



Otago
Regional
Council

Summary Annual Report 2022-2023



Otago Regional Council Summary Annual Report

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



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Richard Saunders, Chief Executive & Gretchen Robertson, Chairperson

Message from our Chairperson and Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa. This has been another extremely busy year for the Otago Regional Council (ORC) as we continued to deliver a substantial work programme. This includes our most significant piece of work, the new Land and Water Regional Plan for Otago.

A consistent theme throughout this and previous years is rising workload matched by increasing staff and resourcing needs. We continue to work closely with our communities to deliver new regulations relating to freshwater, and we acknowledge the work of our rural community who engaged so constructively with us.

Our Council remains on track to deliver official 'public notification' on the new land and water plan by 30 June 2024. This has required significant work from staff and

governance, and we are looking forward to engaging further with our community in late 2023. The umbrella policy of the LWRP, the Regional Policy Statement, required a new round of panel hearings but has progressed well throughout the year. We are looking forward to the certainty of direction this gives us around the way we manage precious natural resources.

After a particularly challenging beginning to the financial year with driver shortages and sickness, an increase in driver pay has made a big difference to the ability to deliver public transport in Queenstown and Dunedin. We thank our communities in Dunedin and Queenstown for their patience and for their support of public transport throughout this disruptive period. We

look forward to electrification of our fleet in Dunedin, with the first of 14 electric buses arriving to start their routes in the next financial year. It is exciting to be able to provide more sustainable public transport just as patronage levels have become more positive.

Fulfilling our environmental monitoring and regulatory roles, proactive work continues at pace as data and information is collected at increasing numbers of collection points on the health of Otago's water, groundwater, air and land, and on the risks posed by natural hazards. Work has also continued with the monitoring of pests in the region and implementation of corresponding programmes such as targeting rooks, wallabies, wilding conifers and water-borne weeds.

In total, 1339 compliance audits and site inspections were completed, along with rising numbers of consent applications (957 resource consent applications compared to 603 the prior year). A significant Regulatory investment was the new environmental data portal launched on our website in March, collating data from more than 250 water monitoring sites around Otago and replacing existing flood and low-flow warning sites. The new system gives people access to a user-friendly map which includes improved information about the context of flows across Otago.

Showing how vulnerable climactic events can make us, our rivers and infrastructure were also tested by four high rainfall and one low-flow event last year, resulting in 71 sites for repairs – of these, 25 are still to be completed. Reactive works were also required in response to erosion, gravel build-up or vegetation blockages. As in other regions, these added costs can be unexpected but require greater investment than we can predict: climate change is making its presence felt everywhere.

In Glenorchy and South Dunedin, engagement around natural hazards continues and important reports were released on the extent of these hazards this year.

We also had several occasions, albeit unfortunate ones for other regions, to be immensely proud of our staff, many of whom were deployed to support national emergencies over the 2022-2023 financial year, including to Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and the West Coast. We appreciate the efforts of these staff and the support they provided our fellow communities.

We have continued to focus strongly on engagement with Otago communities. This included a return to the Wanaka A & P show to explain the value of our work and talk through changes with our community; a well-attended public engagement around catchment plans in the Catlins; a packed earthworks event to educate developers and contractors in Queenstown; and effective Intensive Winter Grazing workshops. We are especially proud that our community engagement

around winter grazing consents was 'highly commended' at the Local Government conference in July this year.

Also this year, we launched a new regular, regional newsletter, Te Mātāpuna / The Source to communicate directly with our community, and a new methodology for collecting public feedback became embedded through Customer Support contact points. These initiatives reflect the council's commitment to both demonstrating value and listening to our communities- at every level of ORC.

As we look forward we are committed to continuing to strengthen our partnership with mana whenua, build and enhance relationships with our community, and deliver programmes of work that support a healthy environment and community.

Kā mihi nui,



Gretchen Robertson
CHAIRPERSON



Richard Saunders
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Development of Māori Capacity to Contribute to Decision Making

He Mahi Rau Rika, the Council's Significance, Engagement and Māori Participation policy, expresses our intent to actively seek meaningful engagement with mana whenua and to support the Crown's intention to uphold the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi as prescribed in local government and Treaty settlement legislation.

Over 2022-2023 we worked with our Iwi partners and their resource consultancy arms (Aukaha and Te Ao Mārama) to give effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi partnership, strengthen it and acknowledge the unique, enduring relationship mana whenua have with this land. The acknowledged practice of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is that consultation in the first instance is with Papatipu Rūnanga. There are four Kāi Tahu ki Otago Rūnaka:

- Te Rūnanga o Moeraki
- Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki
- Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou
- Hokonui Rūnanga

Three Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga have shared interests in the region:

- Awarua Rūnanga
- Waihopai Rūnaka
- Ōraka-Aparima Rūnaka

This year saw more engagement with Southland Rūnanga, with representatives attending Mana to Mana and the Land and Water Regional Plan Governance Group, and participating in Council's strategic refresh process. We are committed to supporting and facilitating mana whenua participation in our workstreams and decision making, and building the work we do in partnership. At the governance level, this is reflected in the Mana to Mana group, a regular meeting of councillors and Rūnaka Chairs/Upoko to identify and agree key areas for engagement and to

review the development of the partnership. A noho marae partnership hui was held at Ōtākou following the election of a new Council in October 2022. This offered councillors and rūnaka an opportunity for whanaukataka and to better understand te taiao from a te ao Māori and Mātauraka Māori perspective. The ORC's new Chief Executive, Richard Saunders, was welcomed onto Ōtākou Marae by mana whenua when taking up his new role as a sign of the strength and importance of the partnership.

The Council has started a te Tiriti o Waitangi Audit, undertaken by Te Kura Taka Pini (TKTP) and supported by rūnaka. The audit will ascertain whether the ORC is operating in a manner consistent with its commitment to partner with mana whenua and whether a bicultural approach is demonstrated within its organisation.

At an operational level, we have increased our active engagement on a range of issues, including land, water and air quality, biodiversity, natural hazards infrastructure, compliance and consenting, climate change and emergency management. Key opportunities in 2022-2023 are:

- Ongoing governance engagement in the partnership, via two meetings of Mana to Mana, the post-election partnership hui, and a tikaka learning session with mana whenua
- Iwi participation in the strategic directions refresh process
- Iwi representative as Co-Chair for the Environmental Science and Policy Committee
- Iwi representatives on the Environmental Science and Policy Committee and the Regional Leadership Committee
- Working with Aukaha and Te Ao Mārama through the Integrated Catchment Management Working Group to develop a collaboration framework and Catchment Action Plan framework for the Catlins pilot
- Land and Water Regional Plan Governance Group (ongoing)
- Membership of the Land and Water Regional Plan project team, including chapter development,

community consultation and the Māori economy work programme (ongoing)

- Partnership with rūnaka in 'Jobs for Nature' funded projects, such as Te Hākapupu/Pleasant River restoration project (ongoing)
- Engagement and expertise provided to engineering, compliance, consent and civil defence and emergency management teams (ongoing)
- Co-design in the Council's Dunedin Whare Rūnaka (Council House) project
- Ongoing working relationships in the consenting, compliance and regulatory teams

- 'Te Mana o Taiari' governance, alongside iwi and the Department of Conservation (ongoing)
- Biodiversity Regional Hui cooperation (ongoing)
- Direct engagement between Civil Defence Emergency Management, rūnaka and iwi

Recognising the need to invest in building the bicultural competence of our staff, the ORC has an agreement with the Otago Polytechnic to provide bicultural competency training, which includes modules on Te Reo, Tikaka and te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi. There has been strong interest and uptake from staff this year.



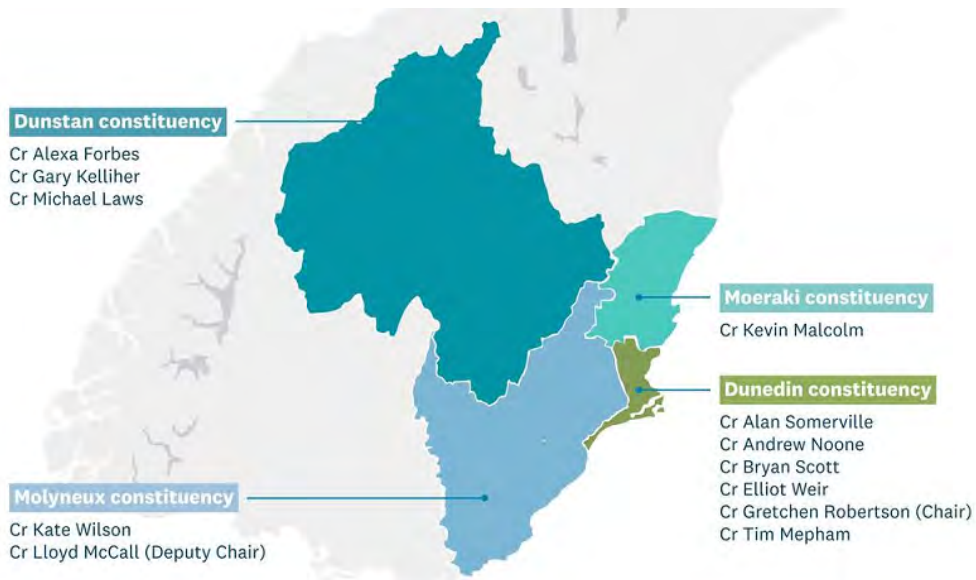
Councillors and Constituencies

Your elected Otago Regional Councillors represent the region's four constituencies – Dunedin, Dunstan, Moeraki and Molyneux.



