



Our Ref A610586

Committee meetings Wednesday 16 April 2014

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Wednesday 16 April commencing at 9.30 am. The venue is the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin.

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OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 9.30 am**

Membership: Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)
Cr Michael Deaker (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr David Shepherd

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 14 April.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0692 **Notification of Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation).**
DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report explains that proposed Plan Change 4B seeks to clarify and strengthen the provisions of the Water Plan for managing groundwater allocation and avoiding over-allocation in Otago's aquifers.

Item 2

2014/0764 **Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis integrated water management).** DPPRM, 3/4/14

The report presents a draft proposed plan change for the management of the surface water resources in the Lindis catchment and the aquifers of the Bendigo-Tarras Basin for consultation under clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and a draft evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with the proposed change.

Item 3

2014/0765 **Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan.** DEHS, 1/4/14

The report notes that a combined ORC/DCC staff working group has developed a set of principles and planning considerations to help develop rules to manage land use activities for inclusion in the Dunedin City District Plan. It is appropriate that those principles and considerations be endorsed by Council prior to the development of possible rules.

Item 4

2014/0759 **Submission on RMA Amendment Monitoring Bill.** DEHS, 3/4/14

The Minister for the Environment introduced an Environmental Reporting Bill to Parliament on 20 February 2014. The report presents a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee.

Item 5

2014/0763 **Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill.**
DPPRM, 1/4/14

The Minister for Building and Construction introduced the Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill to Parliament on 9 December 2013. The report presents a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee.

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6

2014/0769 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 4/4/14

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy, Consents and Transport sections.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 10.38 am**

Present:

Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)
Cr Michael Deaker (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Trevor Kempton
The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Croot and Shepherd.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Kelliher and Neill.

Matters arising from minutes

In response to a question from Cr Eckhoff relating to different national and ORC water quality standards, Mr McRae explained that there had to be compliance with the more restrictive of any two standards.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0684 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy, Consents and Transport sections.

The meeting noted that because of flood hazard risk Council had submitted in opposition to the application by Invermark Investments Ltd to the DCC for consent to subdivide a coastal block of land at Waitati. Mr McRae explained that ORC considered there was not sufficient integrity in the original application, and noted that the applicant was undertaking further assessment of the hazards and would provide this information to ORC and DCC.

Concern was expressed at clashes between field days and Council workshop days, and it was also requested that more notice of field days be given. Mr McRae noted this comment. He advised that there was good exchange of information at the Bengier aquifer meeting, and noted the possibility that management of the aquifer might be divided according to where water came from.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 10.47 am.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A607768

Report No: 2014/0692

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Richard Pettinger, Senior Policy Analyst

Date: 28 February 2014

Subject: Notification of Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation)

1. Précis

This report presents a summary of comments received on the Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation), briefly describes the amendments made resulting from those comments, and recommends the notification of the Proposed Plan Change. The change seeks to clarify and strengthen the provisions of the Water Plan for managing groundwater allocation and avoiding over-allocation in Otago's aquifers.

2. Background

A Consultation Draft of the proposed plan change was released for comment under Clause 3 of the RMA Schedule 1, on Saturday 30 November 2013 (following Report 2013/0998). Council received 27 comments by phone, email or letter by due date of 31 January 2014. Meetings were held in February and March 2014 with the following parties:

- Kai Tahu ki Otago;
- Irrigation NZ;
- Federated Farmers.

3. Comments overview

There was support for amending the Water Plan in the manner of this proposed plan change. All written comments are summarised in Appendix 1, and include requests:

- To avoid prohibiting construction-site dewatering when water is in an over-allocated aquifer, which raised issues about consumptive versus non-consumptive use;
- For on-line alerts of aquifer allocation status;
- For aquifer calculated recharge to be on-line rather than fixed in the Water Plan;
- For recharge calculations to be based on actual irrigation practices; or be based on a given efficiency of irrigation;
- To calculate recharge taking account of soils, drainage and geology, including recharge from adjacent aquifers;
- To specify how the ORC will claw back allocation if a maximum allocation volume set in Schedule 4A is less than what has been allocated;
- For a methodology for estimating adequate seasonal irrigation based on soils, climate and crop factors;
- For a timeframe greater than 5 years for evidence of water taken by those seeking replacement consents.

4. Evaluation

The following provisions are amended as a result of the comments received:

- Policy 6.4.10A is simplified.
- The term “maximum allocation volume” is renamed “maximum allocation limit” for consistency with the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.
- The presentation of Policy 6.4.10A1 is restructured to avoid submissions on matters already addressed in Plan Change 1C (Water Allocation and Use).
- Policy 6.4.10A1 and Rule 12.0.1.3 now emphasise that they apply to takes that are for consumptive use only.
- Rule 12.0.1.3 is amended to exempt dewatering for short-term construction or maintenance activities even if there is a consumptive component in the taking.
- Schedule 4D (Calculated mean annual recharge) and all references to it are removed.
- The word “immediately” is removed from Method 15.8.3.1(c).
- In Schedule 4E (now 4D):
 - In 4D.1, a new (f) about through-flow from another aquifer is added to the possible sources; and
 - The final paragraph about the acceptability of recharge calculation methods is removed.

Some comments fell outside the scope envisaged for Proposed Plan Change 4B and have not been incorporated. No change has been made regarding the 5-year timeframe for evidence of water takes because the phrase “at least the preceding five years” is used.

5. Section 32 evaluation report

Before a plan change is notified, the Council must evaluate the alternatives, benefits and costs, as required by Section 32 of the RMA. Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) is the preferred approach to clarify groundwater allocation provisions. The Section 32 Evaluation Report has been amended also and is attached as Appendix 2.

6. Conclusion

The Proposed Plan Change, amended in response to comments, is attached as Appendix 3. The proposed changes should have immediate legal effect from notification, in accordance with Section 86B(3) of the Resource Management Act.

7. Next steps

The timeline below sets out the next steps in the plan change process:

Action	Date
Council approve public notification of Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation)	Wed 7 May 2014
Public notification of proposed plan change	Sat 17 May 2014
Submissions close	Tues 17 June 2014
Public notification of decisions requested and call for further submissions	July 2014

Further submissions close	August 2014
Hold hearings	September 2014
Council decision	October 2014

8. Recommendations

1. That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) and its accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report be approved for notification in accordance with clause 5, Schedule 1 of the RMA.
2. That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) be publicly notified on Saturday 17 May 2014.
3. That the Council establish a Hearing Committee to hear and make recommendations relating to Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation).
4. That Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation) will have immediate legal effect upon notification.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning & Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A617683
Report No: 2014/0764
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Tom De Pelsemaeker, Policy Analyst
Date: 03/04/2014

Subject: Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated Water Management)

1. Précis

This report presents a draft proposed plan change for the management of surface water resources in the Lindis catchment and aquifers of the Bendigo-Tarras Basin for consultation under clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and the draft Section 32 Evaluation Report associated with the proposed change.

2. Background: Water Plan provisions

The National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2011 (NPSFM) requires the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to avoid or reduce over-allocation and safeguard the life-supporting capacity of fresh water bodies, by establishing environmental flows and/or levels for all water bodies in the region.

The Objectives in the operative Water Plan already give effect to the NPSFM by recognising the need to protect natural and human use values, cultural values, amenity and natural character of rivers while enabling the sustainable and efficient use of this resource to the benefit of Otago's industries and communities. The Water Plan achieves this by:

- setting minimum flows and allocation limits for surface water bodies; and
- establishing maximum allocation limits for groundwater resources.

