



Otago
Regional
Council

Council MINUTES

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 26 June 2024, commencing at 10:00 AM. [\[YouTube Link\]](#)

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME [YouTube 9:04]

Chairperson Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10.00AM and opened with a Karakia. 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), Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning), Sarah Munro (Finance Manager - Reporting), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Pip Eckhoff (Team Leader Catchments), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), Emily Mathias (Senior Strategy Advisor), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Andrea Howard (Manager Executive Advice), Kate Pettit (Senior Advisor Strategic Engagement), Sarah Martin (Senior Advisor Iwi Partnerships and Engagement), Ify Ukonze (Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning), Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist National Programmes), Steve Rushbrook (Harbourmaster) and Trudi McLaren (Governance Support)

2. APOLOGIES [YouTube 10:00]

No apologies were received.

3. PUBLIC FORUM [YouTube 10:19]

Pierre Marasti was present to speak on behalf of Extinction Rebellion. Following an opportunity for questions Chair Robertson thanked Pierre for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA [YouTube 15:51]

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

Approve that Item 11 Recommendations be brought forward to be taken after Item 7.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [YouTube 17:35]

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

Cr McCall advised he would be sitting back for Item 10.3 Otago Catchment Communities Proposal.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES [YouTube 17:58]

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 March 2024, 8 May 2024 and 22 May 2024 (with amendment) be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS) [YouTube 20:00]

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed. No changes were noted.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

9.1. Chairperson's Report [YouTube 21:55]

Chairperson Robertson thanked the Chief Executive and his team for all the work undertaken and to Councillors and the involvement of communities through what has been a significant workload over this last financial year.

The significant contribution of Dr Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) was formally noted, and Dr Palmer's 20 years of service to the Council as his last day at Otago Regional Council would be 27 June. Chairperson Robertson thanked Dr Palmer for his work in the ORC over the years. Dr Palmer noted that it was a great privilege to be involved in programmes of work that were meaningful and impactful, and wished the ORC all the best.

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Chief Executive's Report [YouTube 47:27]

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1. Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 Adoption [YouTube 59:58]

The purpose of this report was to present the final version of the Otago Regional Council Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) for Council adoption.

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

Chairperson Robertson thanked all the submitters, in whatever form that took and noted that the input has been invaluable. ORC staff involved in the Long-Term Plan were also thanked.

Resolution CM24-133: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Adopts** the 'Revenue and Financing Policy' as included in the Otago Regional Council Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 appended to this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against.

Resolution CM24-134: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 2) **Approves** the 'Fees and Charges Schedule' as included in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 appended to this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against.

Resolution CM24-135: Cr Weir Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

- 3) **Approves** the following financial policies appended to this report:
 - a. Rates Remission and Postponement Policy
 - b. Development Contributions and Financial Contributions Policy

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher, Laws and Malcolm voted against

Resolution CM24-136: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 4) **Notes** the final Funding Needs Analysis document appended to this report which supports the Revenue and Financing Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against

Resolution CM24-137: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 5) **Resolves** that, having considered the matters in section 100 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002, it is financially prudent to have annual operating deficits in years 1 and 3 to 6 of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against

Resolution CM24-138: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Scott Seconded

That the Council:

- 6) **Authorises** the Otago Regional Council Chairperson and Chief Executive to sign the audit representation letter on behalf of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against.

Resolution CM24-139: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 7) **Adopts** the Otago Regional Council Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 appended to this report.

A division was called:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-140: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 8) **Delegates** authority to the Council's Chief Executive in consultation with the Council's external auditor and Finance Committee Chair and co-chair to make any necessary alterations of minor effect or to correct minor editorial errors to the adopted Long-Term

Plan 2024-2034.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the meeting be adjourned at 12.25pm and reconvened at 1.00pm

MOTION CARRIED

10.2. Rates Report and Rates Resolution [YouTube 3:10:45]

The purpose of this report was to provide details of each of the rates to be set, and to recommend that Council adopts the rates resolution for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services and CFO) and Sarah Munro (Finance Manager - Reporting) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Resolution CM24-141: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report and the attached Rating and Sample Reports.
- 2) **Adopts** the Rating Resolution for the 2024-2025 financial year.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against

10.3. Otago Catchment Communities Proposal [YouTube 3:16:16]

Cr McCall sat back from the table for this item.