Back row left to right: Cr Andrew Noone, Cr Alan Somerville, Cr Bryan Scott, Cr Elliot Weir, Cr Tim Mepham, Cr Michael Laws. Insert: Cr Gary Kelliher

Front row left to right: Cr Alexa Forbes, Cr Kevin Malcolm, Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chair), Cr Lloyd McCall (Deputy Chair), Cr Kate Wilson



Acknowledgements

We thank the district and city councils, other institutions, urban and rural industries, Kāi Tahu and the communities of Otago for working constructively with us to ensure the best possible outcomes for our region and its people.

Gretchen Robertson
CHAIRPERSON

Richard Saunders
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



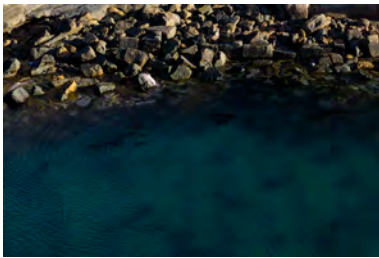
Activities and Performance

Otago Regional Council's ten activities are arranged into four groups:



Regional Leadership

- Governance and Community Engagement
- Regional Planning
- Regulatory



Environment

- Land and Water
- Biodiversity and Biosecurity
- Air



Safety and Resilience

- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Flood Protection, Drainage and River Management
- Emergency Management



Transport

- Transport (including Regional Transport and Public Passenger Transport)

Community Outcomes



Communities that connect with, and care for, Otago's environment



An environment that supports healthy people and ecosystems



Communities that are resilient in the face of natural hazards, climate change and other risks



Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Kāi Tahu are embedded in Otago communities



Sustainable, safe and inclusive transport



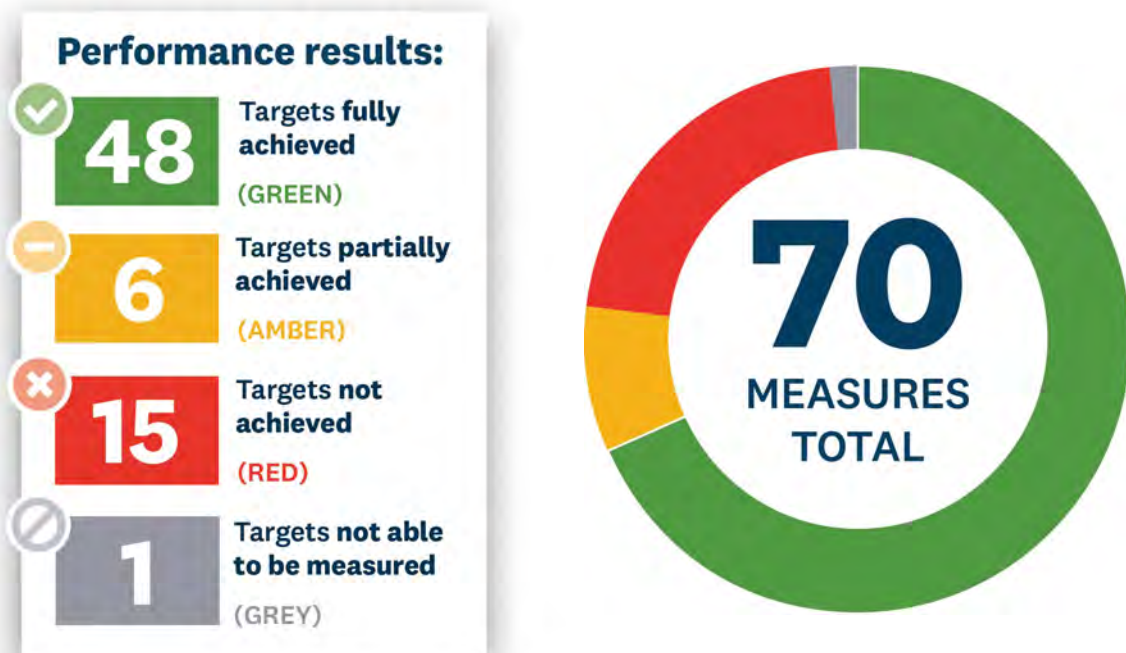
A sustainable way of life for everyone in Otago

Summary Statement of Service Provision

This section reports on Council’s performance against service measures adopted in the Long-term Plan 2021-31.

The Long-term Plan contains 36 Level of Service statements, 64 measures and 72 targets; of these, 70 relate to activities delivered in the 2022-23 year. Performance against these service measures and targets is reported by groups of activities and quarterly updates have been presented to Council’s Finance Committee.

The full audited Annual Report 2022-2023 contains further details on the measures, targets and performance. Copies are available on our website www.orc.govt.nz or by calling our Customer Experience team.



Regional Leadership

This group of activities includes the following council activities:

- Governance and Community Engagement
- Regional Planning and Urban Development
- Regulatory

Performance results



Outram Glen

Community Outcomes

Our Regional Leadership activities contribute to:



Governance and Community Engagement



This activity supports Otago’s elected regional council representatives to perform in their roles of decision making and connecting community. Enabling and strengthening our regional democracy is sought and is underpinned by these roles.

Council communications and engagement expertise supports connecting community in a timely and accessible way to Council decision making and work.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Governance and Democracy

Local body elections were delivered in October 2022. The newly elected Council attended a noho marae at Ōtākou Marae following the inaugural Council meeting. In addition to creating new decision-making structures for the 2022-2025 triennium and allocating roles and responsibilities, the new Council was immediately focused on engaging with the second round of Land and Water Regional Plan public consultations, considering the ORC's Annual Plan for 2023/24 and a recruitment process to appoint a permanent Chief Executive. From March to June 2023, refreshed Strategic Directions have been developed in partnership with mana whenua, which will be consulted on as part of the Long-term Plan. Council meetings have taken place in Cromwell and Balclutha, in addition to Dunedin, and meetings continue to be livestreamed to increase accessibility for the public. Agendas were available two days in advance of Council and Committee meetings.

Media and Communications

Public Transport communications during a period of travel disruption, with timetable changes required, and the Council's engagement activities around freshwater, pests and educating landowners about new rules and consent requirements, dominated the publicity space for the Council this year. We also launched a new website project to replace the existing site with a new, more functional design next year. A wide-reaching campaign to promote public participation in the draft Land and Water Regional Plan resulted in good public participation in September/October 2022. Social media engagement is also up by just over 100 per cent year on year for our Facebook following, as our persistent focus on creating colourful and engaging content pays off.

ORC's Community Survey was completed for the second year running in November last year, with a third survey planned for the end of 2023. An action plan created from this has identified 19 tasks for ORC teams to work on.

Customer Experience

Our Customer Support team manages an average of approximately 6000 enquiries a month via phone, email and reception. As part of the level of service to establish a methodology for collecting customer feedback, enduring surveys have been embedded through our Customer Support team contact points (phone, email and reception) to establish how satisfied the public are with the customer support they receive from the ORC. The aim of this initiative is to ensure a consistent standard of customer service and give us a

roadmap for improvements. It will also contribute to the creation of an ORC customer strategy. The initial results will show how we perform against industry standards and enable us to set a baseline and targets against which we can measure improvements to our customer service provision.

Wellbeing Framework

In collaboration with government agencies and community representatives, we developed Otago's first wellbeing framework in late 2022. The framework is a tool to enable the ORC to identify appropriate indicators for wellbeing in Otago and measure progress against wellbeing outcomes. It will also help us incorporate wellbeing more effectively into our strategic planning and decision making.

The framework identifies seven key outcomes for wellbeing in Otago, grouped into three dimensions: People, Community and Place. From this, we produced an Otago Wellbeing Baseline Report in June 2023 to highlight performance against 33 indicators, comparing Otago against other areas and showing diversity within Otago. Our region performs particularly strongly in the dimensions of 'healthy and fulfilled people', 'belonging and identity' and 'participation and governance'. There is room for improvement in 'a good standard of living' and 'a healthy natural environment'.

Climate Change

The ORC released the first annual report for regional climate collaboration in June 2023. This report showcases our efforts to lead regional climate collaboration with the formation of the Otago Climate Officers' Group and continued work on joint projects such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the upcoming Regional Climate Strategy.

We received a preliminary Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Scenario Modelling, which highlights trends across the Otago region. This is still a work in progress as we want to align methodology with local councils and ensure we are using up-to-date data for the region, so we were therefore unable to meet the target to report to Council by 30 June 2023. The ORC has a good track record of work on understanding regional greenhouse gas emissions, and the scenario modelling carried out in 2022-23 builds on this.

The combined inventory and scenario modelling will be publicly reported in September 2023.

Taken together, the annual report for regional climate collaboration and the updated regional greenhouse gas inventory and scenario modelling lay a solid platform for the regional climate strategy and subsequent work ahead.

Regional Planning



We set strategic direction on Otago’s natural resources via a planning framework that guides how people interact with the environment. In this framework, our regional plans set objectives, policies and rules for sustainably using natural and physical resources in Otago, including water, land, air, and the coast.

Other strategies and plans are also needed to support regulation, on-ground action, and community capacity building. Strategic direction and collaboration on important regional issues, such as climate change and community wellbeing, help support better outcomes for Otago communities.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) identifies the significant resource management issues for Otago and explains how national direction on resource management will be applied. It sets out what we want for Otago, what's stopping us achieving this, and how we will solve those problems.

Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) identifies the significant resource management issues for Otago and explains how national direction on resource management will be applied. It sets out what we want for Otago, what's stopping us achieving this, and how we will solve those problems. We are nearing the end of a long process to review the RPS. It was not operative by the target date of 30 June 2023, but we are progressing well through the hearings process.

Consistent with a High Court decision in July 2022, we separated the RPS into freshwater and non-freshwater parts. The hearing for the non-freshwater parts started in January 2023 and was completed in May. The hearing for freshwater parts is scheduled to start at the end of August 2023, and a decision on both parts may be issued by the end of the calendar year 2023. Once any appeals are resolved, the RPS will become operative.

