

## Environmental Implementation Committee MINUTES

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Environmental Implementation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 November 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

### PRESENT

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

## **1. WELCOME**

Chair Cr Kate Wilson welcomed councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with a karakia. Staff present included Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Joanna Gilroy (Acting General Manager Regulatory), and Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), online: Kane McElrea (Biosecurity Consultant, Boffa Miskell), Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist) Sarah Irvine (Team Leader Environmental Implementation).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Chair Wilson noted Cr Laws apology for lateness, an apology from Cr Robertson for leaving early and Cr Tim Mepham who intermittently left and re-joined the zoom call through the meeting.

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Andrew Innes (Eco Otago) Sally Dicey and Steve Catty spoke on behalf of the Tomahawk Lagoon Catchment Group and their priorities including further planting plans and contaminant water quality testing in the lagoon creek area. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Wilson thanked the group for attending.

Cr Kelliher joined the meeting at 9:08am

Cr Robertson left the meeting at 10:00AM

Cr Robertson rejoined the meeting 10:10AM

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes noted to the agenda.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

### **6.1. Annual Report Presentation: Otago Catchment Community**

Sam Dixon and Lloyd McCall presented the Otago Catchment Community Report 2022-2023 to the Committee. The presentation included highlights of the year, their membership has now grown to over 1800 group members and 25 catchment and water care groups in Otago. There was an opportunity for questions after the presentation and Chair Wilson thanked the group for attending.

### **6.2. Predator Free Dunedin**

Rhys Millar, Project Lead for Predator Free Dunedin explained the City Sanctuary Project and some of the impacts on the urban community's pests through the use of thermal drones, dog tracking and resetting digital camera traps. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Wilson thanked Mr Millar for attending.

### **6.3 Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group Annual Funding Grant Report**

Pete Oswald and Phil Murray from Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group went through the projects over 2022/23 detailing some of the challenges of clearing seed sources and engagement of landowners. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Wilson thanked the group for attending.

#### **6.4 Whakatipu Wilding Control Group Annual Funding Grant Report**

Dick Hubbard presented and discussed the Whakatipu Wilding Control Group Annual Funding Grant Report. There are a number of fronts of wilding pines in the area. The returns on investments are phenomenal and present a strong case for financial investment. Dick added that with Jobs For Nature funds drying up, a revision of the funding formula is needed and requested Council consider matching half of the amount that the Queenstown Lakes District Council fund, with a long term view to match the amount. There was an opportunity for questions and Chair Wilson thanked Mr Hubbard for his attendance.

#### **Cr Wilson Moved; Cr Noone Seconded that the Committee:**

Adjourn for a short break until 11:20AM

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Mepham left the meeting at 11:20AM

### **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes of the 9 August 2023 Committee meeting was removed from consideration and those minutes will be reconsidered at the next Environmental Implementation meeting.

### **8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

No current open actions for review for this Committee.

### **9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **9.1. Regional Wilding Conifer Cost Benefit Analysis and business case**

This report presented the 'Benefits and Costs of Additional Investment in Wilding Conifer Control in the Otago Region (cost benefit analysis) prepared by Boffa Miskell on behalf of Otago Regional Council.

Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were in the room and Matthew Williamson and Kane McElrea (Boffa Miskell) online to respond to any questions on the report.

#### **Resolution EIC23-111: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Notes** the significant value that investment in Wilding Conifer control in Otago would provide.
3. **Recommends** that the Council endorse Option 1 - ORC directly engaging with central government for an increase in funding required for the Otago region as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control programme.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **9.2. State of Pests including Rabbit night counts**

This report provided the results of the state of pest management in Otago, 2023 and an update on the state of pests in Otago for 2023. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were present, Sarah Irvine (Team Leader Environmental Implementation) and Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist) were also present online, to respond to questions.

### **Resolution EIC23-112: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1. **Notes** this report.*
- 2. **Notes** that the Biosecurity State of Pest Management in Otago 2023 report is a baseline document which will be reported on an annual basis to the Environmental Implementation Committee.*

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **9.3. Freshwater Restoration and Improvement Update and Opportunities**

This report provided an update on the three ORC priority water quality projects Tomahawk Lagoon, Lake Tuakitoto and Lake Hayes. It also provided an update on the Toitū Te Hākapupu project (funded by the Ministry for Environment (MfE). Melanie White (Project Delivery Specialist, - Jobs for Nature), Soraya Engelken (Project Administrator - Jobs for Nature), online, and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) spoke to the paper and responded to questions.

### **Resolution EIC23-113: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1. **Notes** this report;*
- 2. **Notes** the implementation activities that are occurring on the water quality projects being delivered by the Environmental Implementation team as detailed in this report.*

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **9.4. Large Funding Requests**

This report sought endorsement of the criteria for a fund to be set up to support large scale funding requests in 2023/24. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) and Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation) (online) were available to respond to questions.

## Resolution EIC23-114: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Recommends** that the Council endorse the approach of having a fund which supports large scale funding requests which sits alongside the ECO Fund and incentives funding schemes currently in place at Otago Regional Council (Option 1).
2. **Recommends** that the Council endorse the criteria as detailed in the Eligibility and Assessment criteria section of this report (Option 1).
3. **Recommends** that the Council notes the ECO Fund and incentives funding schemes available for 2024.
4. **Recommends** that the Council retains the current application and evaluation processes and criteria for the ECO Fund and Incentives funding schemes.

### MOTION CARRIED

Cr Mepham rejoined the meeting at 1:10PM

### 9.5. Future of the ICM working Group

This report sought a pathway forward for the continued oversight of the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Programme now that the work of the Integrated Catchment Management Working Group (ICMWG) is complete, the pilot Catchment Action Plan (CAP) is underway, and the ICM programme is moving into a new area.

Sophie Fern (Catchment Action Planner) Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation) Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were available to respond to questions.

## Resolution EIC23-115: Cr McCall Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

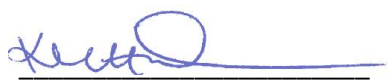
That the Environmental Implementation Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Adopt Option 1** as the preferred option, being the continuation of the Integrated Catchment Management Working Group (ICMWG) to provide oversight of the ICM Programme.
3. **Agrees** to the Terms of Reference in Attachment 1
4. **Notes** the proposed timeframe for continued work on the ICM programme during 2023 - 2024.

### MOTION CARRIED

## 12. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Wilson said a karakia and declared the meeting closed at 1:38PM



Chairperson

08.02.2024

Date