Over the past decade ORC has been undertaking a programme of setting catchment-specific minimum flows and allocation limits in Schedule 2 of the Water Plan. Catchments that are not listed in Schedule 2 have no minimum flow, but have a "default" primary allocation limit, which is either 50% of the mean annual low flow or the sum of consented maximum instantaneous takes within primary allocation (whichever is the greatest).

Maximum allocation volumes are included in Schedule 4A of the Water Plan. Where no volume is set in Schedule 4A, a "default" maximum allocation volume is determined as 50% of the mean annual recharge of the aquifer or the sum of consented maximum annual take (whichever is the greatest).

Currently, Schedule 2 does not include allocation limits and minimum flows for the Lindis River. However, the Lindis catchment is considered overallocated because the sum of consented maximum instantaneous takes (approx. 4,140 l/s) is in excess of the river's "default" primary allocation limit (800l/s).

Under Policy 6.4.1A of the Water Plan, groundwater takes from the Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer, which is listed in Schedule 2C of the Water Plan, are to be considered as primary allocation from the Lindis River.

No maximum allocation volumes have been set for the Lower Tarras, Bendigo and Ardour Valley Aquifers in Schedule 4A. Therefore, the maximum allocation volume for each of these aquifers is currently determined as 50% of their mean annual recharge.

While no additional primary allocation consents can be granted from the Lindis River (or from the Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer), further groundwater allocation is still available from the Lower Tarras, Bendigo and Ardour Valley Aquifers.

4. Background: development of plan change

Between February 2009 and November 2011 ORC organised four community workshops in the Lindis catchment. These workshops were used to identify important values and uses supported by the Lindis river and to gauge the community's aspirations for managing the river. Values that were considered important include:

- the availability of water for human use values
- trout spawning, juvenile trout rearing and retention, habitat for native fish
- water-based recreation, including fishing and swimming
- cultural values, aesthetics, natural character and amenity

Participants recognised that the combination of low natural flows and high water abstraction levels from the Lindis River has an adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystems supported by the lower reaches of the river, the river's natural character and the cultural and recreational values associated with this water body.

Studies undertaken by ORC emphasised the need to set an integrated management regime that recognises the interaction between the Lindis River and the Lindis Alluvial Ribbon, Ardour Valley, Bendigo and Lower Tarras Aquifers.

Instream habitat requirements and aspirations voiced by local community members and stakeholders were taken into consideration when developing a recommended management regime for managing these interconnected water resources.

The recommended regime for managing the surface and groundwater resources in the Lindis was presented to local community members and other stakeholders at a 5th public meeting on 1 April 2014 at the Tarras Hall. During this workshop the following concerns were raised:

- Reliability of data and validity of assessment methods for developing the recommended regime;
- Impacts of reduced water availability on irrigators;
- Delaying the timeframe to allow further investigation and implementation of mitigating measures;
- Request for support and/or funding from Council.

5. Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change

Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated Water Management) seeks to implement the proposed regime by:

1. Setting the following primary allocation limit and minimum flow for primary allocation takes in Schedule 2A:

Catchment	Minimum flow at Ardgour Rd monitoring site (l/s)	Primary allocation limit (l/s)
Lindis catchment	750 (October to November) 450 (December to April) 750 (May) 1600 (June to September)	1000

2. Setting the following supplementary allocation blocks and associated minimum flows in Schedule 2B:

Catchment	Minimum flow at Ardgour Rd monitoring site (l/s)	Supplementary allocation (l/s)
Lindis catchment (1st suppl. alloc. block)	2200	500
Lindis catchment (2nd suppl. alloc. block)	2700	500

3. Setting the following maximum allocation volumes for groundwater takes from aquifers in Schedule 4A:

Aquifer	Maximum Allocation Volume (Mm ³ /year)
Ardgour Valley Aquifer	0.1896
Bendigo Aquifer	29.0
Lower Tarras Aquifer	18.8

4. Amending Map C1b of the Water Plan Maps to show the boundaries of the Lower Tarras and Ardgour Valley Aquifers and incorporate the Lower Lindis Fan Zone within the boundaries of the Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer.
5. Adding new Map B6 (showing the boundaries of the Lindis catchment and the Ardgour Road monitoring site) and new Map C1c (showing the boundaries of the Bendigo Aquifer) to the Water Plan Maps.

The proposed regime will provide for better long term outcomes for the diverse ecological, social, cultural, recreational and economic values associated with interconnected water resources in the Lindis area.

Appendix 1 shows the draft of the proposed amended provisions for consultation, including minor and consequential amendments.

6. Draft Section 32 Evaluation Report

The attached draft Section 32 Evaluation Report (Appendix 2) outlines the rationale for all of the proposed changes. It will be reviewed following consultation and will be re-presented when the proposed plan change is ready for public notification. It includes preliminary analysis of likely economic effects.

7. Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with clause 3, Schedule 1 of the RMA. The following parties will be consulted:

- The Minister for the Environment;
- Other appropriate ministers (in particular Primary Industries and Conservation);
- Central Otago District Council;
- Otago Fish and Game Council;
- Kai Tahu ki Otago.

For this plan change, it is intended to include surface water take and groundwater take consent holders in the Lindis catchment and in the Bendigo-Tarras Basin, local community representatives and organisations with an interest in the water management of the Lindis catchment and Bendigo-Tarras Basin.

8. Transition times and implementation of the Lindis minimum flow

Following the formal plan change processes, when Proposed Plan Change 5A becomes operative, the maximum allocation volumes and allocation limits determined through this plan change will come into effect. However, under Policy 6.4.5 of the Water Plan, the minimum flow will not apply until after a collective review of consents in the Lindis catchment is undertaken. This will occur before 2021 if there is agreement by the holders of mining privileges to adhere to minimum flows, or on the expiry of the mining privileges on 2 October 2021.

Policy 6.4.5 effectively allows for a transition period, enabling local consent holders and other stakeholders to investigate the feasibility of measures that mitigate the effect of a minimum flow on water availability or could result in even greater benefits for the ecosystem, recreational or cultural values supported by the Lindis River. These may include:

- The formation of a catchment-wide water management group
- The use of more efficient irrigation practices
- The supply of irrigation water from alternative sources (e.g. Bendigo-Tarras Basin, Clutha River/Mata-Au), either through privately owned or community based irrigation schemes
- The appointment of an ORC officer to liaise with local consent holders
- The undertaking of river bed works that would reduce flow loss to groundwater or would allow for enhanced fish passage

9. Next steps

The timeline below sets out the next steps in the plan change process:

Action	Date
Consult with affected parties	May 2014
Consultation comments close	23 May 2014
Amend proposal and present for notification	July 2014

10. Recommendations:

That the attached Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated Water Management) and the accompanying draft Section 32 Evaluation Report is released for consultation in terms of clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A617756

Report No: 2014/0765

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Michael Goldsmith, Manager Natural Hazards

Date: 1 April 2014

Subject: Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan

1. Précis

Dunedin City Council (DCC) is reviewing the Dunedin City District Plan and has the objective of notifying plan changes in late 2014. ORC is supporting DCC by providing natural hazards information, knowledge and opinion through a collaborative approach¹. This is consistent with the 2013/14 Annual Plan target to “assist Otago’s territorial authorities to integrate natural hazards information into District Plans”.

The working group of ORC and DCC staff has developed a set of principles and planning considerations to help develop rules to manage land use activities, so as to avoid or mitigate the potential adverse effects of natural hazards, including the effects of climate change. It is appropriate that those principles and considerations be endorsed by Council prior to the development of possible rules. It is noted that those principles and considerations will be refined as the work proceeds.