Urban Development

The central government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development requires local authorities responsible for high and medium growth urban environments to have a Future Development Strategy (FDS). An FDS promotes long-term strategic spatial planning to make sure urban environments function well as they develop.

The ORC is jointly developing Future Development Strategies with the Dunedin City Council and the Queenstown Lakes District Council, in partnership with mana whenua. Work is progressing well and both strategies are due to be consulted on in early 2024. Community engagement is a key part of developing an FDS, to ensure it reflects the public's aspirations for their areas over the next 30 years. The ORC and DCC held a series of community workshops across Dunedin and surrounding settlements in April and May 2023.

Work on the development of a draft Urban Development Strategy was paused for two reasons: to allow staff to prioritise FDS work, and because it will likely be overtaken by both the FDS work and the regional spatial strategy to be developed under the new Spatial Planning Act.

Responding to Issues

Our teams respond to national reforms and legislative processes. In the last financial year, we made submissions on RMA reforms, as well as other central government regulations and strategies. We are also working towards incorporating two new sets of national direction into the proposed RPS: the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 and the National Policy Statement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Heat Processes 2023.

Regulatory



As a Regulatory authority, ORC supports the sustainable management of water, land, air and the coast. We process resource consents develop rules for how natural resources are used and managed, monitoring them and ensuring the rules are applied. We investigate activities that don't comply, providing services to ensure activities in Otago are consistent with both national and regional rules in the Resource Management Act.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

The Regulatory teams delivered a high volume of work over the last financial year, meeting all of their service level targets. The targets were met at a time of regulatory change, with increased implementation work as a result of new national and regional requirements. A wide range of engagement activities, including drop-in sessions and meetings, system improvements and resources have been developed alongside core business activities. There has also been an increased presence on the water by the Harbourmaster team with the addition of a second boat into the Otago region.

Consents

The Consents team received 957 resource consent applications over the financial year, consistently meeting required time frames. In comparison, 603 applications were received in the 2021/2022 financial year. This shows a significant increase in workload for the team, which it has handled well. Decisions were made on 1,260 individual consents (cumulative total) in the financial year; for context decisions were made on 665 individual consents in the 2021/2022 year. The main types of consents processed were for surface water takes, bores, general land use activities and discharges to land.

The processing of consents for intensive winter grazing was a focus for the Consents team. It was a key activity for rural communities, which was supported by awareness-raising and education-based sessions. The organisation won a Local Government New Zealand award for its engagement activity on intensive winter grazing. Consents for earthworks were a key part of the workload, especially in Central Otago.

Along with applications for these new consent types, the team has continued to process applications to replace expired deemed permits and water permits, with the bulk of these now complete.

One review of conditions of a consent was completed. This was a small-scale review of conditions on a consent related to hydroelectricity. Staff were involved in two appeals to consent decisions, which were both resolved through Environment Court mediation.

We received 3,109 public enquiries over the last financial year, a number that is consistently increasing. We answered 99.5% of enquiries within seven days, 88.0% of these within two days. The most common

enquiry types are requests for copies of documents and information about discharges to land, farming activities and bores.

Staff have worked on several initiatives to enhance our public enquiries service and other projects over the last financial year. The “Farmers Guide” is a new webpage that provides information for farmers on resource consents, useful links, relevant dates and FAQs. We have also developed a new online forms portal and recorded short videos on specific consent activities for the website.

Compliance Monitoring

Resource consents often require consent holders to submit performance monitoring returns, providing information that ranges from photographs of work to management plans to monthly water quality results. Staff graded a substantial number of these returns, with an increase from 6,945 in the 2021/22 year to 8,912 in the 2022/23 year. Performance monitoring helps the Compliance Team prioritise which consents require audits.

ORC carried out 1,339 compliance audit and site inspections – this total was made up of 1,009 consent audits and 293 dairy inspections. Staff followed up all instances of non-compliance and either took appropriate action or are continuing investigations.

For dairy farms, the ORC monitors the compliance of farm waste streams (offal pits and landfills) and animal effluent systems and discharges. In the last financial year, ORC inspected all high-risk farms, with some follow-up inspections. Compliance staff completed 293 on-site dairy inspections in the 2022/23 year.

In the plantation forestry area, ORC received 238 forestry notifications and 79 management plans. A compliance risk assessment was undertaken on forestry management plans, and on-site inspections were undertaken where appropriate to check compliance on the ground. Compliance staff completed 37 on-site forestry inspections in the 2022/23 year.

Low-flow conditions on water take consents were monitored during the 2022/23 summer. The team regularly communicated with affected consent holders, checked water takes daily, carried out monitoring inspections and provided media and stakeholder updates. The team also engaged with water user groups.

Monitoring compliance with permitted activity intensive winter grazing was undertaken in the 2022 and 2023 winter seasons. The monitoring focus for winter grazing in the 2023 season was on farms where IWG consents have not yet been applied for, and waterway disturbances.

Investigations and Enforcement

The ORC pollution hotline has been available 24/7 throughout the year. We received 1,407 service requests, relating to 1,203 incidents. The most common requests related to water pollution, outdoor burning and odour.

In the 2022/23 year, the ORC issued 151 formal enforcement actions, comprising 80 infringement notices, 55 abatement notices, eight formal warnings, seven prosecutions initiated, and one enforcement order sought. The most common RMA breaches that led to formal enforcement action related to contaminant discharges into water, discharges to land that could enter water, non-compliance with abatement notices, and alteration or disturbance of waterways.

Education and Engagement

A large part of Regulatory work is education and engagement with landowners, consent holders and the community. A focus this year has been changes to requirements for animal effluent storage and discharge, intensive winter grazing, residential earthworks and for nitrogen reporting. We held several winter grazing sessions for the public, where staff talked about how to meet the criteria in the new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, grazing management plans and the consent process.

We ran a series of earthworks toolkit days with contractors, which were well received.

Harbour and Waterway Management

As with other parts of the Regulatory team, an important part of our role is to provide boating safety advice and information to the community. Our education and engagement with water users increased over the reporting year, using channels such as radio interviews, video and social media. Safety videos on using a kill cord, bar crossings and safe speeds, and monitoring your wash and wake were developed and provided in the online catalogue. We have also shared information and key safety messages through presentations and community sessions on the ground. The Brighton Gala Day, which attracted 15,000 people, was a great opportunity for people to meet the Harbourmaster team and see the vessel.

We responded to a major incident off the coast and another near the head of the harbour. Both incidents are currently under investigation by Maritime New Zealand.

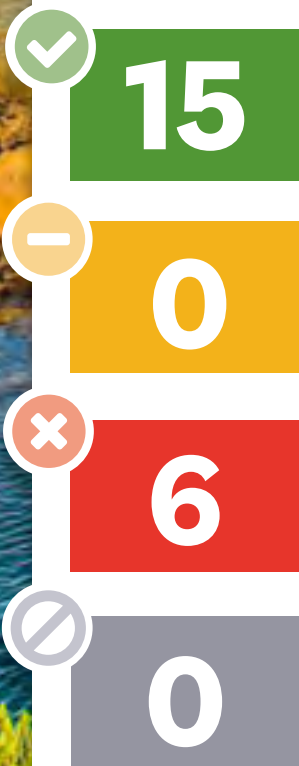
Throughout the year, we had an organisation-wide team trained and ready to respond to oil spills. Fortunately, the team didn't require deployment but did complete the three required training exercises.

Environment

This group of activities includes the following council activities:

- Land and Water
- Biodiversity and Biosecurity
- Air

Performance results



Matakaea / Shag Point

Community Outcomes

Our Environmental activities contribute to:



Land and Water



Our role involves working with Otago communities to manage water quality and quantity. To do this well, we need robust, integrated and consistent regional plans and strategies. Our current work includes an ambitious planning programme to develop a new Land and Water Regional Plan by 2023.

We also assess water quality and quantity through our network of monitoring sites across the region, and this data informs planning and future decision making. Our water monitoring and science programmes have expanded to include monitoring estuaries, the coast, groundwater, biomonitoring, land-use and soil monitoring.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Land and Water Planning

Our planning programme in 2022/23 has continued to focus on completing a new Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). It will align Otago with the new national regulatory frameworks for managing freshwater. The programme was adjusted to reflect an extension to the government deadline for public notification to mid-2024.

The LWRP has two workstreams: the first focuses on region-wide plan provisions and the second on specific provisions for Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). Most topics in the plan provisions have now been drafted and reviewed. We sought direction from governance on some specific topics through a workshop in mid-2023.

Community and stakeholder engagement is a substantive component of the work programme, with three stages planned to reach public notification. Council is on track, having completed stage two during 2022/23. This focused on environmental outcomes and options for achieving them. This work sets the basis for completing stage three engagement with communities on suggested actions and rationale early in the new financial year.

Science and Monitoring

Our Science and Monitoring teams carry out an extensive body of work to understand Otago's natural environment, with the scale of staff resource now stable as planned. Data captured by this activity informs policy/regional plan development and helps us track how effective that policy is. It also guides environmental restoration and management projects and is made publicly available through reports and online databases. We also launched a new web portal that provides near real-time data on water quality, river flow and rainfall.

A large part of our work in 2022/23 was to inform the development of the LWRP. Our land and soil science programme, re-established in early 2021, is designed to provide long-term information about how land use affects water quality, an important piece of the puzzle in understanding and setting policy to manage the health of our region's waterways. We reported on this programme to the Environmental Science and Policy Committee in April 2023.

In this financial year, we looked at how to improve the accuracy of the land use map compiled in 2021/22. A project is underway in collaboration with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research to map the soils of three large areas with high production capabilities: parts of the Catlins, Tuapeka West and Moa Flat. Field and laboratory work has been completed for the Catlins

area, and the soil maps will be available online later in 2023. We are establishing a long-term programme to monitor soil health across the region, and description and sampling of the 22 initial sites was completed in the last financial year – 10 new sites will be added later this year. Improvements were made to our soil moisture monitoring network, and we prioritised sites for future installations.

