

Council MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Waitaki District Council Chambers, 20 Thames Street, Oamaru on Wednesday 21 February 2024, commencing at 1:03 PM. [YouTube Link](#)

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME [YouTube 3:21]

Chairperson Cr Gretchen Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1:03PM and opened the meeting with a karakia.

Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly, online (GM Corporate Services), Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Amanda Vercoe, online (GM Governance) Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing), Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning), Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport), Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), Jack Cowie (Transport Planner) and Trudi McLaren (Governance Support)

2. APOLOGIES [YouTube 5:43]

No apologies were received prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC FORUM [YouTube 5:58]

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

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA [YouTube 10:24]

It was moved:

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the addition of:

- 8.2 Timing of notification of the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan
- 8.7 Dunedin PT Investment Proposal

be accepted as late items as staff required more time to prepare due to changing information at a government level.

The reason the reports cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting is that they contribute time sensitive inputs into the LWRP and LTP processes.

It was also moved that Item 8.7 PT Investment Proposal be taken before Item 8.5 Long Term Plan 2024-34.

MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [YouTube 12:02]

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.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES [YouTube 12:20]

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Mephram Seconded

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 6 December 2023 and 13 December 2023 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS) [YouTube 12:43]

Open actions from resolutions of the Committee were reviewed.

8. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1. Enviroschools Presentation - Students and Coordinator [YouTube 16:52]

The purpose of this report was to update the Council on the activities of Enviroschools in Otago for 2021 to the present.

Jo Galer (Manager Communications and Marketing) was present to speak to the paper and respond to questions. Iza Brazil (Waitaki Girls High School) and Lachlan Wright (Waitaki Boys High School) presented a PowerPoint on their work in their schools.

Cr Robertson thanked Robyn Zinc for all her hard work/mahi on behalf of the Otago Regional Council in leading the growth in Enviroschools in Otago. Jo Galer introduced Chelsea Donnelly, who is the new Regional Enviroschools Coordinator - Central, based in Alexandra.

Cr Robertson also thanked Iza Brazil and Lachlan Wright for their time and effort to come and present their work to the Council.

Resolution CM24-101: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **That** the Council acknowledge the work of Dr Robyn Zinc and her contribution to the Council and its outcomes over the last eight years.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Forbes left the meeting at 1:46PM

8.2. Timing of notification of the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan [YouTube 53:08]

The purpose of this report was to update Council on the timelines and process for developing the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan, to manage land and freshwater in Otago.

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

Cr Forbes returned to the meeting at 1.54pm

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That

The meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29PM and resumed at 2:34PM

Cr Kelliher moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded with the addition of a second point

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

2. **That** the Otago Regional Council heeds the strong recommendation of the Minister for the Environment that work is delayed on the proposed draft Land and Water Regional Plan and await the new governments direction. During this time ORC will formally request the Ministers approval to extend the 30 June 2024 plan notification deadline, and will review the proposed plan to ensure it is fit for purpose, robust and defensible.

Vote

For:	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm and Cr Noone
Against:	Cr Forbes, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Scott, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson and Cr Robertson
Abstained:	Nil

MOTION FAILED

Resolution: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

that

The meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32PM and resumed at 3:45PM

Cr Mepham submitted the following alternative motion:

Resolution CM24-102: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Scott Seconded

That the Council

1. **Notes** the Ministers intention to extend the notification date for Otago's freshwater plan to 31st December 2027 and that the council is currently under official instruction from the minister of the environment under section 24a of the RMA to notify the LWRP by the 30 June 2024, the status quo.
2. **Notes** the government has signalled future changes to NZ's freshwater planning framework are proposed and intended to occur in the next 18 months- 2years including a new or revised NPSFM.
3. **Requests** staff undertake an assessment of implications for Otago freshwater planning framework and programme options, reporting to council by the 20th March 2024.
4. **Notes** that clause 3 consultation closes on 23 February and request staff to report back to council on the feedback received.

A division was called:

Vote

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

MOTION CARRIED

8.3. Chairperson's Report [YouTube 2:42:45]

Cr Laws requested clarification on the reason Cr Robertson met with the Environmental Defense Society. Cr Robertson responded that the Society wrote to all Councils across New Zealand as they were highlighting that the NPSFM at the moment has an obligation to put in place a plan as soon as possible.

Resolution CM24-103: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4. Chief Executive's Report [YouTube 2:42:45]

Resolution CM24-104: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

8.5. Long Term Plan 2024-34 [YouTube 3:12:16]

This report enabled Council to direct staff on the key matters and positions to consult with the Otago community in the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) process.

