



Otago
Regional
Council

Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Te Pou Ō Mata-Au Clutha District War Memorial & Community Centre in Balclutha on Wednesday 20 November 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM.

PRESENT

Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Lloyd McCall
Cr Alexa Forbes
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Tim Mepham
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Alan Somerville
Cr Elliot Weir
Cr Kate Wilson

(Chairperson)

(Deputy Chairperson)

DRAFT

1. WELCOME

Chair Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1 pm with a karakia. Mayor Bryan Cadogan welcomed the Otago Regional Council to Balclutha and to Te Pou Ō Mata Au, War Memorial Community Centre. Mayor Cadogan shared with the Councillors the Morrison & Low Report on the progress of the Three Waters. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience) Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE) online, Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Amber Paterson spoke online to the Council on the erosion at 905-921 Harrington Point. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Ms Paterson for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded to stand aside if a conflict of interest arose. No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

1:45pm Mayor Cadogan left the meeting.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Morgan Watt and Robb Stevens from Fonterra gave a presentation on the team in Balclutha and the Stirling Biomass Boiler. The system offers 100% renewable energy and has been key for putting an end to burning coal at Stirling. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Fonterra for attending.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 23 October 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record

MOTION CARRIED

8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. A couple of updates were noted.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

9.1. Chairperson's Report

Cr Robertson summarised her report giving a huge thanks to those hosting the Otago Regional Council in the Catlins area, acknowledging the world class environment and something to be very proud of.

Chair Robertson highlighted in her report the recent resignation of Cr Bryan Scott after two decades of service to the council, giving a huge thanks for the invaluable years of service and the lasting impacts he's made to our Otago community, and this community, Balclutha being his home town.

Resolution: Cr Mephram Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion Carried

9.2. Chief Executive's Report

Chief Executive Richard Saunders gave an overview to council on his report, including customer service levels and volume of customer inquiries, additional resource is being initiated to receive all calls being made through the time of rating penalty notices. Non-financial levels of service are being flagged as orange and staff are keeping a close eye on these, for example, the Land and Water Plan. The summary of finances was described as positive at this stage of the year, overall statement of financial position is showing a strong balance sheet. There was an opportunity for questions from Councillors.

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion Carried

Cr Laws left the meeting at 3:20 pm.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 3:28 pm.

10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1. Catlins Catchment Action Plan

[YouTube 1:02:10] Cr Lloyd McCall detailed to Council the development of the catchment working group from July 2023 which was developed to enable the community to envision their own catchment goals. The Catlins was chosen as the first place to start introducing the concept. Cr McCall recognised and thanked the brave council of the previous triennium, the members of the Integrated Catchment Working Group, iwi partners, and key members such as Grant Bradfield, Rachel Napier, Cr Kate Wilson and Vincent Leith, who's submitted words were read by Sophie Fern.

Sophie Fern and Charly Richardson presented the Catlins Catchment Action Plan (CAP) and recommended a framework for CAP delivery and support from the Otago Regional Council, there was a presentation also from the group.

Resolution CM24-196: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

- 1. Endorses** the Catlins Catchment Action Plan as presented by the Catlins Integrated Catchment Group as a plan that sets the direction, in principle, for taking action to enhance the environment of the Catlins.
- 2. Notes** the proposed framework for ORC Staff support for ongoing CAP delivery as shown in Figure 2 and that this delivery structure may change through discussions with the ICG.
- 3. Approves** the allocation of \$100,000 from the existing Environmental Implementation annual budget for 2024-25 to be used to implement actions that deliver on the strategies in the Catlins CAP.

MOTION CARRIED

At 3:32 it was moved by Chair Robertson, seconded by Cr Wilson that Council adjourn for ten minutes for rest break. The meeting reconvened at 3:42pm

Cr Kelliher joined the meeting at 3:46 pm.

10.2. ECO Fund and incentive criteria review

[YouTube 2:30:00] This paper sought approval for funding of the 2025 ECO Fund and associated incentive funding and the approval of the recommendations arising from the review of the ECO Fund and associated incentives funding programmes. Anna Molloy, Principal Advisor - Environment Implementation), Elodie Letendre, Environmental Initiatives Funding Coordinator, Libby Caldwell, Team Leader Environmental Implementation) and Joanna Gilroy, General Manager Environmental Delivery were available to respond to questions on the report. The resolutions were taken in parts, with Cr Noone adding an additional recommendation to the first resolution regarding use of non-natives in the Proposed Eligibility Criteria.

Resolution CM24-197: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 1. Approves** the inclusion of the following incentive budgets in the ECO Fund process, noting these budgets will be 'ring-fenced' to ensure any additional or specific criteria are met:
 - a) Large scale biodiversity projects – up to \$450,000 (increased from \$300,000)
 - b) Sustained rabbit management incentives – up to \$100,000
 - c) Biodiversity enhancement on protected private land – up to \$100,000
 - d) Critical source area enhancement on private land - up to \$50,000
 - e) Weed removal and revegetation - up to \$50,000
- 2. Proposed eligibility criteria** to be amended so that non-native plants be allowed to be funded under special circumstances, as assessed as appropriate for project outcomes and for improved environmental outcomes.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-198: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded

That the Council:

3. Decides option 2 for the funding of wages criterion (within Table 3) and then **Approves** the eligibility criteria for each funding category as set out in Attachment 1.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-199: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

4. Approves the revised assessment criteria outlined in Attachment 2.

5. Approves the terms and conditions for applicants in Attachment 3.

6. Approves the updating of the Terms of Reference for the Assessment Panel, as suggested in Attachment 4.

7. Notes that the ECO Fund forms, communications, and processes will be amended to reflect the recommendations approved and streamlined where appropriate to reduce the input required from all parties.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Malcolm voted against.

