

Council  
MINUTES

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Queenstown Lakes District Council Chamber, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Wednesday 19 March 2025, at 9:03 AM.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/iHxedDV9XMU?si=ePJlkkVbQyJoyP-A>

**PRESENT**

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

DRAFT

## **1. WELCOME**

Chair Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:03 am. Mayor Glynn Lewers then welcomed all to Queenstown and said a few words on the need for region wide public transport and Regional Deals strategy actions. Chair Robertson thanked the mayor and the staff of QLDC for the combined work on both of these two large regional issues raised.

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 Officer), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), Shay van der Hurk (Senior Advisor - Strategy), Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing), Leisa de Klerk (Enviroschools Coordinator Lead), Jonathan Rowe (Programme Manager - South Dunedin Future), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards). Staff attending online were Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport), Sarah Harrison (Scientist- Air Quality), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning). Emily Wilton (Director of Environet Ltd) joined online for item 10.1.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for this meeting.

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Moved by Councillor Forbes, seconded by Cr Malcolm**

That the public forum for Protect Our Winters be extended to ten minutes.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

Pierre Marasti, spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Pierre for attending.

Bronte Currie from Protect our Winters spoke online, there was an opportunity for questions and the Chair thanked Bronte for attending.

Samuel Belk spoke on behalf of the Gibbston Valley Residents, there was an opportunity for questions and Chair Robertson thanked Samuel for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

It was noted that item 10.6 Waitaki Update was withdrawn by the Chief Executive, Richard Saunders in accordance with standing order 9.9. This paper will be reviewed and returned to Council in April 2025.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

### **6.1 Enviroschools 2024 Work Programme (Kā Paetae o Ōtakōu - 2024 Annual Review Summary and the Enviroschools Presentation)**

Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing) introduced Leisa de Klerk (Enviroschools Coordinator Lead) who presented the Kā Paetae o Ōtakōu - 2024 Annual Review Summary and the Enviroschools slide PowerPoint on recent Enviroschools activities with students.

Queenstown Primary School Teacher, Susan McIntyre and students Penny, Sawyer and Jasmine spoke to Council on Enviroschools activities at their school and thanked Council for the invaluable support received. Chair Robertson thanked all for attending.

## **6.2 Port of Otago – Half Year Financial Results – this was heard after matter 10.1.**

Port of Otago Chair Tim Gibson, Chief Executive Kevin Winders and Chief Financial Officer Stephen Connolly, presented online to Council on the Port of Otago half year financial results to March 2025. There was an opportunity for questions. Chair Robertson thanked all for attending.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 19 February and 26 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

Open actions from resolutions of the Council were reviewed. The Chief Executive noted there are a number of updates and will report back in April 2025 on the completed items.

### **At 10:22 am it was moved by Cr McCall seconded by Cr Somerville**

*That Council adjourns for a ten-minute break.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

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

#### **Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

#### **Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **10.1. Air Quality Management Ambition and Approach**

[YouTube 1:36:30] The purpose of this report was to seek endorsement of Council's level of ambition for the Air Quality Strategy (the Strategy) and Air Regional Plan (the Plan). Endorsement of the non-regulatory and regulatory methods were explored further and direction on the approach to public engagement was sought. Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), and Anita Dawe (GM Planning and Transport) and online, the ORC Policy team, including James Adams (Senior Policy Analyst), Sarah Harrison (Scientist - Air Quality), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), and Emily Wilton (Director of Environet Ltd) were available to respond to questions on the report.

#### **Resolution CM25-129: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes this report.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-130: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council:

- 2) **Endorses** Council’s level of ambition regarding **home heating** (meet NESAQ by 2040) and direct staff to prepare the draft Air Quality Strategy and Otago Air Regional Plan based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against the motion.