2. Guiding principles for hazard management

The principles are based on the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the functions of local government in relation to natural hazards as outlined in the RMA. The principles also draw from:

- Milton 2060. Flood Risk Management Strategy for Milton and the Tokomairiro Plain (ORC, 2012)
- Sustainable Development Principles (DCC, Long Term Plan 2012/13 – 2021/22)
- Dunedin Towards 2050, A spatial plan for Dunedin / He māhere Wāhi ki Otepoti (DCC, September 2012)
- Preparing for climate change (MfE, July 2008)
- Preparing for future flooding (MfE, May 2010)
- New Zealand Standard 9401: 2008 Managing Flood Risk.

The principles are grouped around two main themes: people and communities, and the management approach for natural hazards. The principles outlined below describe the key messages that ORC believe should be covered by these two themes. This is consistent with the approach expected to be taken by the DCC, although the wording and emphasis may differ slightly.

People and communities:

1. Protection of people.
 - Prevent death or injury, ensure public health.

¹ Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan, Report 2013/0777, Prepared for Engineering and Hazards Committee, Otago Regional Council, 11 April 2013.

2. Create liveable communities.
 - Create communities in which people can live, work and use the land without ongoing stress or fear of natural hazards.
3. Create a resilient built environment.
 - Create and maintain a built environment, including infrastructure and lifelines, which takes into account the risks from natural hazards so that it can operate effectively while still being affordable.

Management approach:

4. An adaptive management approach.
 - An adaptive risk management approach will be required to allow for improvements in the understanding of hazards, and the effects of natural climate variability. The risk associated with different hazards will reduce over time by taking a broad-scale, adaptive approach over the longer term. The ability to respond to changes in the nature and extent of risk, ease transitions, and provide the level of safety desired by the community is essential.
5. Take residual risk into account.
 - It is important to address the entire risk spectrum when managing the effects of natural hazards. This principle recognises that whatever event is planned for, there will be a larger, major, event. The risk from these major events also needs to be recognised and managed.
6. Some risks are intolerable.
7. Avoid exacerbation of risk in other places.
 - New development and hazard management measures will not exacerbate the risks or effects of natural hazards elsewhere. This applies at all scales, from localised 'property to property' effects, through to the community or catchment scale.
8. Increase understanding and community awareness.
 - Understanding the underlying natural systems and processes that operate in the Dunedin City district is crucial to managing risk and ensuring community safety. Increasing community awareness is essential to assist people in taking natural hazard risks into account when undertaking development.

3. Planning considerations

The joint working group has also identified a series of planning considerations which will help to inform District Plan rules, in regards to avoiding or mitigating the potential effects of natural hazards:

1. Controls over the way land is used should depend on the characteristics of the hazard in that area, and its effects on people and assets.
 - The risk in each community depends on its local geography and exposure to hazard. Any planning response will depend on the nature of the hazard, and may include avoidance of new, or restrictions on existing development, or design standards to avoid or mitigate negative effects.
2. The consequences of the hazard are critical, along with the likelihood of a particular event occurring.
3. The disruption and economic impact at individual and community levels are important considerations.

- The utility and amenity of land will be considered in addition to people's safety and damage to buildings.
4. The cumulative effects of hazard should be considered:
- Consider the likelihood of being affected over the *longer term*.
 - Consider the likelihood of being affected by *any of the hazards* which may affect a particular area.
 - Consider the cumulative effects of *repeat events*.

4. Recommendations

That:

1. This report is received, and
2. The set of principles and planning response considerations outlined above are noted and endorsed.

Gavin Palmer
**Director Engineering, Hazards
and Science**

Fraser McRae
**Director Policy Planning and
Resource Management**

REPORT

Document Id: A617237

Report No: 2014/0759
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Director Policy Planning and Resource Management
Date: 3 April 2014

Subject: Environmental Reporting Bill for RMA

1. Précis

The Minister for the Environment introduced an Environmental Reporting Bill (189-1) (Bill) to parliament on 20 February 2014. The Bill has had its first reading after which it was referred to the Local Government and Environment Committee (Committee). This report summarises the intent of the Bill and matters this Council proposes to submit on.

2. Background

The Government's current State of the Environment reporting system involves a periodic release of national environmental reports by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). This reporting focuses on 22 environmental 'indicators' and the timing of reports has been subject to data availability, rate of changes in the environment and the discretion of the Ministry. The last report was released in 2007.

The purpose of the bill is to create a national level environmental reporting system with a reporting framework that has clear accountabilities and will result in more regular reporting that is transparent, independent, fair and accurate.

Submissions to the Committee close 17 April 2014.

3. Proposed Reporting System and Benefits.

The Bill proposes a framework where one of five domains (air, atmosphere and climate, freshwater, and marine) is reported on every six months. Every three years a synthesised report will provide an analysis of trends across all five domains and interpretation of this information. The framework will include information relating to environmental pressures, states and impacts.

One objective of the Bill is to ensure that high quality data from a number of sources to allow a comparison of the report findings against national or international standards.

4. Otago Regional Council's view on Bill

Staff have identified the following matters in relation to the Bill:

- Potential for the scope of information required by central government from agencies such as regional councils to change
- Sufficient notice of any change to information provision requirements
- Ability to be party to development of any change in information requirements for environmental reporting prior to their implementation

5. Recommendation

That the Council make a submission on this Bill as attached in Appendix 1.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Otago Regional Council Submission
to the
Local Government and Environment Committee
on the
Environmental Reporting Bill

This is a submission to the Local Government and Environment Committee on the Environmental Reporting Bill.

The Otago Regional Council (Otago) does not wish to be heard in support of this submission if the opportunity arises.

Signature of submitter (or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter):

Fraser McRae
Director of Policy and Resource Planning

17 April 2014

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Email:	fraser.mcrae@orc.govt.nz
Contact person:	Fraser McRae, Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Otago supports the intent of the proposal, to provide a regular report to the public on the environmental state of New Zealand, a report that is independent, fair and accurate.
- 1.2. In summary, while supporting the intent, Otago has some concerns with the uncertainty the proposal as drafted raises with respect to:
 - potential for change in the scope of information required by Government from regional councils;
 - sufficient notice of any change to information requirements;
 - ability to be party to development of any change in information requirements for environmental reporting prior to their implementation.
- 1.3. Otago would be pleased to work with Government to develop reforms to environmental reporting which work with the needs and objectives of New Zealand's various regions while also serving to improve the process and content of the national state of the environment reporting.

Full Submission

2. Otago's approach to monitoring and reporting

- 2.1. Otago currently provides annual information to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) on water resource quality as well as publishing reports annually for the benefit of Otago communities on issues such as river flows, macroinvertebrates and recreational water quality.
- 2.2. Otago has also recently submitted on both the MfE's National Monitoring System Proposal and the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management Amendment 2013.
- 2.3. In both submissions, Otago raised concerns that in making changes to reporting requirements, care needs to be taken to preserve the practical benefits of any monitoring in that it addresses the needs of regional communities as well as contributing accurately and effectively to a picture of the nation's environmental health. Otago has made a lot of progress in managing natural resources and effective monitoring to determine trends which help to confirm whether strategies are delivering results or not.
- 2.4. Any changes to rationalise consistency of data recording and reporting will need careful consideration and input from all affected agencies.