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

Resolution CM24-105: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** that Councils draft Strategic Directions 2024-2034 is included in the report.
2. **Endorses** the inclusion of content from Council's draft Strategic Directions 2024-2034 in the LTP 2024-2034 consultation information.
3. **Notes** the proposed consolidated 10 Year expenditure and funding forecasts associated with the Council Activity presented in the 'Discussion' section of this report.
4. **Notes** that approving the proposed consolidated expenditure and funding enables the work program detailed in the activity build step of the LTP 2024-2034 process.
5. **Approves** the consolidated 10-year expenditure forecast as the basis for completing the LTP 2024-2034 proposal.
6. **Approves** the consolidated 10-year funding forecasts as the basis for completing the LTP 2024-2034 proposal.
7. **Notes** the changes that council staff are proposing to the Council Fees' and Charges and that the detailed schedule will be reported to the 20 March 2024 Council meeting to approve for consultation.

8. **Approves** the draft Statement of Service Performance, measures and targets for inclusion in the LTP 2024-2034 proposal subject to any changes in motions from papers 8.6 and 8.7.
9. **Notes** that council staff have progressed the Consultation Document based on direction to date and will provide an online presentation and feedback of a 'publish ready' version on 5 March 2024 prior to approval at the 20 March 2024 Council meeting.
10. **Directs** staff to complete the Consultation Document based on the direction from this meeting and for presentation to Councillors at a 5 March 2024 online session.

MOTION CARRIED

Vote

For:	Cr Forbes, Cr Malcolm, Cr McCall, Cr Mepham, Cr Noone, Cr Scott, Cr Somerville, Cr Weir, Cr Wilson and Cr Robertson
Against:	Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws
Abstained:	Nil

8.6. Draft Financial Strategy and Revenue and Financing Policy [YouTube 4:14:30]

The purpose of this paper was to adopt Council's Draft Financial Strategy, Draft Revenue and Financing Policy and Draft Development Contributions and Financial Contributions Policy for consultation as part of the Long-term Plan 2024-34.

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

Resolution CM24-106: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

1. **Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

Financial Strategy:

2. **Approves** that infrastructure capital repayment will occur over 30 years.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws requested that it be recorded what the difference is between three, five and 10 years. Mr Donnelly responded that three years would be 21.3%, five years would be 18.6% and 10 years would be 16.5%

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

3. **Approves** existing transport deficits being repaid over the first 5 years of the LTP – using the existing targeted rate areas, differentials, and based on capital value.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

4. **Approves** the attached Draft Financial Strategy subject to:
amendments required for resolutions 2 and 3 above, and
outcomes of the Dunedin PT Investment Proposal paper being presented separately
at this Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

5. **Approves** a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) of 34% of general rates (based on 25% of 'regional rates' - general rates, catchment management and biosecurity rates).

MOTION FAILED

Resolution: Cr Mepham Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

5. **Approves a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) of 25% of general rates ie retaining the status quo.**

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

6. **Approves** the 80% Alexandra Flood Targeted Rate requirement being funded from River and Waterway Management – Central.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

7. **Approves** Stock Truck Effluent Disposal Sites being funded from general rates.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

8. **Approves** the rate requirement for Oamaru Transport being funded 20% general rates and 80% targeted rate (all Waitaki District on a uniform basis excluding the Palmerston to Dunedin Public Transport rate area).

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

9. **Approves** the rate requirement for Wanaka Transport being funded 20% general rates and 80% targeted Queenstown Transport Rate (all Queenstown Lakes District on a uniform basis).

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Noone Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

10. **Approves** the attached Draft Revenue and Financing Policy subject to amendments required for resolutions 5 to 9 above.

11. **Approves** the Draft Funding Needs Analysis (circulated as a separate attachment).
12. **Approves** the attached Draft Development Contributions and Financial Contributions Policy.
13. **Notes** the Draft Financial Strategy, Draft Revenue and Financing Policy and Draft Development Contributions and Financial Contributions Policy are approved for the proposed consulting on the Long-term Plan 2024-34.

MOTION CARRIED

8.7. Dunedin PT Investment Proposal (taken before Item 8.5) [YouTube 2:45:45]

The purpose of this report sought that Council rescind its decisions of 13 December 2023 relating to the Dunedin Public Transport Consultation Topic for the Long-Term Plan (LTP). It provided new information about Dunedin Public Transport that it was now proposed to be included as a consultation topic in the LTP.

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

Cr Robertson thanked Lorraine and her team for putting this together and to achieve efficiencies with a much more limited budget under difficult circumstances.