Extensive hydrology and ecology investigations have been carried out on the Manuhereki River as part of work to establish minimum flow levels. We monitor flow at 14 sites and rainfall at four sites. Water quality is also monitored monthly at nine sampling points.

In this financial year, we completed a study that analysed and reviewed the state and trends of water quality data for Otago's rivers, lakes, and groundwater between 2017 and 2022. The data was collected from our monitoring network for rivers (107 sites), lakes (34 sites/depths), and groundwater (55 sites). The results show that river and lake water quality varies across Otago, being best at high elevations under predominantly native land cover and poorer in urban streams in Dunedin, intensified catchments in North Otago and some tributaries in the Lower Clutha Rohe.

Our estuary, freshwater and contact recreation monitoring programmes provide an up-to-date picture of the state of Otago's waterways. Reports on these programmes were presented to Council in June 2023.

Adding Tahakopa, Waipati/Chaslands estuaries and Hoopers and Papanui Inlets to our estuary monitoring programme, we completed assessments of the state of health for all estuaries in Otago by the end of the 2022/23 field season. Fine-scale data was collected for the Pleasant River, Tautuku and Blueskin Bay estuaries, and sediment plate monitoring continued in all estuaries. Tidal conditions meant we were not able to fully map Hoopers Inlet and the Kaikorai Estuary – these will be completed in the next field season.

We are progressing well with the development of a marine monitoring programme designed to build our understanding of Otago's coastal environment in line with freshwater and land programmes. A desktop project to map significant ecological areas and key habitats/ecosystems on Otago's coastline was completed this year. Next steps are to develop a management framework for significant areas, verify findings through field work, and develop a more detailed coastal monitoring programme to fill gaps in our knowledge. We have also completed baseline reporting on kelp forests, but field work verification has been delayed. Both projects will inform the review of the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago, which is due for public notification in mid- 2026.

Land and Water Implementation

Part of our role is to support projects led by communities and landowners to conserve soils, improve water quality and use water efficiently – we also spend a lot of time on community education and engagement. A highlight is Toitū Te Hākapupu, a multi-year remediation project for Te Hākapupu | Pleasant River run in partnership with Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki. This project is progressing well – initial planning is complete, and planting and fencing are likely to start later in 2023. We contributed to intensive winter grazing workshops this year and are preparing for dairy effluent workshops early in the new financial year.

In collaboration with local communities, we have projects underway to develop, prioritise and implement management plans for Lake Tuakitoto, Tomohaka / Tomahawk Lagoon and Lake Hayes. In this financial year, we developed priority actions and began work to implement them. The priority action plans have been delivered as expected. Partnership with mana whenua and collaboration with communities in these areas is ongoing.

Integrated Catchment Management

The ORC set a pathway for an integrated catchment management programme in August 2022, establishing the ICM Working Group and selecting the Catlins as the pilot for a Catchment Action Plan to be developed in collaboration with mana whenua and the community. A framework for how the CAP will be developed through grassroots collaboration has been endorsed – this essentially is a way of working together to develop a plan for the area that everyone has ownership of. The Catchment Action Plan (CAP) is not another document that sits on a shelf. The CAP will be accessible online in a format that outlines the long-term goals, shows the current situation, ranks the pressures, and explains what we aim to do about them. This format also enables us to track progress in achieving the actions and adapt if we are off track. We have started the development of this online hub and expect to have a prototype by mid-2024. You can keep track of the ICM Programme and the CAP development [here](#).

Work on the pilot CAP is expected to start in October 2023, and an Integrated Catchment Group for the Catlins is being established following a community meeting held in mid-July.

We continue to fund the Otago Catchment Community and meet regularly to ensure our work programmes are aligned.



Biodiversity and Biosecurity



Otago is home to unique species that we need to look after. Our Regional Pest Management Plan (Pest Plan) sets out the framework for how pest plants and animals will be managed in Otago. It is supported by a Biosecurity Strategy that looks at how we will work with organisations and communities to achieve the goals set out in the Pest Plan.

Our biosecurity work supports the control of prolific pests, such as feral rabbits. We do this by educating our communities, facilitating compliance and through funding projects. Council also plays a lead role in facilitating government funding and overseeing projects such as wilding conifer removal and wallaby eradication.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Biodiversity Implementation

The ORC's Biodiversity Action Plan: Te Mahi hei Tiaki i te Koiora (2019-2024) sets out a framework and work programme to maintain and enhance biodiversity in Otago. This programme centres on five components: to increase active management for the protection and improvement of indigenous biodiversity, engage in regional and national collaborations, better information and sharing for improved biodiversity management, provide advice and support for good management practices for indigenous biodiversity, and strengthen biodiversity outcomes through regulatory plans. Eleven actions were intended to be completed or underway by 2022/2023, of which six have progressed to the expected level and three related to information management have progressed but started late. The remaining two related to the biodiversity strategy review were paused as they were dependent on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, which only came into being in August 2023.

Our funding programmes foster community-led projects that protect and enhance Otago's flora, fauna and environment. In the 2023 ECO and Incentives Fund rounds, 32 organisations received \$536,470 in grants, slightly under the total pool available of \$568,000. The funds were again oversubscribed, with 49 applications seeking a total of \$1.17 million. Environmental work supported by the funds includes water quality monitoring, trap purchases, animal and weed pest control, native plant nurseries and plantings, and biodiversity enhancement. Our Catchment Advisors support the funding process with site visits and advice. We also contributed financially to Predator Free Dunedin.

Biodiversity Partnerships

With the Environmental Implementation team becoming more established in 2022/23, we have increased our partnerships to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity in Otago.

We developed two new partnership projects in 2022/23 – with QEII (a charitable trust that partners with private landowners to protect ecologically significant sites) and Ngā Whenua Rāhui (a DOC programme to protect the natural integrity of Māori land). The partnerships involve sharing the cost of fencing to protect high value biodiversity. This year also saw the establishment of a working group with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki to support site-led work in West Harbour/Mt Cargill, Quarantine Island, Goat Island and the Otago Peninsula. A new project has been started with Predator Free Dunedin to build on and learn from the possum control work in the West

Harbour Mt Cargill area. The learnings from this work will be used to develop more possum control with landowners in other parts of Otago.

Other engagement activities in this financial year included training for Hokonui Rūnanga in methods to monitor the outcomes of large pest control projects, a Halo Project field trip, meetings with partner organisations, and hui to improve public information on stormwater, biodiversity and the environment at Tomohaka/Tomahawk Lagoon.

Biodiversity Science and Monitoring

Work is underway to develop and implement a region-wide programme to monitor the Indigenous biodiversity of Otago's ecosystems. The recent publication of the National Policy Statement – indigenous Biodiversity (NPS IB) will guide the further development of this programme. We are working through a desktop inventory of biodiversity across the region while beginning several programmes.

In the terrestrial biodiversity domain, we received a report outlining the threatened species present in Otago and started a series of threat classification reports. We completed threat classifications for reptiles and bats, and have some regional monitoring in place for indigenous vegetation and some native birds. In this financial year, we also developed monitoring programmes to assess the extent and ecological integrity of two naturally rare and vulnerable ecosystems – inland salt pans and coastal turf. Otago has the highest number of coastal turf ecosystems in the country and the only inland salt pan; the monitoring programmes will inform work to protect them.

In the freshwater domain, fish surveys and habitat monitoring over the 2022/23 financial year gave us a better picture of the state of the environment and ecological activity, which we will build on in future seasons. The Environmental Monitoring team completed 16 state of the environment (SOE) fish surveys, monitored 44 ecological threshold sites, conducted monthly sampling for periphyton at 34 sites, and took an annual summer invertebrate sample at each of our SOE water quality sites.

A long-term project is investigating barriers to fish passage across the region. NIWA completed a desktop exercise, which highlighted around 13,000 fish passages to be assessed. We completed approximately 200 of these over the winter. Work was also done this year as part of multi-year projects to remove trout from Pischah Creek near Kyeburn and Boundary Creek to reduce predation stress on threatened native non-migratory fish.

Biosecurity

The ORC's Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) sets out the activities we intend to do each year to implement the Regional Pest Management Plan, which outlines how declared pests in Otago will be managed over a ten-year period from 2019 to 2029. Of the 62 key performance indicators (KPIs) in the 2022/23 plan, 39 were fully achieved (62.9%) and 19 were partially achieved (30.6%), many substantially. These rates are a small improvement on the previous year.

Over the last 18 months, we have done a lot of work to make our compliance and enforcement system more effective, consistent and defensible. A transition to the new system began in November 2022 and it was fully rolled out in April 2023. Where we did not achieve our targets, this was generally due to resourcing issues and delays associated with the transition to the new system. Our outcomes for compliance and enforcement are expected to improve once the new system has been operating for a full year (2023/24).

We completed 544 rabbit inspections (down from 800 in the previous year), focusing on areas with high rabbit population densities. We have also increased the support and education that we provide to communities around long term sustained rabbit management.

Overall, around half of inspected properties met the rules for rabbit density set in the Regional Pest Management Plan, a similar rate to the previous year. Improvements to our inspection programme will provide a clearer picture of progress in coming years. We are developing relationships with public land managers to discuss rabbit management and to share information.

We also completed 1,256 inspections for declared pest plants. Around 40% of inspected properties met the rules set in the Regional Pest Management Plan, a rate that is broadly similar to the previous year. Small infestations of lagarosiphon were found in Albert Town and Bullock Creek, and removal is being investigated. Our "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign was run over the summer to educate the public on preventing the transmission of aquatic weeds between waterways, particularly lagarosiphon.