3. Otago's comments on Environmental Reporting Bill

- 3.1. The Bill explanation text states that reporting will be based on information currently being collected and will not require any additional information. However, the Bill itself does not state this and provides for creating regulations to determine what matters must be included in any report, and what statistical methods are to be applied to the data. Any new regulations are likely to influence Otago State of the Environment reporting and Council would like the opportunity to consider and understand what effect new regulations might have.
- 3.2. Therefore, it will be important that the MfE consult first with local and regional government on any new proposed regulations. Any changes in information requirements for environmental reporting must provide sufficient time for Otago to provide needed budget through its annual plan-making process.
- 3.3. Otago welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of any such regulations. With Otago being one of New Zealand's largest regions, our experience in monitoring and reporting on the facets written in the Bill 'environmental domains' would assist with the regulations being made robust and relevant.

REPORT

Document Id: A617607
Report No: 2014/0763
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Director Policy Planning and Resource Management
Date: 1 April 2014

Subject: Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill

1. Précis

The Minister for Building and Construction introduced the Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill (182-1) (Bill) to parliament on 9 December 2013. The Bill had its first reading in March 2014 after which it was referred to the Local Government and Environment Committee (the Committee). This report summarises the Bill's purpose and the Otago Regional Council (Council) view.

2. Background

This Bill amends the Building Act 2004 (Act) to give effect to reforms announced in August 2013 to improve the system for managing earthquake-prone buildings. The Bill is in response to the increasing expectation of New Zealand society for Government to improve on what is an acceptable level of risk in managing earthquake prone-buildings in an effective and timely manner.

Under the Building Act, this Council has responsibilities for dams and associated structures in Otago. The Bill proposes a small number of changes relating to dams including;

- A definition for heritage dam - which is a dam registered as a historic place under Part 2 of the Historic Places Act 1993.
- Amending section 154 of the Act to remove a redundant clause (relating to the limitation of a council's powers) as there is no 'limitation of powers' provision within that section.
- Amendment of section 155 of the Act, which sets out the requirements for a notice under section 154. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the reference to statutory authorities who must be provided a 'seismic work notice' if a statutory authority has exercised a statutory power to classify or register a dam (or the land on which a dam is situated). In essence, this change increases the possible recipients for such a notice, which would have only a minor effect on council current building control process.

The closing date for submissions to the Committee is 17 April 2014.

3. Otago Regional Council's View

Council staff have reviewed the bill and consider the changes will improve the Act and, due to the minor nature of changes in respect to dams, not materially impact how council discharges its responsibilities under the Act. A draft submission is attached in Appendix 1.

4. Recommendation

That Council makes a submission in support of the proposed changes to the Building Act 2004 as they relate to dams, as attached in Appendix 1.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Otago Regional Council Submission
to the
Local Government and Environment Committee
on the
Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill

This is a submission to the Local Government and Environment Committee on the Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill.

The Otago Regional Council (Otago) does not wish to be heard in support of this submission if the opportunity arises.

Signature of submitter (or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter):

Fraser McRae
Director of Policy and Resource Planning

17 April 2014

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Full Submission

1. Otago Regional Council's Responsibilities

- 1.1. This Bill amends the Building Act 2004 (Act) to give effect to reforms announced in August 2013 to improve the system for managing earthquake-prone buildings. The Bill is in response to the increasing expectation of New Zealand society for Government to improve on what is an acceptable level of risk in managing earthquake prone-buildings in an effective and timely manner.
- 1.2. Under the Building Act, Otago has some functions relating to dams and associated structures in Otago, Southland and the West Coast. These functions are not the subject of the Bill.

2. Otago Regional Council's comments on Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill

- 2.1. Otago accepts the proposed definition of a heritage dam, that being a dam registered as a historic place under Part 2 of the Historic Places Act 1993.
- 2.2. Otago also notes the amendment of section 154 of the Act to remove a redundant clause (relating to the limitation of a council's powers) as there is no 'limitation of powers' provision within that section.
- 2.3. Lastly, Otago accepts the proposed amendment of section 155 of the Act, which clarifies the requirements for a notice under section 154. Otago recognises it is important that statutory authorities be provided a 'seismic work notice' if a statutory authority has exercised a statutory power to classify or register a dam (or the land on which a dam is situated).

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Otago supports the proposed changes in the Bill in relation to dams.

REPORT

Document Id: A618443

Report No: 2014/0769

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 4 April 2014

Subject: Director's Report on Progress

1. Policy

1.1 Responses – National Policies, Strategies and Plans

In the five weeks ending 4 April 2014, the following were received:

Document	Number Received	Details
Central Government Proposals	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment - Environmental Reporting Bill to a Select Committee (amendment to RMA) Please refer to committee report 2014/0759 • Ministry for the Environment - Buildings (Earthquake-Prone) to Select Committee amendment Bill (amendment to Building Act 2004) Please refer to committee report 2014/0763

1.2 Responses - Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

In the ten weeks ending 4 April 2014, the following were received:

Document	Number Received	Details
Consent Applications	2	Queenstown Lakes District Council
	3	Dunedin City Council
Plan Change	1	Environment Southland (Feedback requested on proposed changes to Air Plan)

The following responses were made over the five week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
QLDC - Coronet Estates and Wakatipu Retreat Ltd [Subdivision and building platform establishment]	Submission – Support	Support for technical assessment provided with application which identified the presence of hazards on site and that mitigation (defence against water) would be viable.

CODC - Old Man's Estate Partnership [Subdivision to two lots and two building platforms, Cromwell]	Submission – Oppose	Opposed due to past horticultural use of land, under the NES Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health, a primary site investigation is required.
QLDC - Lakes Marina Projects Ltd [construction of large Marina Jetty in Frankton Arm of Lake Wakaitpu]	Submission – Neutral	Biosecurity: - requested provision for on-going monitoring fresh water pests. Transport: advocated new use of site must balance with existing uses and transport modes and that safe access to and from site is required.

Appeals – Invermark Investments Limited (Waitati coastal subdivision)

While Council formally withdrew from the appeal process after pre-appeal mediation in January 2014, it is noted that the applicant has not yet contacted the Council in respect to further hazard modelling as agreed at that time. As a consequence, Council staff have not yet advised the applicant of any outstanding concerns with the applicant's interpretation of hazard risks and mitigation solutions for the site.

2. Resource Management Act: Policy Plans and Strategies

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement for Otago

Issues and options papers are being prepared on a range of topics which will form the basis of wider community consultation in May.

There are four main parts to this consultation process:

- A 12-page newspaper will be delivered to households throughout the region in early May, inviting people to become involved in the review.
- A series of public meetings and drop-in sessions around Otago, with the launch being held in Queenstown on Monday 19 May. Meetings and drop-in sessions will also be held in Alexandra, Balclutha, Dunedin and Oamaru over the following two weeks.
- A region-wide hui is also being organised, but the date has not yet been confirmed.
- The ORC website will also include feature material on the RPS and an interactive response form.

A manawhenua group meeting was held on Thursday 13 March 2014, and two workshops with city and district councils were held: in Alexandra on Monday 16 March, and on Thursday 20 March in Dunedin.

2.2 Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Proposed Plan Change 6A (Water Quality)

Presentation on background and content to NZ Planning Institute conference.

Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation)

The proposed plan change has now been amended in the light of comments received on the Consultation Draft, and is presented for notification in Report 2014/0692.

Minimum flow and aquifer allocation proposals

Minimum flow and allocation regimes are being developed for a number of catchments and aquifers so that those taking water under mining privileges may better prepare for when new resource consents are required in 2021.