The purpose of this report was for Council to consider further funding being provided to Otago Catchment Communities (OCC).

Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Pip Eckhoff (Team Leader Catchments) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Resolution CM24-142: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Mepham Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Resolves** to adopt Option 2 in terms of funding to be provided to OCC. Option 2 to be adopted as the preferred funding approach.
- 3) **Directs** the Chief Executive to progress the adopted option.

MOTION CARRIED

10.4. Membership Representation Review: Initial Proposal [YouTube 3:45:48]

The purpose of this report was to adopt an initial proposal for the ORC's 2024 Membership Representation Review.

Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance Culture and Customer and Stephen Hill (Representation Review Advisor, Electionz.com) were present.

Resolution CM24-143: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** the following initial representation proposal pursuant to section 19I of the Local Electoral Act 2021 for consultation purposes:

- a. That the Otago Regional Council shall comprise of four (4) regional constituencies.
- b. These four constituencies will be:
 - i. **Moeraki Constituency**, comprising the Otago portion of the Waitaki District territorial area, being part of the Ahuriri and Corriedale wards, and the entirety of the Oamaru ward and Waihemo ward.
 - ii. **Dunedin Constituency**, comprising the comprising central Dunedin and the Waikouaiti Coast, West Harbour, Otago Peninsula and Saddle Hill community board areas located within the Dunedin City territorial area.
 - iii. **Dunstan Constituency**, comprising the Central Otago District and Queenstown Lakes District territorial areas.
 - iv. **Molyneux Constituency**, comprising the Clutha District territorial area and Mosgiel-Taieri and Strath-Taieri community board areas located within the Dunedin City territorial area.
- c. There will be 12 Councillors, elected as follows:
 - i. 1 councillor elected by the electors of the Moeraki Constituency
 - ii. 5 councillors elected by the electors of the Dunedin Constituency
 - iii. 4 councillors elected by the electors of the Dunstan Constituency
 - iv. 2 councillors elected by the electors of the Molyneux Constituency.
- 3) **Notes** that the decision to reduce the number of Dunedin councillors from 6 councillors to 5, and increase the number of Dunstan councillors from 3 to 4 reflects and responds to significant population growth in the Dunstan constituency since the last representation review was undertaken.
- 4) **Notes** that the population that each member will represent is as follows:

Constituency	Population	Members	Population member-ratio	Difference from quota	% difference from quota
Moeraki	22,300	1	22,300	1,083	5.11
Dunedin	115,200	5	23,040	1,823	8.59
Dunstan	78,800	4	19,700	-1,517	-7.15%
Molyneux	38,300	2	19,150	-2,067	-9.74
Otago Regional Boundary Total	254,600	12	21,217		

- 5) **Notes** that a public notice outlining the initial proposal will be made (as attached).
- 6) **Notes** that there will be a one-month submission period.
- 7) **Agrees** to appoint a panel to hear submissions on the initial proposal consisting of all councillors on a date to be determined, but likely to be alongside the early August committee round.

MOTION CARRIED

10.5. Otago Regional Council's Draft Strategic Climate Action Plan [YouTube 3:55:30]

The purpose of this paper was to seek Council endorsement of Otago Regional Council's draft Strategic Climate Action Plan so that public consultation can commence in August 2024.

Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy) and Emily Mathias (Senior Strategy Advisor) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Cr Noone left the meeting at 1.51pm and returned at 1.53pm.

Resolution CM24-144: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Endorses** the draft Strategic Climate Action Plan for public consultation.
- 2) **Notes** the designed version of the SCAP will be circulated to councillors, prior to public consultation commencing.
- 3) **Notes** public consultation is planned to commence in late August, for four weeks.
- 4) **Notes** that the Strategy Team will work with the Councillor Working Group following public consultation to make any necessary amendments to the draft SCAP.
- 5) **Notes** that the Strategy Team will return to the Council later in the year with a final version of the SCAP for adoption.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against

10.6. Annual report on climate collaboration [YouTube 4:49:33]

The purpose of this report was to provide an annual report to Council on regional climate change collaboration, which is a performance target in the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan and 2023-24 Annual Plan.

Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy) and Emily Mathias (Senior Strategy Advisor) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Resolution CM24-145: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the meeting be adjourned from 2.50pm until 3.10pm.

MOTION CARRIED

10.7. Resource Management Amendment (Freshwater and other matters) Bill [YouTube 5:22:00]

The purpose of this report was to provide the opportunity for Council to consider a draft submission to the select committee on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

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

Resolution CM24-146: Cr Weir Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** a submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

- 3) **Delegates** the Chairperson and Chief Executive to sign the finalised submission, which will be lodged by 30 June 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

10.8. He Mahi Rau Rika - Significance, Engagement and Māori Participation Policy Progress Update [YouTube 5:32:27]

This report provided an update on the implementation of He Mahi Rau Rika and introduced the draft community engagement approach for councillor input, including an overview of a newly created engagement framework, and toolkits and resources to support better engagement.

Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Andrea Howard (Manager Executive Advice), Kate Pettit (Senior Advisor Strategic Engagement) and Sarah Martin (Senior Advisor Iwi Partnerships and Engagement) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions).

Cr Scott left the meeting at 3.42pm and returned at 3.43pm

Cr Somerville left the meeting at 3.53pm and returned at 3.55pm

Resolution CM24-147: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Approves** the adoption of the draft community engagement approach incorporating any recommendations from councillors.

MOTION CARRIED

Crs Kelliher and Laws voted against

10.9. Dunedin Future Development Strategy 2024-2054 [YouTube 6:22:20]

The purpose of this report was to advise Council that the Dunedin Future Development Strategy (FDS) is now finalised and publicly available.

Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science) and Ify Ukonze (Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Cr Forbes left the meeting at 4.13pm

Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 4.18pm and returned at 4.19pm

Resolution CM24-148: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** that the Dunedin Future Development Strategy has been finalised and was made publicly available on 23 May 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

10.10. Funding Agreement with MPI for Wilding Conifer and Wallaby Programmes [YouTube 6:34:50]

The purpose of this report was to seek Council approval to enter into service agreements with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for funding and operational delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme in Otago for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist National Programmes) and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) were present to speak to this report and respond to questions.

Cr Forbes returned to the meeting at 4.34pm

Resolution CM24-149: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Approves** Option 2 that the ORC continues to act as the Recipient of funding from MPI for the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and Tipu Mātoro Wallaby Eradication Programme in Otago.
- 3) **Approves** the service agreement for government funding of \$1,070,000 (excluding GST), or an amount similar to this if the budget is altered by MPI, over the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for Otago's share of the National Wilding Conifer Programme and authorises the Chief Executive to sign the agreement for and on behalf of ORC.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM24-150: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

- 4) **Approves** the service agreement for government funding of \$700,000 (excluding GST), or an amount similar to this if the budget is altered by MPI, over the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for Otago's share of the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme and authorises the Chief Executive to sign the agreement for and on behalf of ORC.
- 5) **Notes** the obligations for ORC found in the table at Clause 3.1 of Part A in each of the service agreements (Attachment 3 and Attachment 4).

MOTION CARRIED

10.11. On water engagement, education of recreational users and safety campaigns by the Harbour Master Team [YouTube 6:57:09]

The purpose of this paper was to report on the on-water and education activities of the Harbourmaster Team during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Joanna Gilroy (Acting GM Regulatory) and Steve Rushbrook (Harbourmaster) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Cr Robertson thanked Steve and his team for the work they had undertaken.

Resolution CM24-151: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS [YouTube 18:30]
(Note: This item was taken before Item 8 of the agenda)**

11.1. Recommendations of the Regional Leadership Committee

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Scott Seconded

That the Council adopts the 22 May 2024 recommendations of the Regional Leadership Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

11.2. Recommendations of Environmental Implementation Committee

Resolution: Cr Scott Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council adopts the resolutions of the 8 May 2024 Environmental Implementation Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

11.3. Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Resolution: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council adopt the recommendations of the 28 & 29 May 2024 Finance Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion were submitted.

13. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson closed the meeting with a karakia at 5:05 pm.

Chairperson

Date