**Resolution CM25-131: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) **Endorses** Council’s level of ambition regarding **urban outdoor burning** (avoid undermining restrictions on indoor burners and reduce localised amenity and health effects) and direct staff to prepare the Air Quality Strategy and Air Plan based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-132: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

- 11) **Requests** that staff undertake public engagement on the draft Strategy and draft Air Plan at the same time in September / October 2025, and complete pre-notification consultation in late 2025 / early 2026.
- 12) **Approves** unbudgeted expenditure to undertake additional public engagement on the draft Air Plan.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson, Cr Robertson
AGAINST	Cr Forbes, Cr Laws, Cr Mepham, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir
ABSTAINED	None

**MOTION CARRIED (6 votes for / 4 votes against)**

**Resolution CM25-133: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 4) **Endorses** Council’s level of ambition regarding **Air Zones** and direct staff to prepare the Air Zone maps based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-134: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

That the Council:

- 5) **Endorses** Council’s level of ambition regarding **rural outdoor burning** (reduce effects on air quality in priority towns over winter and reduce localised amenity and health effects) and direct staff to prepare the Air Quality Strategy and Air Plan based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr Mepham voted against the motion.

**Resolution CM25-135: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

That the Council:

- 6) **Endorses** Council's level of ambition regarding **Buffer Zones** and direct staff to prepare the Buffer Zone maps based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr Mepham voted against the motion.

**Resolution CM25-136: Cr Noone Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

That the Council:

- 7) **Endorses** Council's level of ambition regarding **agricultural and fertiliser discharges, farming, industrial and trade** (maintain a similar regulatory framework to that provided in the current Regional Plan: Air, but with improvements) and direct staff to prepare the Air Quality Strategy and Air Plan based on the approach described.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm and Cr Laws voted against the motion.

**Resolution CM25-137: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

That the Council:

- 8) **Endorses** Council's level of ambition regarding **vehicle emissions** (raise awareness of health impacts) and direct staff to prepare the Air Quality Strategy based on the approach described.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Robertson
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone
ABSTAINED	Cr Wilson

**MOTION CARRIED (6 votes for / 4 votes against)**

**At 12:18 pm it was moved by Cr Robertson, seconded by Cr Forbes**

That Council adjourn until 1:00 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.2. Te Awa Ōtakōu Issues and Opportunities Report**

[YouTube 4:25:00] This report presented the Te Awa Ōtakōu Issues and Opportunities report and sought endorsement of the next steps for improving the harbour's management. Hillary Lennox (Manager Strategy) Shay van der Hurk (Senior Advisor – Strategy), and Katie Eglesfield (Parks and Recreation Planner, Dunedin City Council), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer - Deputy CEO), and online Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation) was available to respond to questions.

**Resolution CM25-138: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the attached Te Awa Ōtakōu Issues and Opportunities report and the attached table of opportunities.
- 3) **Endorses** the recommended next steps as set out in paragraph 23 of this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.3. Report on implications of changes to the RMA in relation to Land and Water**

[YouTube 4:48:09] This paper provided a summary of the implications and unintended consequences for Otago Regional Council of the legislative change preventing the notification of freshwater planning instruments; and the options recommended by staff for

addressing these issues. There was an amendment to number 5. of the recommendations removing the words "for Council consideration" for time frame allowances. Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land) online, and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions.

#### **Resolution CM25-139: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** that legislation passed in October 2024 has had unintended consequences for managing rural diffuse discharges and water quantity in Otago.
- 2) **Agrees** to Option 3: Request that Central Government undertake a legislative amendment to address the unintended consequences of delaying the notification of the LWRP.
- 3) **Agrees** to request that Central Government undertake a legislative amendment to ensure that Rules 12.C.1.1A and 12.C.1.1.3 of the Regional Plan: Water do not come into effect until a new Land and Water Regional Plan for Otago is made operative.
- 4) **Agrees** to request that Central Government undertake a legislative amendment to extend the duration of existing water permits so their expiry date is after a new Land and Water Regional Plan is made operative; and override the 31 December 2025 date in the provisions of Chapter 10A of the Water Plan and extend it to 31 December 2031.
- 5) **Requests** that staff prepare a draft request to the Minister for the Environment.
- 6) **Directs** staff to work with officials at the Ministry for the Environment to identify the necessary legislative amendments, should the Minister be supportive of this approach.
- 7) **Delegates** approval of the request to the Minister for the Environment to the Chair of Council and Chief Executive.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **10.4. RTP--Adopting for Consultation**

[YouTube 5:26:44] This report sought approval to consult on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan (2025-2035) (RPTP) and to appoint a hearings panel to hear submissions and deliberate on the draft RPTP. Online Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) and Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) were available to respond to questions.

