

## Council MINUTES

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 March 2024, commencing at 11:30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Cr Gretchen Robertson                    *(Chairperson)*  
Cr Lloyd McCall                            *(Deputy Chairperson)*  
Cr Alexa Forbes  
Cr Gary Kelliher  
Cr Michael Laws  
Cr Kevin Malcolm  
Cr Tim Mepham  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Bryan Scott  
Cr Alan Somerville  
Cr Elliot Weir  
Cr Kate Wilson

## **1. WELCOME**

Chairperson Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 11.30AM. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Joanna Gilroy (Acting GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Tom Dyer (Manager Science), Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing), Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning), Jack Cowie (Transport Planner) and Trudi McLaren (Governance Support),

## **2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received prior to the meeting.

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM [YouTube 4:58]**

Pierre Marasti from Extinction Rebellion spoke and after an opportunity for questions Chair Robertson thanked Pierre for attending.

Liam White from the OUSA spoke to public transport concerns for students and after an opportunity for questions, Chair Robertson thanked Liam for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA [YouTube: 18:58]**

The agenda was confirmed as published.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [YouTube 19:00]**

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted. Councillors were reminded to signal to the Chair any conflicts of interest arising during the meeting.

Cr Noone advised that he and Cr Wilson would be sitting back from Item 10.3 ORC Submission on draft Dunedin Future Development Strategy.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS [YouTube 19:37]**

Representatives from Port Otago (Tim Gibson, Chair; Pat Heslin, Deputy Chair; Kevin Winders, CEO and Stephen Connolly, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on their interim report to Council.

Following questions Chairperson Robertson thanked them for the richness of the approach and the presentation. It was also noted that Port Otago is very important to the Otago region and that this was a very good interim result. Chairperson Robertson also thanked Port Otago for their transparency.

### **Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr McCall Seconded**

*That the meeting be adjourned from 1.09PM until 1:15PM*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES [YouTube 1:49:49]**

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

*That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 21 February 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS) [YouTube 1:50:16]**

Open actions from resolutions of the Council were reviewed.

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

### **9.1. Chairperson's Report [YouTube 1:52:50]**

It was requested that a review of the Wanaka Show effectiveness and efficiency be assessed and reported back to the Council, in terms of financial cost and staff time and resources. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) confirmed that a summary review could be completed (as no hard data was available at that time) covering the topics of general interest, and it would be submitted to the Regional Leadership Committee before a firm decision was made whether to commit again next year for the Committee's consideration.

**Resolution: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Weir Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.2. Chief Executive's Report [YouTube 2:01:19]**

Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) noted that there had been some discussion and media coverage around how staff are handling the Land and Water Regional Plan, and wished to stress that staff are only following the programme that had been set by Council and were giving effect to the conditions that we are currently working under. Should those change, staff will make sure they adapt and deliver what is asked of them by the Council.

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

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **10.1. Long Term Plan 2024-34 - Consultation Document [YouTube 02:08:29]**

The purpose of this report was to seek Council's approval of the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document and supporting information.

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services and CFO), Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning) and Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

**ACTION:** *Changes indicated by Council at this meeting to be updated in the Long-Term Plan document.*

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

*That the Council adjourn to discuss a procedural matter at 2:26PM and resumed at 2:31PM*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Amended Resolution: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Scott Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** the 'Discussion' section 'Proposed decision-making approach' outlines how Council can integrate the external audit requirements with its programmed timing for community consultation.