The following progress has been made over the past 6 weeks:

Catchment/Aquifer	Action
Benger Burn and Ettrick Basin aquifer	Community workshop at Ettrick: Tues 11 March <i>Workshop attended by 28 members of the public</i> <i>Further work on nature of water resource requested</i>
Dunstan Flats Aquifer	Community workshop at Cromwell: Tues 18 March <i>Workshop attended by 16 people</i> <i>Proceed to prepare Consultation Draft</i>
Earnsclough Aquifer	Community workshop at Alexandra: Tues 18 March <i>Workshop attended by 16 people</i> <i>Further work on nature of water resource requested</i>
Pomahaka River and connected aquifer	Community workshop set for Tapanui: Tues 6 May <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Waiwera River	Community workshop set for Clinton: Tues 6 May <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Lindis River and connected aquifers	Community workshop at Tarras: Tues 1 April <i>Workshop attended by 60 people</i> <i>Proceed to release Consultation Draft (see Report 2014/0764)</i>
Waikouaiti River	Community workshop set for Waikouaiti: Wed 16 April <i>Present and discuss preferred option</i>
Hawea Basin Aquifer	Community workshop to be arranged in June
Cardrona River and Wanaka Basin Cardrona Aquifer	Community workshop to be arranged later in 2014
Manuherikia River and connected aquifers	The first workshop on community values will be organised once the Manuherikia Water Strategy group have indicated that they are ready to meet with the wider community

2.3 Regional Plan: Air for Otago

A review has been made of Air Plan provisions in relation to giving effect to the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ). The scope of a plan change to give effect to the NESAQ will be determined through the internal review of the Air Strategy and its implementation programme on 15 April 2014.

3. Transport Planning

3.1 Public transport business case

Following the Better Business Case process required by NZTA, the strategic business case for improvements to public transport in Dunedin awaits official endorsement from NZTA. This is due any day.

Work on the next level, the programme business case, will commence shortly.

3.2 Network review

Work continues on reviewing the public transport network in Dunedin. This work, in consultation with the Dunedin City Council, NZTA and bus operators aims to optimise the bus network, and enable transition to the Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM).

3.3 Fare review

Reviewing the fare structure of the Dunedin public transport network continues with the assistance of Ian Wallis and Associates. The work examines a series of options to enable implementation of the most appropriate fare zone structure.

3.4 Regional Public Transport Plan

A review of the 2012 Regional Public Transport Plan will commence shortly. This review will detail the planned transition process to meet PTOM.

3.5 Regional Road Safety

Analysis of crash data for Otago and Southland is continuing. Preliminary findings were presented to the joint meeting of the Otago and Southland Regional Land Transport Committees on 3 April, with positive responses received.

3.6 Input into national level work

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) is issued by the Minister of Transport every three years, and sets out the Government's priorities for expenditure across the land transport system for at least the next 10 years. The Ministry requested input from Local Authorities into developing the next GPS. Initial Council input was sent to the Ministry in February. The Ministry expect to begin formal engagement in May 2014.

The New Zealand Transport Agency is consulting on the Funding Assistance rates (FAR) review. The FAR determines the proportion of the costs of land transport activities that will be met from national funding. A Council submission was sent to the New Zealand transport Agency in March 2014.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 following the Policy Committee meeting**

Membership:

- Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson)
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr David Shepherd

Leave of Absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 14 April.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0725 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 17/3/14

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 15 February to 21 March 2014.

Item 2

2014/0779 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 3/4/14

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 24 February to 3 April 2014.

Item 3

2014/0781 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.** DPPRM, 28/3/14

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 25 February to 28 March 2014.

Item 4

2014/0774 **Appointment of hearing commissioners.** DPPRM, 2/4/14

Listing hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 2 April 2014.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday
13 March 2014 commencing at 10.48 am**

Present: Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson)
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Trevor Kempton
The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs
Kelliher and Eckhoff.

In attendance: Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Woodhead.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0684 **Update on Building Act dam safety scheme.** DEHS, 3/3/14

The report noted that the scheme was due to commence on 1 July 2014, but that delays might be caused by further changes to the scheme by the government. The report also detailed collaborative work by regional authorities. Dr Palmer commented that the Council's Annual Plan estimates were predicated on a 1 July start. There were problems with variability in regional councils' preparedness for the commencement, and with the integrity of the scheme, referring to auditing of the work of "recognised engineers".

Councillors commended staff for their work to date on the regional council response to the dam safety scheme.

In response to a query Dr Palmer explained that a "recognised engineer" had to meet requirements in relation to the Building Act and supporting regulations, be a chartered engineer with skills in dam safety, and be assessed by IPENZ. A Category B "recognised engineer" would be a chartered engineer with general civil engineering experience.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0661 **Biosecurity and RMA Report.** DEMO, 25/2/14

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 1 January to 14 February 2014.

Mr Donaldson advised in response to a question that the percentage of water metered takes was still quite low, and there were various reasons for this, including a lack of people available to carry out the verification process. In total there were 1600 takes to be metered; so far 200 had been cancelled by the consent holder because they were not used, or lapsed due to inactivity, and it was expected that more would be cancelled.

In response to a question about the standard of water measuring structures being installed, Mr Donaldson explained that ORC verified the information being supplied by consent holders, not the structures. Council was satisfied with the structures being installed by suppliers and verifiers.

It was noted that Oceana Gold had determined the mine would cease operating in 2017, not 2020, and there was concern that because of this earlier termination date the dam maintenance might not be so thorough. Mr Donaldson advised that one staff member was specialising on Oceana Gold issues, with other staff assistance as required. He also noted that there was a rigid bond on place to manage mitigation.

A question was raised about advice to boat owners of the need to be vigilant with respect to marine pests, and whether random inspections of boats were carried out. Mr Donaldson advised that Environmental Monitoring and Operations staff were not qualified to dive and inspect vessels, but NIWA carried out annual inspections of structures in the harbour basin and reported back to ORC. Some boat owners carried out work on their boats when they received the advice, but ORC had not instructed any boats to be cleaned. Larger ships were managed by their own regulations, but smaller ships were a bigger risk.

In relation to plant pests, Mr Donaldson advised that lagarosiphon was entering Lake Wanaka from Bullock Creek, and this source was to be removed. The work was supported by Guardians of Lake Wanaka and the Community Board.

The rabbit control programme was discussed. Mr Donaldson explained that the rabbit programme being planned with the contracting arm was working well, and it was possible that other operators could also be involved and use the Council's equipment. It would be difficult to source sufficient carrots for the poisoning programme, and consideration was been given to the reinstatement of oat poisoning, which would give opportunities for two poisoning seasons during the year. He commented that an oat poisoning operation in the Queensberry area had resulted in a 95+% kill.

The summary of incident complaints was noted:

- Air quality - 89 complaints received, the majority relating to domestic chimneys.
- Odour – Mr Donaldson noted that some complaints related to the landfill. He also commented that CODC was changing to a fortnightly rubbish collection, which could impact on air quality. Council would work with CODC and the community to advise on best practice.

Cr Scott moved

Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 3
2014/0674

Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 24/2/14

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 18 January to 21 February 2014.

Mr McRae was to check the reference to RM13.433 Clutha District Council limited notified application, and the reason for the delay in the hearing of application RM13.215 Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4
2014/0673

RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DPPRM, 24/2/14

The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 14 January to 24 February 2014.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 5
2014/0696

Appointment of hearing commissioners. DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report listed hearing commissioner appointments for the period to 28 February 2014.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.17 am.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A613561

Report No: 2014/0725

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Date: 17/03/2014

**Subject: Biosecurity & RMA Monitoring Report for the period
15 February to 21 March 2014**

1. Water Quality and Quantity

1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

1.1.1 General Update on Status of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

Performance Monitoring

There is a large project underway following up on overdue performance monitoring relating to water takes. There are currently 784 overdue scheduled performance monitoring inspections. The majority relate to the return of data and confirmation of the verifications of water measuring devices.