Wilding Conifers

Otago's landscapes are highly vulnerable to the invasion of wilding conifer, with the high country and tussock grasslands at particular risk. In the last financial year, we have developed a Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy to support the control of wilding conifers through community awareness, better information systems, consistent and clearer regulations, and lifting participation. The strategy and associated implementation plan were adopted by the Council in May 2023.

Air



Good air quality is necessary for health and well being. We are responsible for aligning our region with the government’s National Environmental Standard for Air Quality and, under the Resource Management Act, for controlling the discharge of contaminants into the air.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

ORC's air science and monitoring this year focused on monitoring site upgrades and region-wide monitoring in winter, the results of which will help inform the review of our Regional Plan: Air.

Otago's air quality is monitored at eight sites to assess pollution from burning, mainly produced by home heating. Data from our monitoring programme is publicly available on the LAWA website and all air quality exceedances (above the limits for PM₁₀, measured at four of the sites) are reported through news media over the winter. We reported on the monitoring programme and two additional projects to the Environmental Science and Policy Committee in April 2023.

While previous work to improve air quality has seen a long-term reduction in winter air pollution in Alexandra, Arrowtown, Cromwell, Clyde and Milton, significant reductions in emissions are still needed for the region to consistently comply with national standards. In the 2022 winter season, Alexandra, Arrowtown and Mosgiel all exceeded the national standards at times.

We are working through a network upgrade to include monitoring for PM_{2.5}, a finer particle size likely to be regulated in the updated National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ). Full upgrades of the Mosgiel and Dunedin sites were completed in the 2022-23 financial year. A temporary site at Wānaka was also completed, with long-term monitoring sites planned for Wānaka and Frankton in the 2023-24 financial year. The Cromwell monitoring site was moved to a new location, and we carried out minor upgrades for Clyde, Cromwell and Milton.

Over the 2022 winter, we undertook two additional air quality projects. In central Dunedin, we monitored nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂), gas emissions related to transport and industry. Monitoring showed concentrations within national standards. We also tested ultra-low emission burners in seven homes in Arrowtown to accurately record emissions from real-life use of these burners, which are effectively the only type of wood burner that can be installed in Air Zone 1 (Alexandra, Arrowtown, Clyde and Cromwell) under the Air Plan. This study contributes to national understanding of the factors that influence emissions and wood burner efficiency and will enable better estimates of policy effectiveness during future Air Plan development.

Spatial studies have been done and are still ongoing in several towns using small PM_{2.5} monitors installed on power poles and lamp posts. These towns are Alexandra (in collaboration with NIWA), Clyde, South Dunedin, Ōamaru, Kingston, Lake Hawea, Luggate and Ranfurly. The aim of these studies is to find out where the peak PM_{2.5} concentrations are in these towns and to evaluate the need for long-term monitoring sites there.

Work has begun on the ORC's review of the Regional Plan: Air, which is due to be publicly notified in mid 2025. As reported, we are currently behind schedule due to staff vacancies and the reprioritisation of resource to the Regional Policy Statement.

A paper on the process and timeframes for review was taken to the Environmental Science and Policy Committee in June 2023. We are preparing an indicative time line and draft project plan, and will present an issues and options paper to the committee in the second half of 2023. Scientific and monitoring work to inform the planning process is on track, with one more report to complete this calendar year.

Safety and Resilience

This group of activities includes the following council activities:

- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Flood Protection, Drainage and River Management
- Emergency Management

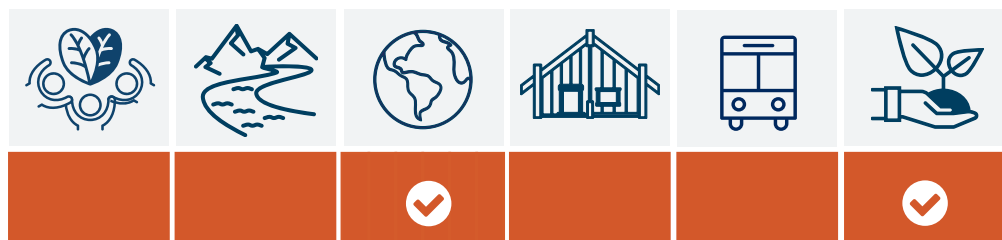
Performance results



Styx Basin, Upper Taiari/Taiari

Community Outcomes

Our Safety and Resilience activities contribute to:



Natural Hazards and Climate Change



We identify, monitor, and investigate natural hazards to provide intelligence that supports community resilience and the ability to adapt to environmental change. Our work includes monitoring rainfall, river and lake levels, and providing public information on water levels and flows, all of which help inform responses to flood events.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Over the last year, we have worked closely with Otago communities and relevant organisations to provide hazard information and technical support, and to guide adaptation to natural hazards. We made good progress on natural hazard and climate change projects and programmes in South Dunedin, Clutha Delta and the Head of Lake Whakatipu. We continued to gather data that improves our understanding of natural hazards, and to make this data easily accessible to the community.

Risk Assessment and Prioritisation Programme

Our work on hazard risk assessment and prioritisation progressed well this year. The ORC is undertaking a programme that will enable us to assess risks associated with natural hazards consistently across the Otago region, to see which areas have the highest risks, and to prioritise options for managing or adapting to natural hazards.

From previous work, we have a good understanding of the kinds of natural hazards (including those associated with climate change) in the Otago region and where they are. We progressed a preliminary region-wide risk analysis, calculating how likely each hazard is to occur and what its impact might be. We plan to report on this by June 2024 and make the data available.

Progress was also made towards more complex risk assessment work that builds on the above. In short, we are developing a methodology for assessing cumulative risks at community level. This work will inform decisions on where and how to act.

South Dunedin

The Otago Regional and Dunedin City Councils approved the South Dunedin Future programme plan in July 2022. The ORC supports this joint work programme through collaboration and funding, and it is a good example of the multi-disciplinary, cross-sector nature of climate change adaptation.

We lead the gathering and analysis of natural hazards information for the programme. Our work in this financial year has focused on continuing to monitor groundwater and sea levels and consolidating the

information we have about natural hazards so it can be integrated into programme workstreams and made available through community flyers, website updates and technical reports.

We have initiated projects this year to improve our understanding of groundwater, sea level, coastal inundation and vertical land movement in the area.

Glenorchy and Head of Lake Whakatipu

We are undertaking a long programme of work on liquefaction and floodplain hazards at the the Dart-Rees floodplain and Glenorchy township. Having built a good understanding of the hazards, we have focused this financial year on assessing potential approaches for managing these hazards. Reports on engineering approaches that could be used to manage risks related to liquefaction in Glenorchy and flooding and erosion at the Head of Lake Whakatipu have been completed and were presented to Council in May 2023.

Initial work and scoping have been done for a range of other assessments and investigations. A draft flood hazard assessment report for the Buckler Burn at Glenorchy has been completed and is being peer reviewed.

In conjunction with technical work, we have a sustained programme of community engagement as part of the process for developing a natural hazards adaptation strategy.

Clutha Delta and Other Areas

We have completed a gap analysis on the data and information we have about hazards in the Clutha Delta and have developed an initial programme plan. Over 2022/23, we continued investigating natural hazards, focusing on liquefaction and coastal hazards.

Progress on Roxburgh and Henley has been slow due to resourcing issues.

Data Capture

LiDAR mapping for the whole Otago coastal area – covering 4,250 square kilometres – was completed this financial year and made available through public websites. The mapping provides high-resolution, 3D ground elevation data and is a valuable tool for identifying, mapping and managing natural hazards, such as flooding, erosion and landslips. Data for a further almost 4,000 square kilometres around the Manuhereka catchment in Central Otago has also been captured and is being prepared for release later this year.

Otago Natural Hazards Database

The Otago Natural Hazards Database is an online portal that makes the information we have about the region's natural hazards publicly accessible so that people can make informed decisions. In the last financial year, we made the database more user friendly, improving its functionality, adding a tutorial video and updating the portal display to make it work better for people accessing the database on their mobile device. We also continued to update the database with new information.

Flood Response

Our flood management and response system operated without issue over this year. We issued 45 flood warnings as required.

The MetService's rain radar near Hindon gives us real-time information about where the rain is falling in the region, providing more certainty during heavy rainfall events. In the last year, we have engaged external support to convert this data into information about how much rain is falling in particular areas, further enhancing our ability to manage emergency responses. The rain radar works in conjunction with our network of rain gauges, and the data will be used to update our flood forecasting capabilities in the long term.



