, Ginny Irving (Senior Risk and Assurance Business Partner), Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Planning and Performance) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CEO) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-209: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report and the updated Risk Appetite Framework.*

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-210: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
2) ***Decides*** *to retain Mana Whenua Partnership Risk as a level One Category.*

MOTION CARRIED
Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher and Cr Gardner voted against.

Resolution CM26-211: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
3) ***Adopts*** *the Risk Appetite Framework, as amended to reflect the decision at 2.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.5. Wanaka-Upper Clutha Public Transport Investigations Business Case

[YouTube 4:32] This paper reported on the ORC Annual Plan 2025/26 direction to complete a business case for public transport in the Upper Clutha. Portfolio lead Cr Somerville introduced the paper. Robyn Hyde (Acting Planning Transport Lead) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-212 Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the endorsement of the Public Transport Upper Clutha Investment Case.*
3) ***Notes*** *the preferred option for an Upper Clutha public transport service trial will be included in the transport projects put forward for consideration in ORC's 2027 Draft Long-Term Plan.*
4) ***Notes*** *the preferred option for an Upper Clutha public transport service trial will be included in ORC's public transport service improvement programme for inclusion in Otago's 2027-2030 Regional Land Transport Plan and 2027-2030 National Land Transport Plan bid.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.6. Bus Stop Audit Infrastructure Update

[YouTube 4:50] The purpose of this paper was to update Council on progress made in relation to the Dunedin bus stop audit work programme, including completed and ongoing bus stop infrastructure improvements. Portfolio lead Cr Somerville introduced the paper. Kaila Dobson (Implementation Advisor - Transport), Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM26-213: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
***1) Notes** this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.7. Customer Satisfaction Survey Dunedin and Queenstown

[YouTube 4:53:30] This paper updated Council on the 2026 Public Transport Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey results for the Dunedin and Whakatipu bus networks. Portfolio lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper. Gemma Wilson (Analyst Transport), Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead - Transport) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-214: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:
***1) Notes** this summary of results for Public Transport Annual Customer Satisfaction 2026.*
MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gardner left the meeting at 3:22 pm.
Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 3:23 pm.

9.8. Cruise Ship Season 2025/26

[YouTube 5:05] This paper presented information on the performance of 2025/26 cruise ship public transport services, and information on the upcoming 2026/27 cruise ship season. Portfolio lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper. Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead - Transport) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-215: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
***1) Notes** this report summarising the public transport response to the 2025/26 cruise ship season.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.9. LTP Development - Non-Financial Forecasting Assumptions

[YouTube5:08] This report sought Council endorsement of the draft non-financial significant forecasting assumptions which underpin development of the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 (LTP). Portfolio lead Cr Malcolm introduced the paper. Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), Ema Kurbos-Cooper (Advisor - Strategy) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CEO) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-216: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Approves*** *the draft non-financial Significant Forecasting Assumptions for the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 as described in this report and attached.*
2) ***Notes*** *that assumptions are based on available data, therefore some factors will be established later in the year when further data is available; final assumptions will be presented to Council for approval along with the draft Long-Term Plan budgets.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.10. Remuneration Authority Determination 2026/27
[YouTube 5:20] This report noted the 2026/27 Local Government Members Remuneration Determination, and adopted the 2026 Councillor Expenses, Reimbursements and Allowances Policy. Amanda Vercoe (General Manager Strategy and Customer Depuy CEO) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-217: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the 2026 ORC Councillor Expenses, Reimbursements and Allowances Policy.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.11. Port Otago Statement of Corporate Intent 2026-2029
[YouTube 5:22] The paper shared Port Otago's Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for the three years to 30 June 2029. Portfolio lead Cr Malcolm introduced the paper. Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-218: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Receives*** *this report and the attached Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago Limited to 30 June 2029.*
2) ***Endorses*** *the Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago to 30 June 2029.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.12. Regional Software Holdings Limited Statement of Intent 2026-2027
[YouTube 5:34] This paper shared the Regional Software Holdings Limited's Statement of Intent for 2026-2027. Portfolio lead Cr Malcolm introduced the paper. Nick Donnelly was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-219: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report and the attached RSHL Statement of Intent 2026-2027.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.13. Register of the Common Seal
[YouTube 5:35:50] This paper informed the Council of delegations which have been exercised requiring application of the Council Seal during the period of 24 September 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Resolution CM26-220: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION
No notices of motion were submitted for this meeting.

11. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC
Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:
That the public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):
1.1 Public Excluded Minutes of Council 24 June 2026
2.1 Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal: Approval
2.2 Chief Executive Annual Performance Review and KPIs for 2026/2027
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 Minutes of Council 24 June 2026	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)	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.
2.1 Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal: Approval	To enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with the Crown. 7(2)(i)	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.
2.2 Chief Executive Annual Performance Review and KPIs for 2026/2027	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)	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.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

12. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 3:54 pm.

26 August 2026

Chairperson | Date