#### **Resolution CM25-140: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Receives** the draft Regional Public Transport Plan (2025-2035).
- 3) **Approves** the draft Regional Public Transport Plan for public consultation.
- 4) **Notes** the public consultation period will be from 24 March 2025 to 2 May 2025.
- 5) **Appoints** the following Councillors Andrew Noone, (Chair) Cr Kate Wilson, Cr Elliot Weir and Cr Gary Kelliher as reserve, to a Hearings Panel to hear submissions and make recommendations on the RPTP.
- 6) **Appoints** Cr Andrew Noone to be the Chair of the Hearings Panel.
- 7) **Delegates** under the Local Government Act 2002 (schedule 7, clause 32(1)), to the Hearing Panel for the Regional Public Transport Plan, all the powers, functions, and duties of the Council to hear and make recommendations regarding submissions and evidence on the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan, and to make final recommendations to Council.
- 8) **Notes** that hearings have been scheduled from 12-16 May 2025.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

### 10.5. Total Mobility Financial paper 2024/2025

[YouTube 5:37:28] This report provided some insight into the Total Mobility services for the current financial year and sought direction from Council about the forecasted overspend for the 2024/2025 financial year. Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) and online, Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) were available to respond to questions.

#### Resolution CM25-141: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

*That Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the forecast over expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 3) **Approves** the continuation of Total Mobility services for the remainder of the financial year.
- 4) **Approves** bringing forward the NZTA funding contribution from Years 2 and 3 to cover the anticipated \$ 310,000 shortfall from NZTA for the financial year.
- 5) **Approves** over expenditure of approximately \$225,000, which represents the Otago Regional Councils rates contribution toward Total Mobility.
- 6) **Directs** staff to report back to Council with a plan to manage Total Mobility services from 1 July, within approved budgets.
- 7) **Directs** staff to liaise with other Public Transport Authorities through the Transport Special Interest group, to determine sector support for writing to the Minister of Transport concerning funding shortfalls for Total Mobility services.

#### MOTION CARRIED

### 10.6. Waitaki Update

The paper was withdrawn by the Chief Executive under the Standing Order 9.9, as noted in the Confirmation of Agenda.

### 10.7. Flood Recovery Update 2

[YouTube 5:47:45] This report provided an update on repairs from the October 2024 flood event including financial implications. The report also sought Council's approval to award the contract and authorise payments for the Kaitangata floodbank damage repair from the 2022 flood. Brett Paterson (Engineering Manager), Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) and Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) were available to respond to questions.

#### Resolution CM25-142: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the progress on 2024 flood damage repairs.
- 3) **Notes** the updated cost estimates and financial implications of 2024 flood damage repairs.
- 4) **Considers** options 1 and 2 for the Kaitangata floodbank repair.
- 5) **Approves** the award of a contract to the highest scoring tenderer to undertake repairs to the Kaitangata floodbank according to option 1 up to a total amount not exceeding \$700,000 (excl. GST).

#### MOTION CARRIED

### 10.8. Lower Taieri Liaison Group

[YouTube 6:07:09] This paper updated the Council regarding the formation of the Lower Taieri Liaison Group, presented the confirmed Terms of Reference, and sought to nominate a Councillor Representative for the Group. Kirsten Tebbutt (Engagement Strategy and Planning Lead) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions. There was an amendment to the recommendation.

**Resolution CM25-143: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the Terms of Reference for the Lower Taieri Liaison Group with minor amendments.
- 3) **Nominates** Councillor Cr Lloyd McCall and alternate Cr Kate Wilson to be a member of the Lower Taieri Liaison Group.
- 4) **Thanks** those community members who have put themselves forward to be members of the Lower Taieri Liaison Group.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**At 3:26 pm it was moved by Cr Robertson and seconded by Cr Forbes**

*That Council adjourn until 3:40*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.9. ORC Review of Committee Structure, Terms of Reference, Delegations**

[YouTube 6:38:38] This paper was presented to consider for reviewing Council's committee structure, terms of reference and delegations. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CEO) was available to respond to questions.