Of the overdue, 258 relate to irrigation companies, large power companies and Councils. It is important to note that these entities are/or have been in contact with the Regional Council to identify issues and how they plan to meet the Water Regulations.

There are also 97 Follow-Up Inspections scheduled. These are reminders to follow up with consent holders where they have been given a date to provide information to Council.

Work is underway now to address the outstanding performance monitoring information as well as addressing the follow up inspections.

Auditing

Auditing of consents is an ongoing and evolving programme. A consent will initially be scheduled to have an audit conducted 5 years after being granted. This may be re-scheduled to be either earlier or later depending on the use or non-use of the consent and can also change based on complaints.

There are currently 879 overdue scheduled auditing inspections. This figure includes water measuring device inspections, both consent conditions and Water Regulation requirements.

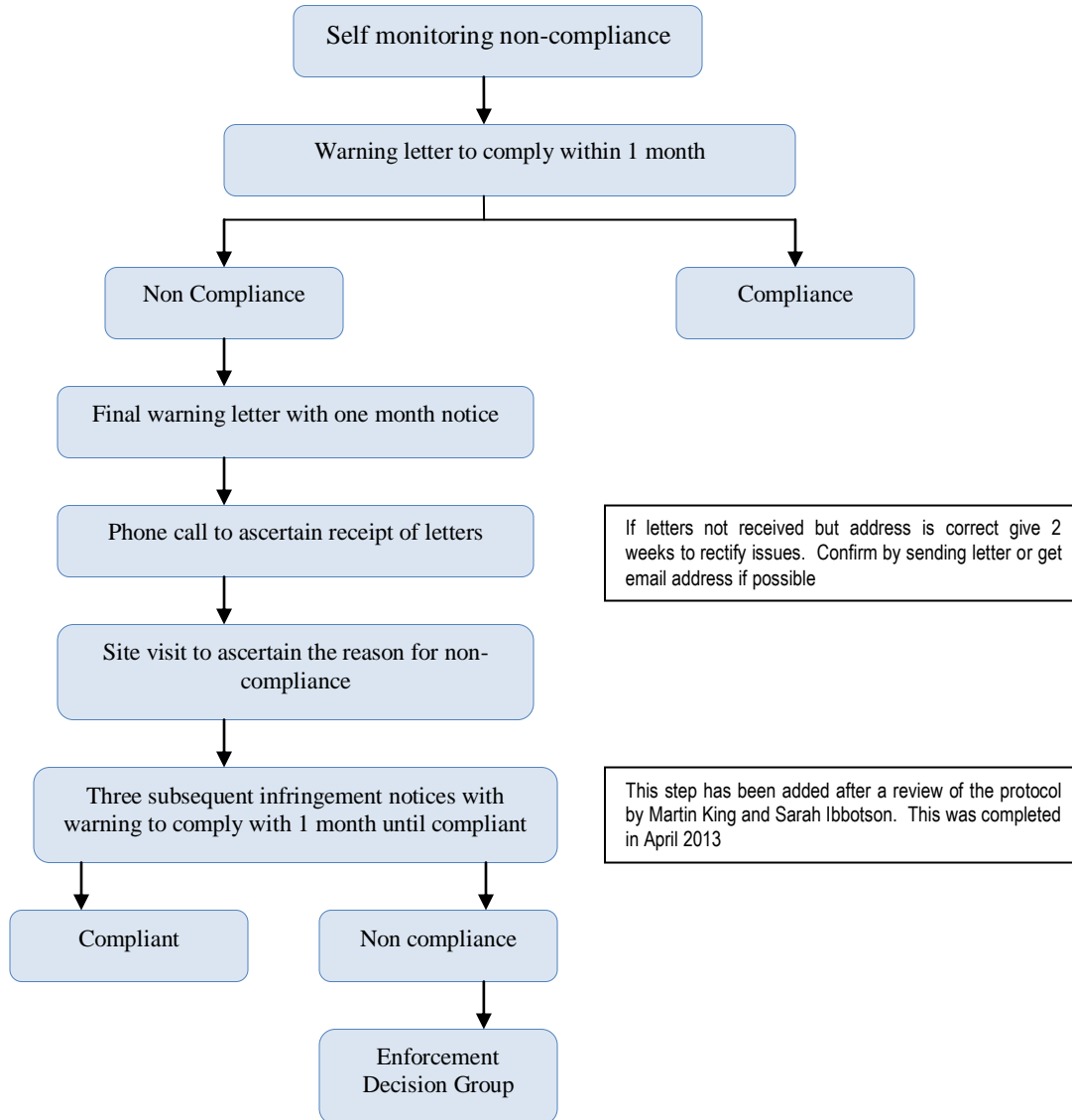
Of the overdue audits, 152 relate to irrigation companies, large power companies and Councils. As previously stated they have been in contact with the Regional Council to outline any issues or how they plan to meet the Water Regulations.

There are also currently 140 Follow-Up Inspections scheduled. These are scheduled as reminders to follow up with consent holders where they have been given a date to provide information or undertake an action by. Of the 140 scheduled, there are 118 outstanding. Two new staff positions have been recently advertised for Cromwell and Wanaka which will assist in catching up on these outstanding inspections.