- 2) **Approves** for consultation purposes the attached Draft Long-term Plan 2024-34 supporting information that is relied on by the content of the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document in accordance with section 93G of the Local Government Act 2002. This includes:
- i. Attachment 2 Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034
  - ii. Attachment 3 Draft Financial Strategy
  - iii. Attachment 4 Draft Infrastructure Strategy
- 3) **Approves** for consultation the draft Council 'Fees and charges' as provide in attachment 5.
- 4) **Notes** the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy was approved at the 21 February 2024 Council meeting for consultation as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 process.
- 5) **Notes** the rating examples that will support consultation on the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy as provided in attachment 6.
- 6) **Approves** the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document for public consultation provided in attachment 1 in accordance with section 93A of the Local Government Act 2002 and subject to the provision of the Audit Report for the Consultation Document with the changes noted.
- a) That the consultation document makes clear that Queenstown Lakes District rating region includes Wanaka and Hawea for the purpose of the public transport consultation.
  - b) In the document the rates increase is given greater prominence.
- 7) **Agrees** to the Council Chairperson Cr Gretchen Robertson and Finance Committee Co-Chairs Cr Kevin Malcolm and Cr Tim Mepham receiving the external audit report and communicating it to all Councillors.
- 8) **Approves** the inclusion of any final changes to the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document as directed by the external audit process and as tabled separately to this report at the 20 March 2024 Council meeting.
- 9) **Delegates** oversight and approval to the Council Chairperson Cr Gretchen Robertson and Finance Committee Co-Chairs Cr Kevin Malcolm and Cr Tim Mepham and the CEO on final minor editorial proofing and document formatting corrections and post 20 March 2024 external audit related changes to the Consultation Document.
- 10) **Approves** the signing of the Audit representation letter by the Chair subject to delegated sign off outlined in resolution 9.

**A Division was called:**

<b>For:</b>	Cr Laws, Cr Mepham, Cr Scott
<b>Against:</b>	Cr Forbes, Cr Kelliher, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Noone, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson, Cr Robertson
<b>Abstained:</b>	N/A

**MOTION FAILED**

## **Resolution CM24-115: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Mepham Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** the 'Discussion' section 'Proposed decision-making approach' outlines how Council can integrate the external audit requirements with its programmed timing for community consultation.
- 2) **Approves** for consultation purposes the attached Draft Long-term Plan 2024-34 supporting information that is relied on by the content of the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document in accordance with section 93G of the Local Government Act 2002. This includes:
  - i. Attachment 2 Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034
  - ii. Attachment 3 Draft Financial Strategy
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- 3) **Approves** for consultation the draft Council 'Fees and charges' as provide in attachment 5.
- 4) **Notes** the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy was approved at the 21 February 2024 Council meeting for consultation as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 process.
- 5) **Notes** the rating examples that will support consultation on the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy as provided in attachment 6.
- 6) **Approves** the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document for public consultation provided in attachment 1 in accordance with section 93A of the Local Government Act 2002 and subject to the provision of the Audit Report for the Consultation Document.
- 7) **Agrees** to the Council Chairperson Cr Gretchen Robertson and Finance Committee Co-Chairs Cr Kevin Malcolm and Cr Tim Mepham receiving the external audit report and communicating it to all Councillors.
- 8) **Approves** the inclusion of any final changes to the 'A Stronger Future for Otago – 2024-2034 Long-term Plan' Consultation Document as directed by the external audit process and as tabled separately to this report at the 20 March 2024 Council meeting.
- 9) **Delegates** oversight and approval to the Council Chairperson Cr Gretchen Robertson and Finance Committee Co-Chairs Cr Kevin Malcolm and Cr Tim Mepham and the CEO on final minor editorial proofing and document formatting corrections and post 20 March 2024 external audit related changes to the Consultation Document.
- 10) **Approves** the signing of the Audit representation letter by the Chair subject to delegated sign off outlined in resolution 9.

**MOTION CARRIED** (Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against).

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

*That the Council adjourn at 3:17PM and resumed at 3:26PM*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.2. Future Management of the Waitaki River catchment [YouTube 3:53:46]**

The purpose of this paper was for Council to consider, in principle, investigating an approach, in partnership with Environment Canterbury, and Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua, Te Rūnaka o Moeraki and Te Rūnaka o Waihao to allow the Waitaki River catchment to be managed holistically as one catchment.

Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science) was present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

**Resolution CM24-116: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Scott Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** commencing work to understand how the Waitaki River catchment could be managed as a whole.
- 3) **Directs** staff to work with Environment Canterbury, the Moeraki Councillor from ORC and the three iwi groups to develop the next steps, and report back to Council.
- 4) **Provides** a progress report back to Council at the August meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*[Cr Laws left the meeting at 3.40PM and returned at 3.46PM]*

**10.3. ORC Submission on draft Dunedin Future Development Strategy [YouTube 4:25:25]**

The purpose of this report was to seek retrospective ratification of a submission from the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to the Joint Hearing Panel for the draft Dunedin Future Development Strategy (FDS).

Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Planning), Patricia McLean (Senior Policy Analyst) and Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Cr Noone and Cr Wilson stood back for this item.

**Resolution CM24-117: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** in retrospect the Otago Regional Council's submission on the draft Dunedin Future Development Strategy lodged on 28 February 2024.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.4. Six Monthly Update to the Minister [YouTube 4:57:24]**

The purpose of this report was to present for approval by Council, the ninth progress report to the Minister for the Environment, in accordance with section 27 of the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to the recommendations made under section 24A of the Resource Management Act.

Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Planning) and Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

**Resolution CM24-118: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Approves** the ninth report to the Minister for the Environment, that reports on progress against the recommendations made in the Minister's letter dated 19 November 2019.
- 2) **Notes** that changes to the reporting requirements may occur as a result of a change in Minister and the Government's direction.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.5. Changes to Community Connect Subsidy [YouTube 4:30:40]**

The purpose of this report was to assess the impact on passenger numbers and revenue of the government's:

- Half-price fares policy which ran from April 2022 to end June 2023.
- Community Connect Extension policy of free / half price bus fares for children and young people, which started in July 2023,

and to present councillors with options for retaining, or not, any of the Community Connect Extension policies for bus fares after the government's subsidy of the scheme finishes on 30 April 2024.

Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport) (online) and Jack Cowie (Transport Planner) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

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

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the fare structure of:  
**Option 1:** restore bus fares to the pre-half-price level (except for Community Services Card holders)

A Division was called:

For:	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone
Against:	Cr Forbes, Cr Scott, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson, Cr Robertson
Abstained:	N/A

**MOTION FAILED**

**Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the fare structure of:

**Option 5:** Council agrees to retain free bus fares for 5 to 12 year olds, half-price bus child fares for 13-18 year olds; and half-price adult fares for 19-24 year olds until 30 June 2024 (inclusive), at an estimated cost of \$84,000

A Division was called:

For:	Cr Forbes, Cr Scott, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Robertson
Against:	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson
Abstained:	N/A

**MOTION FAILED**

**Resolution CM24-119: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the fare structure of:  
**Option 3 (staff recommendation):** retain free bus fares for 5 to 12 year olds (at ORC's cost) and half-price fares for Community Services Card; and otherwise restore pre-half-price bus fares, at an estimated cost of \$42,000 per annum

A Division was called:

For:	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Scott, Cr Wilson, Cr Robertson
Against:	Cr Forbes, Cr Malcolm, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir
Abstained:	N/A

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.6. Update to Delegations Manual to Include Delegations to staff for Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2022 [YouTube 5:14:48]**

The purpose of this report was to amend Council's Delegation Manual to provide delegations to staff for Freshwater Farm Plans under Part 9A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Joanna Gilroy (Acting GM Regulatory) and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

**Resolution CM24-120: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That Council:

1. **Receives** this report.
2. **Approves** the new delegations as outlined in this report.
3. **Approves** the Chief Executive to update the Council's Delegations Manual accordingly.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**11.1. Recommendations of the Regional Leadership Committee [YouTube 5:15:45]**

**Resolution CM24-121: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

That the Council adopts the recommendations of the Regional Leadership Committee.



**MOTION CARRIED**

**12. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 4:43PM with a karakia.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

26 June 2024

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Date