**Resolution CM25-144: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

That the Council:

- 2) d. **Agrees** to retain the current committee structure and terms of reference and continue discussions with Co-Chairs, Senior Officers, mana whenua and iwi representatives about a revised structure and directs this to be brought back for consideration by Council in September 2025, where a recommendation could be made to the incoming Council to consider.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm.
AGAINST	Cr Forbes Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson, Cr Weir, Cr Robertson.
ABSTAINED	None.

**MOTION FAILED (3 votes for / 8 votes against)**

**Resolution CM25-145: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council:

- 2) a. **Adopts** the proposed new committee structure and terms of reference (attached) as a trial, with or without changes, to be implemented ahead of the end of May committee meetings until the end of the triennium.  
b. **Directs** the Chair and Chief Executive to discuss the changes with mana whenua, and iwi appointees to committees to determine the best alignment for iwi appointees to the new committees, and seek input on the revised structure and terms of reference ahead of the 2025 triennial elections



- c. **Requests** a report back to Council in September 2025 with views from Co-Chairs, Senior Officers, mana whenua and iwi representatives about the committee structure and terms of reference, in order to make a recommendation to the incoming Council.

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mephram, Cr Noone Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson, Cr Robertson.
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm.
ABSTAINED	None.

**MOTION CARRIED (8 votes for / 3 votes against)**

**Resolution CM25-146: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) **Considers** the discussion on delegations for committees and:
- a. **Directs** Co-Chairs and Senior Officers to consider downstream decisions for their respective committees over the next six months and where these would be best taken, to inform a further report to Council in September 2025 that makes recommendations to the incoming Council.
  - b. **Directs** the Chair and Chief Executive to discuss delegations in further detail with mana whenua and iwi appointees, to inform a further report to Council in September 2025, that makes recommendations to the incoming Council.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Laws voted against the motion.

**10.10. South Dunedin Future – Risk Assessment and Potential Adaptation Futures**

[YouTube 7:06:20] The paper presented the technical reports relating to the South Dunedin Risk Assessment and Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin, and sought Council endorsement to engage with affected communities and other stakeholders. Jonathan Rowe (Programme Manager - South Dunedin Future) and Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-147: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** the background of the South Dunedin Future programme and work undertaken since the previous update report to Council on 25 September 2024.
- 2) **Notes** the contents of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment report, which identifies, classifies, and prioritises risk across the area by assessing exposure to natural hazards, vulnerability to those hazards, and likelihood of occurring, before assigning corresponding risk scores. The impacts of these risks, should they be realised, are also described.
- 3) **Notes** a mana whenua risk assessment has been undertaken for South Dunedin, which has identified and rated risks through a Kāi Tahu lens, based on an analysis of cultural values.
- 4) **Notes** the South Dunedin Risk Assessment has undergone technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the report or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.
- 5) **Endorses** the attached South Dunedin Risk Assessment report for the purposes of community engagement.
- 6) **Notes** the contents the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports, which respond to the risk assessment by outlining the options

available for managing and mitigating the risks faced by South Dunedin, including the key characteristics, costs, benefits, and trade-offs involved.

- 7) **Notes** the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports have undergone technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the reports or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.
- 8) **Endorses** the attached 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports for the purposes of community engagement.
- 9) **Notes** that there are two further stages of adaptation planning under the South Dunedin Future programme, through which further technical and economic analysis will support development of a shortlist of potential adaptation futures and then the preferred adaptation future and pathway for South Dunedin. This work will be presented as a final adaptation plan for South Dunedin.
- 10) **Notes** the next stage of the South Dunedin Future programme involves engaging with the community on the findings and implications of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment and the key characteristics of the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin.
- 11) **Approves** the SDF programme team undertaking engagement with partners, stakeholders and affected communities on the basis of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment, 7 Potential Adaptation Futures of South Dunedin and Context Summary reports.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against the motion.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**11.1. Recommendations of Environmental Implementation Committee**

**Resolution CM25-148: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

*That the Council adopts the resolutions of the 5 March 2025 Environmental Implementation Committee.*

**11.2 Recommendations of the Public and Active Transport Committee.**

**Resolution CM25-148: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

*That the Council adopts the resolutions of the 5 March 2025 Public and Active Transport Committee.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Robertson declared the meeting closed at 5:10pm.

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Chair

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Date