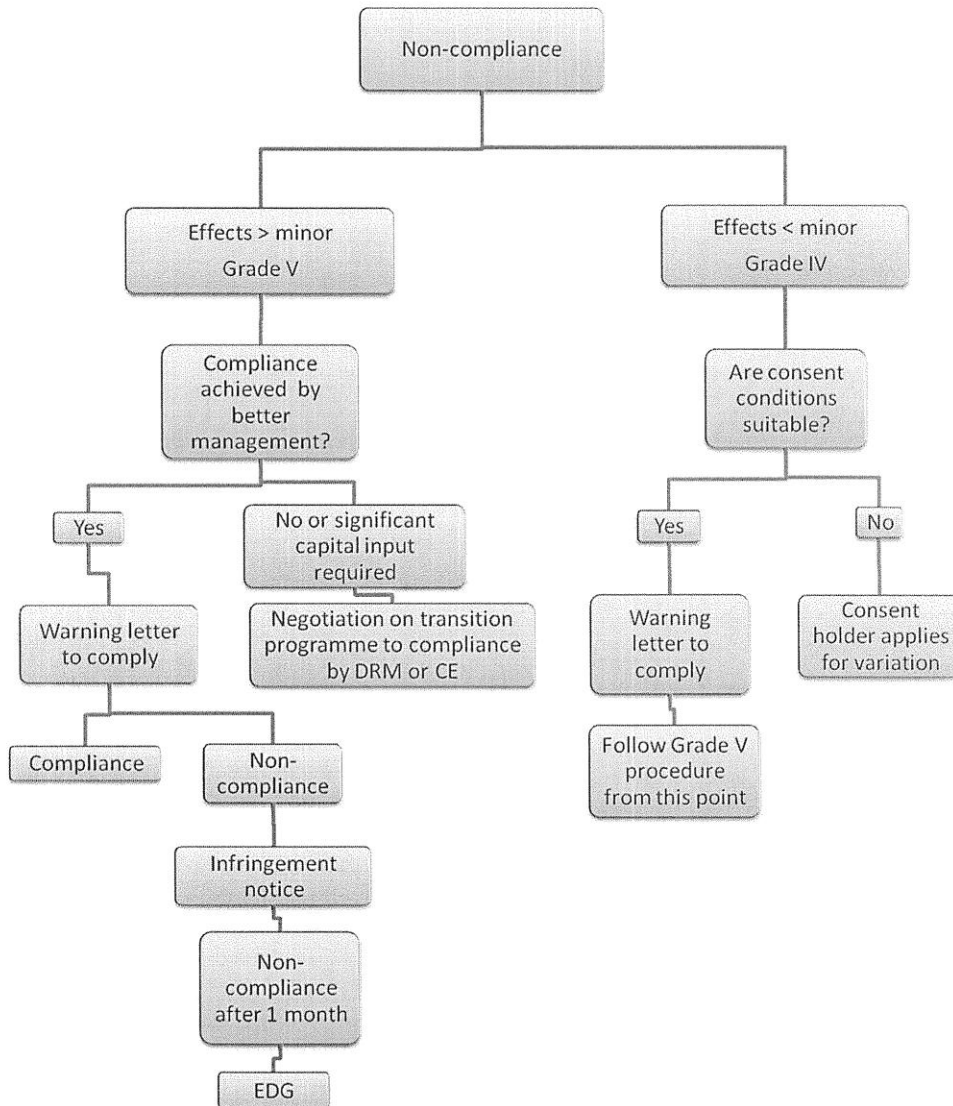
Enforcement Procedure

There are separate enforcement procedures for Performance Monitoring and Auditing. These were written and approved via a committee paper that was presented by Dr Selva Selvarajah, previous Director Resource Management.

For performance monitoring there has been an update to the procedure since it was written but it is outlined as follows:



For auditing the procedure is as follows:



There is a different procedure if the consent is having to install measuring equipment in accordance with the Water Regulations as we can only issue an Abatement Notice in the first instance. We then have the option to undertake further enforcement action if the Abatement Notice is not followed.

The outlined procedures are currently under review. The procedures offer unnecessary complexities and significant delays in achieving outcomes. For example, for audit monitoring there are multiple warning steps for minor non-compliance that may occur over three years (as the consent may not be audited fully for another year). The procedure restricts the staff's ability to recommend a course of action.

For Performance Monitoring the procedure provides direction for the receipt of data from a consent holder, but not for assessing the data and recommending any remedial actions necessary. The procedure does not provide guidance on how to remedy non-compliance eg historic sample result that is provided to Council annually. When asking the consent holder to comply within one month, it does not take into consideration the fact that the information is historic and that remedial actions may take longer than one month.

1.1.2 Audit Monitoring for the Period.

The Dunedin City Council's wastewater treatment plants at Warrington, Seacliff, and Waikouaiti were inspected during this reporting period. Generally, the plants were found to be well maintained and in good operating condition. The discharge at Seacliff was fully compliant.

The Waitaki District Council's wastewater treatment plants at Palmerston, Moeraki, Kakanui and Oamaru were inspected during the reporting period. The wastewater treatment plant at Palmerston was given a non-compliant grade because upgrades to the disposal area which were to have been completed prior to March 2014, were not yet finished. WDC anticipate that the new disposal area will be operational by the end of April. Moeraki was also given a non-compliant grade. Currently, average nitrogen values in the discharge exceed the consent limit, and signage regarding the wastewater discharge is not visible at the outlet of Waiwherowhero Creek. The current consent expires in March 2015 and WDC has been assessing alternative land-based disposal systems. A minor non-compliant grade for late reporting was given for the Kakanui Wastewater Treatment Plant. This consent expires in December; construction of a sewer pipeline to Oamaru is progressing well, and it is expected that the discharge to land at the Kakanui site will cease as soon as the pipeline is operational. There were no current concerns regarding the discharge from the Oamaru Wastewater Treatment Plant. Levels of BOD5 in the discharge have improved since previous inspections and the values are now compliant with consent limits.

The Dunedin City Council's water treatment plant discharge consents at West Taieri and Mt Grand were audited. Monitoring of the discharge quality has been conducted in accordance with the consents. The Mt Grand discharge consents were fully compliant, discharge sites were in excellent condition with the monitoring demonstrate that the discharge has not had any adverse affect on periphyton or macroinvertebrate communities at the site. Compliance with the discharge consent at the West Taieri site

is good, although there have been occasions where the limit for total suspended solids in the discharge has been exceeded resulting in minor non compliance. Subsequent testing following high results have been compliant with the limits specified in the consent.

Dunedin City Council water take permits were also audited with most consents receiving a grade 2 – minor non compliance with no adverse effects, as the measuring devices at many water take sites are yet to be verified for accuracy as required by the Measuring and Reporting of Water Takes Regulations and/or their consents. Verifications are scheduled to be completed during the 2014/15 financial period.

1.1.3 Water Metering

Progress with water meter installations has been slow but steady over this reporting period with many installers concentrating on catching up with verifications and supplying paperwork to the Council. Consent holders who have not contacted the council to supply information (60 consents) as to their water metering situation have been sent a final warning. If no contact is made by the deadline date of 26 April 2014, abatement notices and infringements will be issued for non compliance with either consent conditions or the Regulations.

A recent meeting with an installer has found that there are a number of installations that have been completed, however the Council has not received the required documentation to confirm this. This will be followed up with both consent holders and installers over the next reporting period.

Out of the 1072 water take permits over 20l/s, 54% (578) are compliant with the installation of water measuring equipment. 31% (340) are still in the process of getting their equipment installed. 4% (46) of consents are being assessed for cancellation or lapsing, however before this can be done, a site visit needs to be carried out by staff.

Consent holders who have water takes between 10-20l/s have had a second letter sent to remind them of the 10 November 2014 deadline for installation of water measuring equipment. This group of consents is considerably smaller than the >20l/s group, and totals 205 consents. It has been confirmed already that 20% of these consent holders have appropriate measuring in place to comply with either their consent or the Regulations.

1.1.4 Oceana Gold (NZ) Ltd

A site visit to the Macraes Gold Project was undertaken during this period. The areas focused on included the new tailings storage facility, associated seepage sump, and new waste rock stack extension area completed under Macraes phase three permits. The older tailings storage facilities were visited to look at the recent embankment that has been raised in height, and the use of topsoil and grass seeding for dust suppression purposes.

An annual compliance summary report is currently in progress to review all site visits and performance monitoring during the period 2013/2014. Regular quarterly geotechnical monitoring data for all three TSF embankments was submitted during this reporting period. This was the first time geotechnical data for the TTTSF has been

reported since the commissioning of the embankment, and is currently under review by Damwatch Engineering Ltd.

1.2 State of the Environment Monitoring

Low flows were measured during late February in east and North Otago catchments. Flows were kept above normal summer levels by periodic rainfall events through much of March. Dry conditions persisted in Central Otago through the period resulting in low flow conditions in most catchments.

The flow station on the Waters of Leith at University Footbridge was removed to allow for channel works. A replacement site is operational at Leith Street.

Water sampling at bathing beaches continued on a weekly frequency throughout the period, with the programme finishing the last week in March. Five samples for toxic algae were taken at Lake Waihola.

Completion of the electric fishing surveys was hampered by higher than normal flows in north Otago rivers. It is hoped survey of North Otago rivers will be completed in April.

2 Air Quality

2.1 State of the Environment Monitoring

The start-up of monitors for winter air quality monitoring got underway in March. Monitors are now running at Palmerston, Milton and Balclutha in addition to the year round sites. Cromwell and Clyde monitors are due start the first week in April.

A replacement site for the Arrowtown monitor was finalised with QLDC. The monitor will be operational before the start of May.

3. Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance

3.1 Animal Pests

3.1.1 Rabbits

Through this period inspections for compliance with the Pest Management Strategy's maximum allowable level (MAL) for rabbits have been ongoing. Inspections focussed on a continuation of the approach for gaining area wide compliance. Inspections in the upper Clutha have continued. Progress has also being made in the Cromwell area

Overall 4,944ha have been inspected covering 42 properties in the areas of Hawea and Cromwell. It is noted there are large areas of non compliance including Crown land that will require control operations in winter 2014.