Te Nohoaka o Tukiaau / Sinclair Wetlands

Flood Protection, Drainage and River Management



Otago has large, developed areas situated on low-lying river flats often close to sea-level. Our flood protection schemes help protect people and their livelihoods in adverse weather events, and our drainage schemes help maintain the productive capability of land.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Area	Progress/Performance
ALEXANDRA FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME	100% of planned maintenance completed. One capital works project: Progressed as planned.
LEITH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME	100% of planned maintenance completed. Two capital works projects: Both in scoping and investigations stage.
LOWER CLUTHA FLOOD PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE SCHEME	90% of planned maintenance completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All scheduled mechanical drain cleaning completed, apart from a variation to remove two sites from the schedule and defer one site to year 3. Scheduled drain and floodbank spraying completed. Floodbank/drain mowing and tree maintenance completed. All inspections (drain, culvert, bridge, pump station, relief well) completed. Ten capital works projects: eight progressed as planned and two delayed.
LOWER TAIERI FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME	100% of planned maintenance completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodbank mowing completed in Q4. All noxious floodbank spraying completed in Q3. All floodbank inspections for the year completed. Six capital works projects: All progressed as planned.
WEST TAIERI DRAINAGE SCHEME	81% of planned maintenance completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical drain cleaning mostly completed, except for two drains removed due to water quality issues. Scheduled drain spraying completed. All inspections (drain, culvert, bridge, pump station) for the year completed. Five capital works projects: four progressed as planned and one delayed.
EAST TAIERI DRAINAGE SCHEME	100% of planned maintenance completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled drain cleaning and spraying completed. All inspections (drain, culvert, bridge, pump station) for the year completed. 7 capital works projects: 6 progressed as planned and 1 delayed.
TOKOMAIRARO DRAINAGE SCHEME	100% of planned maintenance completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled drain cleaning and spraying completed. Planned tree maintenance completed. All inspections (drain, culvert, bridge) for the year completed.
DUNEDIN RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	88% of planned maintenance completed. Most planned maintenance progressed within staff and contracting constraints.
CLUTHA RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	73% of planned maintenance completed. Most planned maintenance works progressed within staff and contracting constraints. July 2022 flood remediation/repairs ongoing.
CENTRAL OTAGO RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	70% of planned maintenance completed. Most planned maintenance progressed within staff and contracting constraints.
WHAKATIPU RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	88% of planned maintenance completed. Most planned maintenance progressed within staff and contracting constraints.
WĀNAKA RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	95% of planned maintenance completed. Most planned maintenance progressed within staff and contracting constraints.
WAITAKI RIVERS AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	49% of planned maintenance completed. Some planned maintenance progressed within staff and contracting constraints.

Flood Protection and Drainage Schemes Works

The ORC manages flood protection and drainage infrastructure for around 43,000 ha of rural and urban land in Otago. Our flood protection schemes are designed to protect people and their livelihoods in adverse weather, while our drainage schemes are about maintaining the productive capability of the land.

We completed 94% of the maintenance scheduled for the ORC's seven flood protection and drainage schemes in the last financial year, above the performance target of 85% (see table on page 56 for a breakdown of this work programme). A small number of drains set to be mechanically cleaned were deferred or removed, either because the cleaning was not needed or the work couldn't be done due to issues with the water quality. One pump in Kaitangata was out of service for unplanned maintenance for 28 days (April to May). The schemes continue to perform at the level they are designed for, with no breaches.

We fell slightly behind the performance target of 90% for planned capital renewals, delivering 87% or 27 out of 31 of our planned projects. Three of the projects that didn't meet their delivery target were associated with pump station upgrades in the Taieri, West Taieri and Lower Clutha drainage schemes. Each of these projects has been scoped and work is expected to get underway early in the 2023/24 financial year. Pump improvements at the Paretai Pump Station are in the early stages of investigation for scoping.

All schemes remained resilient in weather events, and deferring some renewals did not critically affect their performance.

Climate Resilience Projects

We have made considerable progress in delivering the Climate Resilience Programme of multi-year projects part-funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Two of the four projects are in the Lower Clutha flood protection scheme (Robson Lagoon and Riverbank Road), and two are in the Lower Taieri flood protection scheme (Outram and Contour Channel).

The Riverbank Road and Robson Lagoon projects were completed ahead of schedule in December 2021 and November 2022 respectively, and the Outram project was finished in June 2022. We expect to complete the Contour Channel project by June 2025 as planned. Stages 5, 6 and 7 of the floodbank works have been completed, and work is underway on Stage 8 and the bridge replacement.

Taieri Scheme Review

The review of the Taieri scheme started in 2021. Our focus for the last financial year was on risk analysis and assessment, with the risk assessment report due to be completed early in the next financial year.

River Management

The Council's river and waterway management programmes faced some challenges. There is a narrow window of time when we can do maintenance to support fish passage and biodiversity in waterways. Work in some catchments was also delayed due to weather and river conditions, low flows, accessibility, gravel consent requirements, contractor availability and staff shortages. As a result, we delivered 80% of our planned programme, below the 90% target for the year.

After several years of weather-related flooding, this year proved stable, with only the July/August rainfall events causing elevated flows across catchments in Otago, which resulted in some damage across rivers. 55 additional reactive works were added to the work programme in response to erosion, gravel build-up or vegetation blockages.

We had some challenges managing the 302 public queries we received about our flood protection schemes, drainage and rivers, refining our processes in the last quarter of the financial year. We had a better track record in responding to the 135 queries about blockages and obstructions in rivers and waterways, assessing 95% of these within 20 days.

Flooding July/August 2022

Between 12 July and 8 August 2022, four weather events resulted in elevated flows in rivers across the region.

An interactive map of our flood repair and recovery programme is available online, showing repair sites, their programmed completion and their status. The map is updated monthly, and the programme may change as we carry out investigations and repairs. We identified 71 sites for repairs following the 2022 flooding – of these, 25 are still to be completed. We also have two sites remaining from the 2020 flood recovery package, and these will be repaired in the 2023/24 construction season.

Bylaws

The ORC provides flood protection and land drainage across 43,000 ha of rural and urban land in Otago. The new Flood Protection Management Bylaw 2022, which safeguards flood protection and land drainage assets owned or managed by the ORC, came into effect on 1 September 2022. We received 25 bylaw applications during the year, granting 21 and declining one.

Emergency Management



Maintaining and improving our communities' resilience to emergencies.

Together with territorial authorities, we have responsibilities under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 to ensure Otago's exposure to hazards is reduced, we are prepared to respond to emergencies, and can recover effectively.

Performance Results



Performance and Delivery

Emergency Management is a critical activity – planning and preparing for emergencies, and leading the response and recovery effort when events happen. A focus this year has been on making sure our communities are ready to weather disasters. We have been involved in sector reform and deployed teams to support the responses to Auckland flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle.

Planning and Education

A large part of business as usual work for the Emergency Management Otago team is planning and education. Highlights in the 2022/2023 financial year are scientist delivery of our ‘Clued Up Kids’ programme in Clutha, Waitaki, Queenstown and Wānaka, a region-wide business continuity roadshow in collaboration with Resilient Organisations NZ, and continued support of the AF8 Project with roadshow presentations in Ōamaru, Cromwell and Balclutha.

Community Response Readiness and Resilience

Our staff support communities to build resilience and make sure they are ready to respond in disasters. In the last financial year, we overhauled the Community Response Group framework to embed a consistent approach across the region that aligns with national guidelines. We also developed 66 community resilience guides. These are community-driven documents that help people understand how to prepare for emergencies, how to support each other and where to find help.

We produced a monthly broadcast/podcast with Otago Access Radio with a broad focus on creating resilience. Speakers have included scientists, emergency services, budget advisors sharing tips on how to create an emergency kit on a budget, and the disability sector.

CDEM Facility

A full-time Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is set up and ready to be activated quickly in an emergency. All areas are functional and passed monthly equipment checks throughout the 2022/2023 financial year.

Staff and Training

Emergency Management Otago has a core staffing team and is able to draw on a wider group of trained personnel from the ORC and other councils in the region in an emergency.

While we actively manage an appropriate wider group of trained personnel, we have not been able to retain trained function leads and team members at our target level. This is in part due to staff resignations or role changes at contributing councils – when a trained person leaves, there is naturally a lag before their replacement can be trained. This was compounded by vacancies in the core Emergency Management Otago team and a lack of available external trainers.

We continue to take steps to attain and maintain our targets for trained staff – these include providing more regular training opportunities and documenting ECC responsibilities for relevant staff more clearly. Recruitment for more Emergency Management Otago staff also remains a priority.

Activations and Deployments

No emergencies were declared in Otago in the 2022/2023 financial year. The ECC was activated over three weeks in July 2022 for a series of heavy rain events and again in March 2023 for a heavy rain warning. These activations required monitoring and the sharing of flood information, rather than a full response.

Our staff were deployed to support several national emergencies over the 2022/2023 financial year. Six Emergency Management Otago staff were deployed to Auckland with the flooding in February 2023, and four went to the upper North Island following Cyclone Gabrielle. At the request of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Group Manager Emergency Management Otago was deployed to the Far North District for seven days as Local Controller. Two staff were deployed to the West Coast to support lower Westland in August 2022 and again in May 2023.

Sector Reform

At a national level, a significant body of work is underway to reform the emergency management system and review the regulatory framework that emergency management operates within. The Emergency Management Otago team stays up to date on the reform process, leads consultations with partner organisations and works on submissions to the process.

Transport

This group of activities includes the following council activities:

- Governance and Community Engagement
- Regional Planning and Urban Development
- Regulatory

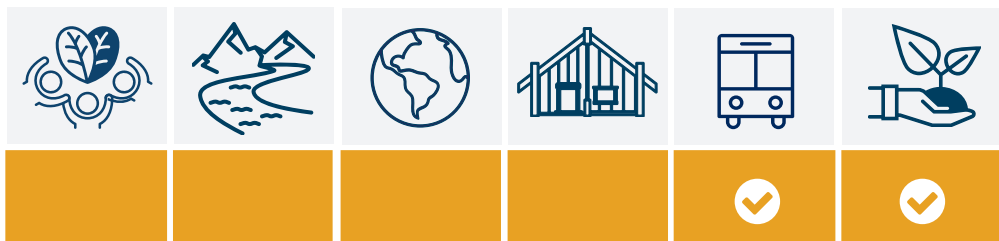
Performance results



Arrowtown

Community Outcomes

Our **Transport** activities contribute to:



Transport Planning and Public Passenger Transport



Otago Regional Council is responsible for public transport in Otago, and through contracted operators, we provide public passenger transport services in Dunedin and Queenstown. We also provide a region wide 'Total Mobility scheme' to assist eligible people who are unable to use public transport. These services sit under a wider umbrella of Regional Land Transport Planning and Regional Passenger Transport Planning that we are responsible for, working with Waka Kotahi, Environment Southland, and Council's in the Otago Region. Under these plans we have a role in facilitating some key transport projects in Otago.