10.3. Annual Plan 2025/2026 Transport

[Youtube 3:04:40] This paper was presented to enable Council to make decisions on provision of transport work programmes, in light of those work programmes not receiving funding through the National Land Transport Fund. Lorraine Cheyne, Transport Manager, and Richard Saunders, Chief Executive, were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM24-200: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report.

MOTION CARRIED

There was an addition to the recommendation and a division was called:

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

1. Approves a preferred option for inclusion in the draft Annual Plan in relation to transport as follows:

a. The preferred option for Routes 5/6 and 10 frequencies and/or overall Dunedin network extended service coverage is Option 2 with a focus on extending timetable coverage and limited to spending only the local (ORC) share of funding included in the LTP

For:	Cr Forbes, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson.
Against:	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mephram, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson.
Abstained:	

MOTION FAILED

Resolution CM24-201: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

2. Approves a preferred option for inclusion in the draft Annual Plan in relation to transport as follows:

- a. The preferred option for Routes 5/6 and 10 frequencies and/or overall Dunedin network extended service coverage is Option 3, maintain existing LOS for Routes 5/6 and 10 frequencies and extended service coverage (Dunedin).

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws and Cr Weir against.

Resolution CM24-202: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- b. The preferred option for Queenstown ferries is Option 1, maintain existing level of ferry service.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-203: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Mepham Seconded

That the Council:

- c. The preferred option for the Oamaru service is Option 2, to investigate an option of connecting to the Dunedin network as an alternative to an 'around town' option.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-204: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- d. The preferred option for the Alexandra – Clyde – Cromwell - Queenstown service is Option 2, retain small funding investment to investigate how to move workers from Alexandra/Cromwell through to Queenstown.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-205: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- e. The preferred option for the Balclutha- Airport- Dunedin service is Option 3, to investigate a PT option to connect to existing Dunedin services.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-206: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- f. The preferred option for the Wanaka Business case is Option 1, do not deliver a service (maintain existing level of service).

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gary Kelliher voted against

Resolution CM24-207: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

- g. The preferred option for public transport infrastructure is Option1, deliver PT infrastructure improvements to the value of the local share currently provided for in the LTP. Prioritise infrastructure spend based on health and Safety risk and functionality.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-208: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

3. Notes that staff will complete an assessment to determine whether the proposed changes to the Long-Term Plan will require a formal consultation procedure through the annual plan process.

MOTION CARRIED

10.4. Extraordinary Vacancy at Otago Regional Council - Resignation of Cr Bryan Scott

[YouTube 3:56:35] This report was brought to decide how to manage the vacancy created by the resignation of Cr Bryan Scott from the Otago Regional Council on 25 October 2024, in accordance with the Local Government Act and the Local Electoral Act. Amanda Vercoe, General Manager Strategy and Customer was available to respond to questions.

Resolution CM24-209: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

1. Notes this report.

2. a. Decides to leave the vacancy created by Cr Bryan Scott's resignation unfilled, under Section 117(3)(b) of the Local Electoral Act.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-210: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

3. Appoints Cr Lloyd McCall to the role of Co-Chair Environmental Implementation Committee.

4. Does not appoint a councillor to the role of Co-Chair Regional Leadership Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-211: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

5. Appoints Cr Kate Wilson to the role of Otago Catchment Community Governance Group.

6. Does not appoint a councillor to the role of Dunedin Tracks Network Trust (alternate).

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-212: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

7. Agrees that the remuneration allocated to the vacancy be redistributed equally amongst the 10 remaining councillors (excluding the Chair), as per the attached table.

8. Agrees that the attached table be forwarded to the Remuneration Authority, to be included in the Authority's next Remuneration Determination.

MOTION CARRIED

10.5. LWRP Next Steps

[Youtube 4:10:40] The purpose of this paper was twofold – to respond to the Government’s offer of working with the Ministry for the Environment to develop the replacement National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) and, to inform Council of work to identify any issues resulting from delaying notification of the Land and Water Regional-Plan (LWRP) for Otago. Tom de Pelsemaeker, Team Leader, Land and Freshwater, Fleur Mathews, Manager, Policy and Planning, were available online to respond to questions. Cr Laws suggested a change to the third paragraph of the letter which was incorporated.

Resolution CM24-213: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Agrees** that work on a regulatory grazing management plan for the Upper Taieri/ Taieri Scroll Plain should cease.
3. **Directs** staff to draft a response to the letter from the Ministers for Resource Management Reform, Environment, and Agriculture, to be signed out by the Chair.
4. **Directs** staff to report back to Council by March 2025 with advice on solutions for any issues identified that have resulted from the delay to notification of the draft Land and Water Regional Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

11. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1. Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Resolution CM24-214: Cr Mephram Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council adopt the recommendations of the 6 November 2024 Finance Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

11.2. Recommendations of Environmental Implementation Committee

Resolution CM24-215: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council adopts the resolutions of the 7 November 2024 Environmental Implementation Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-216: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council resolves to adopt the recommendations of the 7 November 2024 Safety and Resilience Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

14. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 5:38 pm with a karakia.

Chairperson

Date