Resolution CM24-107: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Rescinds** Resolution CM23-259, from its meeting held on 13 December 2023; as follows
 - 1) ...
 - 2) *Approves for the purposes of consultation in the Draft Long Term Plan the following option: Option D (staff recommendation) – the Fares & Frequencies Business Case – Preferred Option of increased service frequencies and operating hours, and \$2.00 Adult Bee Card fare (other fare products retaining present relativities) and being a \$461.74M Dunedin PT investment programme over 10 years; with a total impact on Targeted Rate of \$214.677M;*
 - 3) *Notes that the decision on the preferred funding model was made as part of a separate paper and that the preferred model will be applied to Public Transport costs for the purpose of consultation.*
3. **Approves** for the purposes of consultation in the Draft Long Term Plan one or more of the following options:

Status Quo Services – comprising fleet decarbonisation but no significant change of service frequency or service spans, and being a \$276.24M Dunedin PT investment programme over 10 years;

and;

Option B – Package 1, (staff recommendation) New timetables with longer service spans, and being a \$283.44M Dunedin PT investment programme over 10 years;

and;

Option C – Package 2, (staff recommendation) – Enhanced frequency on Routes 5/6 Pine Hill – Calton Hill, Calton Hill – Pine Hill and 10/11 Opoho - Shiel Hill, Shiel Hill -

Opoho), and being a 285.24M Dunedin PT investment programme over 10 years; (staff recommendation from Year 2)

and;

Option D - Package 2A (Extension to Package 2) – being a \$291.24M Dunedin PT investment programme over 10 years; (staff recommendation from Year 5)

4. **Notes** that the decision on the preferred funding model was made as part of a separate paper and that the preferred model will be applied to Public Transport costs for the purpose of consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

8.8. Adding further operative provisions to the Partially Operative Otago Regional Policy Statement 2019 [YouTube 4:56:00]

This paper sought Council approval to include provisions relating to port activities in the Partially Operative Otago Regional Policy Statement 2019 (RPS 2019) and make the RPS 2019 fully operative.

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

Resolution CM24-108: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Approves**, under clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, adding policy 4.3.7 and associated provisions, as shown in Attachment 1 to the Partially Operative Regional Policy Statement 2019.
2. **Approves**, under clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, making the Regional Policy Statement 2019 fully operative as of 4 March 2024.
3. **Approves** under clause 20 of schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, public notice being given on 24 February 2024 of the RPS 2019 being made fully operative.
4. **Notes** that the Council seal needs to be reapplied and witnessed to accommodate changes to the seal page.
5. **Notes** that there are no outstanding matters under appeal relating to the Partially Operative Regional Policy Statement 2019.

MOTION CARRIED

8.9. Adding Housing Bottom Lines to the Partially Operative Regional Policy Statement 2019 [YouTube 4:56:40]

The purpose of this paper was to seek approval to insert into the partially operative Regional Policy Statement 2019 the 'Housing Bottom Lines' for the Dunedin and Queenstown urban environments, in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020 (NPSUD), and to give public notice of the insertion on 24 February 2024.

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

Cr Wilson and Cr Noone stepped back from the table for this item.

Resolution CM24-109: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Approves** the insertion of *Housing Bottom Lines for the Dunedin and Queenstown Lakes urban environments into the partially operative Regional Policy Statement 2019.*
3. **Approves** public notice of the *Housing Bottom Lines for the Dunedin and Queenstown urban environments on 24 February 2024.*

MOTION CARRIED

8.10. Kuriwao Lease S224 Land Sale [YouTube 4:57:56]

The purpose of this paper was that the lessee of Kuriwao Endowment Lease S224; The Limberlost Limited (the Lessee), requested Council sell to it the land it leases under the Otago Regional Council (Kuriwao Endowment Lands) Act 1994 (the Act).

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services and CFO)

Resolution CM24-110: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McCall Seconded

That Council:

1. **Receives** this report.
2. **Authorises** the sale of the Land to the Lessee subject to entering into satisfactory terms and conditions of sale which include the requirement of the Conservation Covenant.
3. **Subject to 2. above:**
 - a) **Authorises** Council to execute the Deed of Conservation Covenant and affix the Common Seal thereto.
 - b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to execute the Sale and Purchase Agreement.
 - c) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to sign an authority and instruction form for the sale of the Land and registration of the Conservation Covenant.
 - d) **Confirms** that the net sale proceeds be applied in accordance with the Act.

MOTION CARRIED

9. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS [YouTube 4:58:29]

9.1. Recommendations of the Public and Active Transport Committee

Resolution CM24-111: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council adopts the recommendations of the 7 February 2024 Public and Active Transport Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Recommendations of Environmental Implementation Committee

Resolution CM24-112: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

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

MOTION CARRIED

9.3. Recommendations of Safety and Resilience Committee

Resolution CM24-113: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Council resolves to adopt the recommendations of the 8 February Safety and Resilience Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Robertson declared the meeting closed at 6:00 pm with a karakia.



20 March 2024

Chairperson

Date