ORC has strategic oversight, in partnership with Waka Kotahi (NZTA), on land transport matters. We coordinate regional land transport activities and produce a Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) in partnership with Environment Southland, NZTA and city and district councils. The RLTP outlines future planned transport network improvements and forms the basis of funding applications to the National Land Transport Fund on a three-yearly cycle.

Performance and Delivery

Transport activities in the 2022/2023 financial year continued to be dominated by Covid, specifically the post-Covid challenges of industry labour shortages (drivers, diesel mechanics and vehicle certifiers). The Dunedin buses ran to a reduced timetable from July 2022 to February 2023, and Queenstown buses ran on a reduced timetable for 11 months of the financial year (from July 2022 to June 2023).

Due to the labour industry shortages noted above – including the well-publicised nationwide driver shortages – the bus services suffered from unreliability, particularly in the second and third quarters, despite only offering reduced timetables.

The continuation throughout the year of the Government’s half-price fares, the end of lockdowns and the easing of border restrictions saw passengers returning to buses and ferries in greater numbers, despite reduced timetables and periods of unreliability. In the 2022/2023 financial year, just over four million passenger trips were taken across the region. This was the most ever carried on the network, surpassing the previous (pre-Covid high) by 1%. The region-wide return to pre-Covid levels was driven by the Dunedin network, where passenger numbers increased by 18% from 2021/22 and are now 10% higher than in the 2018/19 year.

Passenger numbers for Queenstown are not yet back to the previous high, but are increasing year on year, with a 55% increase from 2021/22. Patronage on the Queenstown ferries was 74% higher than in 2021/22.

Improvements to support customer experience during the year focused on upgrading real-time information for the Orbus website and the Transit App. Real-time information was made available on screens at the Dunedin Hub, and screens at the Frankton Hub were also upgraded to display real-time information.

Positive results from our annual passenger surveys show high levels of satisfaction. Overall passenger satisfaction with Dunedin Public Transport decreased to 86% (from 89% in 2021/22), and decreased for Queenstown Public Transport to 92% (98% in 2021/22). This year, 99% of customers expressed their satisfaction with the Total Mobility scheme, compared with 87% in 2021/22.

In the second year of the Council’s 2021-2031 Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), significant progress was made on two business cases looking at the public transport services required to support further patronage and population growth in Dunedin and Queenstown. Using the feedback provided in almost 1800 survey responses, the Dunedin Fares and Frequencies Business Case has assessed some 108 combinations of bus service frequencies and fare structures, which will inform Council’s investment decision in the upcoming Long Term Plan. The Queenstown Public Transport Services Business Case is evaluating the best types of vehicles and routes to use to provide greater public transport options when major infrastructure projects, such as the Frankton BP roundabout, are completed over the next few years.

Public Transport Satisfaction Survey Dunedin

Survey taken 19 – 21 April 2023

Overall satisfaction

86%



The overall level of satisfaction with the Dunedin public transport system has decreased in 2023.

▼ **89% in 2022** ▼ **94% in 2021**

Participants

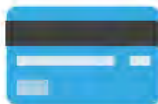
24% aged 18 - 24 years

24% of participants were aged 18 – 24 years followed by 20% aged 25 – 34 years.



81% non supergold cardholders

81% of participants were not supergold cardholders.



38% travelling to work

38% of participants used the bus to get to work.



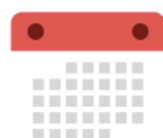
79% would recommend using the bus

79% of participants would likely or very likely recommend public transport to friends or colleagues.



36% 5 or more trips per week

36% of participants use the bus 5 or more trips per week.



Passenger satisfaction

89% Exterior of the bus
▶ 89% in 2022 | **92% in 2021**

92% Interior of the bus
▲ 91% in 2022 | **93% in 2021**

68% The bus is on time
▼ 73% in 2022 | **89% in 2021**

76% How often the service runs
▼ 82% in 2022 | **85% in 2021**

98% Value for money of fare
▲ 97% in 2022 | **94% in 2021**

95% Having enough seats available
▲ 93% in 2022 | **98% in 2021**

94% Ease of getting on and off the bus
▼ 95% in 2022 | **95% in 2021**

90% Comfort of the inside temperature
▼ 94% in 2022 | **92% in 2021**

95% Helpfulness and attitude of driver
▲ 91% in 2022 | **92% in 2021**

95% Personal security during trip
▼ 96% in 2022 | **95% in 2021**

98% Satisfaction of current trip
▲ 96% in 2022 | **98% in 2021**

64% Information about services and delays
▼ 70% in 2022 | **81% in 2021**

94% Travel time
▲ 90% in 2022 | **92% in 2021**

97% Convenience of paying
▲ 95% in 2022 | **95% in 2021**

84% Ease of getting route information
▼ 86% in 2022 | **90% in 2021**

Public Transport Satisfaction Survey Whakatipu

Survey taken 8 – 10 May 2023

Overall satisfaction

92%



The overall level of satisfaction with the Whakatipu public transport system has decreased in 2023.

▼ **98% in 2022** ▼ **96% in 2021**

Participants

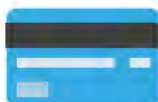
40% aged 25 – 34 years

40% of participants were aged 25 – 34 followed by 21% aged 35 – 44 years.



98% non supergold cardholders

98% of participants were not supergold cardholders.



50% travelling to work

50% of participants used the bus to get to work.



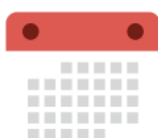
85% would recommend using the bus

85% of participants would likely or very likely recommend public transport to friends or colleagues.



30% 2 or more trips per day

30% of participants use the bus 2 or more trips per day.



Passenger satisfaction

94% Exterior of the bus
▼ **96% in 2022** | **88% in 2021**

90% Interior of the bus
▼ **92% in 2022** | **96% in 2021**

79% The bus is on time
▼ **80% in 2022** | **86% in 2021**

70% How often the service runs
▼ **74% in 2022** | **72% in 2021**

94% Value for money of fare
▼ **98% in 2022** | **89% in 2021**

96% Having enough seats available
▼ **98% in 2022** | **95% in 2021**

98% Ease of getting on and off the bus
▶ **98% in 2022** | **96% in 2021**

96% Comfort of the inside temperature
▼ **98% in 2022** | **95% in 2021**

92% Helpfulness and attitude of driver
▼ **93% in 2022** | **94% in 2021**

96% Personal security during trip
▶ **96% in 2022** | **99% in 2021**

98% Satisfaction of current trip
▶ **98% in 2022** | **96% in 2021**

81% Information about services and delays
▼ **87% in 2022** | **70% in 2021**

94% Travel time
▲ **92% in 2022** | **93% in 2021**

94% Convenience of paying
▼ **96% in 2022** | **86% in 2021**

90% Ease of getting route information
▼ **96% in 2022** | **88% in 2021**

Summary Financial Statements



Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$000s	Council 2023	Council Budget	Council 2022	Group 2023	Group 2022
Rates revenue	47,342	47,228	40,211	47,222	40,106
Grant revenue and subsidies	26,187	22,102	21,691	26,187	21,691
Other revenue	12,577	15,989	11,114	123,584	99,070
Dividends interest and investment revenue	19,477	14,750	13,813	855	678
TOTAL REVENUE	105,583	100,069	86,829	197,848	161,545
EXPENDITURE					
Employee benefits expense	(28,397)	(32,692)	(25,692)	(65,926)	(56,845)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(4,140)	(4,356)	(3,949)	(16,306)	(15,924)
Finance costs	(5,203)	(250)	(224)	(4,399)	(3,012)
Other expenses	(72,986)	(66,022)	(60,299)	(101,242)	(82,903)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	(110,726)	(103,320)	(90,164)	(187,873)	(158,684)
Other gains / (losses)	1,506	1,064	(1,953)	1,998	59,115
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX	(3,637)	(2,187)	(5,289)	11,973	61,976
Income tax benefit / (expense)	-	-	100	(6,280)	(9,757)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(3,637)	(2,187)	(5,189)	5,693	52,219
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES					
Items that may be reclassified to surplus / (deficit):					
Fair value through Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense financial assets:					
Fair value gain/(loss) on shares in subsidiary	23,600	24,531	87,960	-	-
Cashflow hedges:					
Unrealised movement in hedging interest rate swaps	-	-	-	165	2,385
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE	23,600	24,531	87,960	165	2,385
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE	19,963	22,344	82,771	5,858	54,604

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

\$000s	Council 2023	Council Budget	Council 2022	Group 2023	Group 2022
Current Assets	63,067	48,847	48,700	101,927	82,656
Non-current assets	961,087	784,750	915,625	964,232	920,747
TOTAL ASSETS	1,024,154	833,597	964,325	1,066,159	1,003,403
Current liabilities	84,188	20,957	88,560	115,686	111,216
Non-current liabilities	91,438	25,000	47,200	121,887	69,460
TOTAL LIABILITIES	175,626	45,957	135,760	237,573	180,676
NET ASSETS	848,528	787,640	828,565	828,586	822,727
EQUITY					
Reserves	747,994	666,120	723,546	450,367	449,811
Public equity	100,534	121,520	105,019	378,219	372,916
TOTAL EQUITY	848,528	787,640	828,565	828,586	822,727

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$000s	TOTAL COUNCIL 2023					
	Opening Balance 1 July 2022	Other Comp. Revenue and Expense	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Closing Balance 30 June 2023	Council Budget
Public Equity	105,019	(3,637)	123,038	(123,885)	100,534	121,520
Reserves	723,546	23,600	4,131	(3,283)	747,994	666,120
TOTAL PUBLIC EQUITY AND RESERVES	828,565	19,963	127,169	(127,168)	848,528	787,640

TOTAL GROUP 2023						
	Opening Balance 1 July 2022	Other Comp. Revenue and Expense	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Closing Balance 30 June 2023	
Public Equity	372,916	5,693	123,038	(123,428)	378,219	
Reserves	449,811	165	3,673	(3,283)	450,367	
TOTAL PUBLIC EQUITY AND RESERVES	822,727	5,858	126,711	(126,711)	828,586	

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$000s	TOTAL COUNCIL 2022					
	Opening Balance 1 July 2021	Other Comp. Revenue and Expense	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Closing Balance 30 June 2022	Council Budget
Public Equity	110,172	(5,189)	107,667	(107,631)	105,019	122,185
Reserves	635,622	87,960	3,860	(3,896)	723,546	577,330
TOTAL PUBLIC EQUITY AND RESERVES	745,794	82,771	111,527	(111,527)	828,565	699,515

TOTAL GROUP 2022						
	Opening Balance 1 July 2021	Other Comp. Revenue and Expense	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Closing Balance 30 June 2022	
Public Equity	380,426	52,219	107,667	(167,396)	372,916	
Reserves	387,695	2,387	63,625	(3,896)	449,811	
TOTAL PUBLIC EQUITY AND RESERVES	768,121	54,606	171,292	(171,292)	822,727	

Summary Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$000s	Council 2023	Council Budget	Council 2022	Group 2023	Group 2022
Cash flows from operating activities	(3,792)	1,113	(2,198)	20,003	14,479
Cash flows from investing activities	(4,153)	(12,688)	(4,135)	(59,513)	(49,166)
Cash flows from financing activities	9,532	-	15,196	41,072	43,106
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,587	(11,575)	8,863	1,562	8,419
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT 1 JULY	13,243	13,624	4,380	13,323	4,621
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2023	14,830	2,049	13,243	14,885	13,040

Council Funding Impact Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$000s	Annual Plan 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	Annual Plan 2022/23	Actual 2022/23
WHOLE OF COUNCIL				
Sources of operating funding	90,034	86,829	100,069	105,626
Applications of operating funding	89,032	86,110	99,322	106,553
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF OPERATING FUNDING	1,002	719	748	(927)
Sources of capital funding	410	15,255	420	10,874
Application of capital funding	1,412	15,974	1,168	9,947
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING	(1,002)	(719)	(748)	927

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES	Long Term Plan 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	Long Term Plan 2022/23	Actual 2022/23
Regional Leadership				
Revenue	21,529	20,722	22,686	21,729
Expense	(21,590)	(22,302)	(22,940)	(24,869)
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	(61)	(1,580)	(254)	(3,141)
Capital expenditure	50	3	51	144
Environment				
Revenue	22,352	23,960	25,355	27,825
Expense	(23,884)	(24,294)	(26,010)	(29,054)
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	(1,532)	(334)	(655)	(1,229)
Capital expenditure	1,430	827	1,779	999
Safety and Resilience				
Revenue	15,080	15,000	16,132	17,518
Expense	(11,903)	(12,191)	(13,355)	(13,751)
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	3,177	2,809	2,777	3,767
Capital expenditure	4,095	1,823	3,957	1,725
Transport				
Revenue	30,005	26,835	33,408	33,066
Expense	(32,299)	(28,699)	(35,260)	(35,470)
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	(2,294)	(1,863)	(1,852)	(2,404)
Capital expenditure	-	3	-	-

The council is required to include Funding Impact statements in its annual report in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (the regulations). Refer to the regulations for more information, including definitions or some of the terms used in this statement.

Notes to the Summary Annual Report

Reporting Entity

The Council is a regional local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002.

The Council Group (Group) consists of the Council and its subsidiary Port Otago Limited (100% owned). The Port Otago Limited Group consists of Port Otago Limited, its subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.

The primary objective of the Council is to provide goods or services for the community or social benefit rather than making a financial return. The principal activities of the Group entities are port operations and property investment. Accordingly, the Council has designated itself and the Group as public benefit entities for financial reporting purposes.

Full Annual Report

This Summary Annual Report has been extracted from the full audited Annual Report dated 25 October 2023, and authorised for issue by Council on that date. The Summary Annual Report does not include all the disclosures provided in the full Annual Report and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full Annual Report.

The full Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP). The full Annual Report complies with Public Benefit Entity Public Sector (PBE (PS)) standards and has been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE standards.

A copy of the full audited Annual Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, which received an unqualified audit opinion, is available by telephoning (03) 474 0827 or on our website www.orc.govt.nz.

This Annual Report Summary has been prepared in compliance with PBE (PS) FRS-43 Summary Financial Statements, and is presented in thousands of New Zealand dollars.

Breach of Statutory Deadline

The Regional Council was required under section 98(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002 to make publicly available a summary of audited financial statements and service performance information within 1 month after the adoption of its annual report, which was 25 October 2023. This timeframe was not met because of a shortage of resource availability to complete the report.

Commitments for Capital Expenditure

At 30 June 2023 the Group had commitments for capital expenditure of \$17.3 million (2022: \$47 million). Included in the above amounts are Council commitments of \$3.2 million (2022: \$0.3 million) relating to property, plant and equipment acquisitions and contracts for capital expenditure. Port Otago Limited had commitments for capital expenditure of \$14.1 million (2022: \$46.8 million) which relates to purchases and refurbishments of port assets and investment property.

Related Parties

The Council was involved in related party transactions with Port Otago Limited amounting to \$18.8 million (2022: \$13.2 million), received as dividends, interest plus other receipts and payments.

During the 2022 year Council and Port Otago Limited, entered into an agreement whereby Council provides an unsecured related party loans facility of up to a maximum of \$100 million. This was increased to \$150 million during 2023. The related party loan amounts, interest rates and repayment dates ranging from November 2023 - April 2030 (2022: August 2022 to June 2029) match loans provided by the New Zealand Local Government Funding

Agency (LGFA) to Council. Port Otago Limited pays all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Council in connection with the establishment of its LGFA facility and ongoing fees associated with related party borrowing. Council or Port Otago Limited may terminate the related party loan agreement by giving 24 months notice to the other party. All related party loans under the agreement are unsecured.

As at 30 June 2023 Otago Regional Council had advanced loans of \$125,088,000 to Port Otago Limited (2022: \$99,960,000). Related party loans are classified as non current due to the Council and Port Otago loan agreement requiring 24 months notice for termination of the facility. Details of these transactions are included in the notes to the financial statements in the full Annual Report.

Subsequent Events

On 5 September 2023 the Directors of Port Otago declared a final dividend of \$1.0 million for the year ended 30 June 2023. As the final dividend was approved after balance date, the financial effect of the dividend payable of \$1.0 million has not been recognised in the Balance Sheet.

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Council Only Contingent Liabilities

Otago Regional Council was previously a member of the New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool scheme ("Riskpool"). The Scheme is in wind down, however the Council has an ongoing obligation to contribute to the scheme should a call be made in respect of any historical claims (to the extent those claims are not covered by re insurance), and to fund the ongoing operation of the scheme. The likelihood of any call in respect of historical claims diminishes with each year as limitation periods expire.

However, as a result of the Supreme Court decision on 1 August 2023 in Napier City Council v Local Government Mutual Funds Trustee Limited, it has been clarified that Riskpool has a liability for that member's claim in relation to non-weather-tight defects (in a mixed claim involving both weather-tight and non-weather-tight defects). Riskpool has advised that it is working through the implications of the Supreme court decision. At this point any potential liability is unable to be quantified.

The Council has also been advised of potential claims in relation to the issue of resource consents. The Council does not expect any material uninsured liability to arise from these potential claims, (2022: \$Nil).

Consistent with the nature of the Council's activities, the Council is involved in Environment, High and District Court proceedings resulting from decisions made by the Council as a planning and consenting authority under the Resource Management Act.

Council Only Contingent Assets

The Council does not have any contingent assets as at 30 June 2023. In the prior year the Council at 30 June had a contingent assets for bus trips which have been paid for but were not performed from the bus operators in June 2022.

Group

There are no other contingent liabilities or assets at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: \$Nil) other than those arising in the normal course of business.

Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014

The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 require that the Council disclose its financial performance in relation to various benchmarks to enable the assessment of whether the Council is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, and general financial dealings. The regulations also require the disclosure of rating base information and information regarding the insurance of assets.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF OTAGO REGIONAL COUICL AND GROUP'S SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Otago Regional Council (the Regional Council) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 9 to 46:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service performance.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 in our auditor's report dated 25 October 2023.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.



Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit, we have carried out engagement for Debenture Trust Deed Reporting, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Regional Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H Rautjoki".

Heidi Rautjoki,
For Deloitte Limited
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Dunedin, New Zealand
7 December 2023

Office and Depot Locations

Offices

Dunedin Office - Philip Laing House

Monday to Friday
8.00am to 1pm, 2pm to 4.30pm Closed on public holidays.

Level 2
144 Rattray Street
Dunedin 9016

Queenstown Office

Monday to Friday
8.00am to 1pm, 2pm to 4.30pm Closed on public holidays.

Terrace Junction 1092 Frankton Road
Queenstown 9300

Depots

We have staff located at depots throughout the region.

Please note that depots do not service general enquiries or accept payments. Please contact us by email or phone for guidance or general enquiries.

Alexandra

13 Ngapara Street
Alexandra 9340

Cromwell

14 Rogers Street
Cromwell 9310

Oamaru

32 Ribble Street
Oamaru 9400

Taieri

173 Dukes Road North
North Taieri 9092

Balclutha

Hasborough Place
Balclutha 9230

Dunedin

70 Stafford Street
Dunedin 9054

Palmerston

54 Tiverton Street
Palmerston 9430

Wānaka

185 Riverbank Road
Wānaka 9382



Lake Hayes, Central Otago