A total of 40 Rabbit Control Plan's (RCP) have been requested and Council is in receipt of 45 RCPs. A small number of non-returned RPCs are being addressed.

3.1.2 Wallabies

Of concern was a confirmed sighting by a credible pest contractor, that wallabies are in the Trotters Gorge and Hampden areas. Council staff undertook a sight inspection and confirmed “sign” (being wallaby droppings) at seven locations in recently harvested forestry blocks.

Staff will undertake night inspections and early morning/evening inspections in an attempt to eradicate the population. It is believed that wallaby have been released in this area and a small population has expanded its range.

3.2 Plant Pests

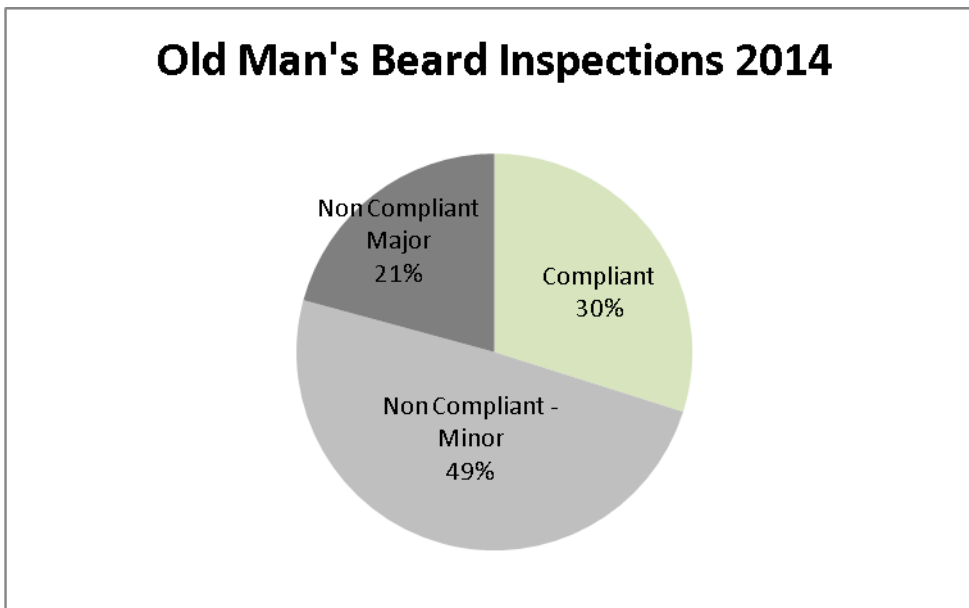
3.2.1 Nassella Tussock Control

The Cardrona Valley landholders were invited to a field day on the 20th March and this was well attended with eight landholders present. ORC staff took this opportunity to ensure landholders were well informed about roles, responsibilities and the rules for Nassella control. Landholders were very receptive and an updated fact sheet was disseminated among attendees.

ORC staff spent time with landholders helping identify Nassella, discussing how to control it and what methodologies should be employed including timing of operations and the necessity to build an annual surveillance and control program into their farming practices

3.2.2 Old Man’s Beard

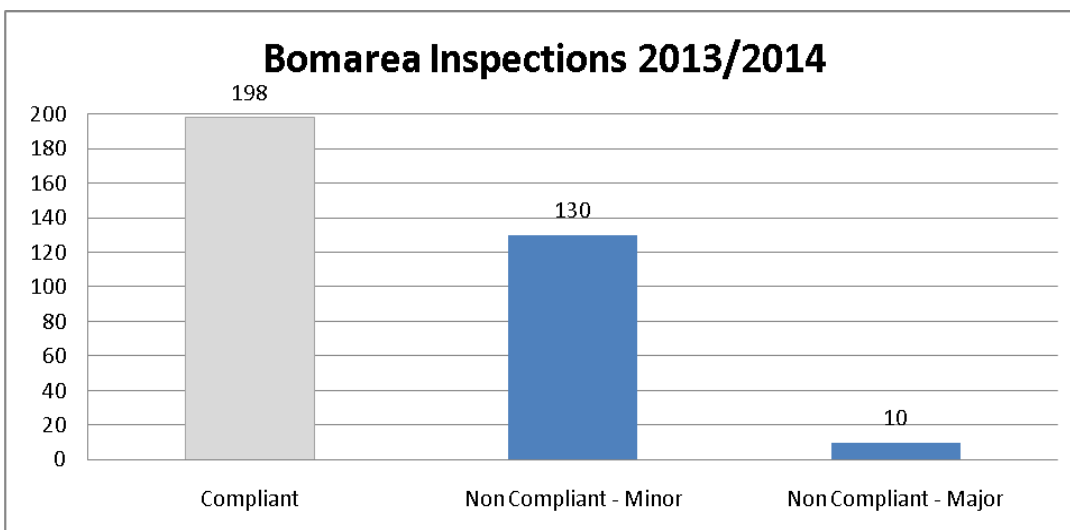
Inspections have recently commenced for this season, with a total of 77 inspections completed. 23 properties were found to be compliant, with a further 38 and 16 properties found with minor and major non compliance respectively. Initial inspections have focused on areas of Dunedin City with historical problems with Old Man’s Beard infestations. In all cases of non compliance found the landowner has been contacted in writing to notify the date compliance must be achieved by. In all cases a re-inspection will be undertaken to confirm control work has been completed.



3.2.3 Bomarea

All known Bomarea sites have been targeted for inspection this season, with previous years' inspections having been focused on follow up visits to non compliant sites. A total of 338 inspections were completed, with a further 87 re-inspections carried out on non compliant properties. Initial inspections found 59% of sites to be compliant, 38% were found with minor non compliance and 3% of sites were graded as non compliant major. A total of 87 properties were re-inspected to confirm control had been completed within the required time frame. The remaining non-compliant properties were dealt with over the phone due to the very low levels of infestations found.

70% of those properties inspected were found to be compliant upon re-inspection. 29% of properties were graded as non compliant minor however in all cases control work was either well underway or on-going as part of a long term plan. One property was found to be still non compliant major and this property is currently under consideration for issuing a Notice of Direction.



3.2.4 Lagarosiphon

Lagarosiphon was totally removed from Bullock Creek in Wanaka to assist the Lake Wanaka Management Committee with its control program. Their control programme has now been extended to include controlling lagarosiphon in the Wanaka lake front and marina area.

During a recent inspection of Lake Wakatipu, lagarosiphon was found under the Frankton Wharf. While some of the lagarosiphon had already started to grow it was mostly biomass that had been dropped of by a vessel, likely brought up from the Kawarau River. Both growing plants and biomass have been removed and further inspection will be carried out in spring 2014.

Council has also submitted on the development of a new marina in the Frankton area, requiring regular inspections during the development phase for lagarosiphon growth, due to bed disturbance.

Permission was recently granted for a mulching trial to remove lagarosiphon in Lake Dunstan. Preliminary results are looking very positive with no discolouration and most fragments less than 10mm.

4. Operations

4.1 Contract Management

Two TBfreeNZ possum contract (Naseby and Crookburn) were completed and performance monitored this reporting period and another four (Taieri-Hindon, Teviot River, Toko-Kaitangata and Ettrick) are at various stages of completion.

Cromwell based Environmental and Operations Contract staff assisted in the removal of Lagarosiphon from Bullock Creek in Wanaka during this period.

4.2 Engineering Field Operations

Staff were busy overseeing aerial spraying operations targeting problem willows and other weed species at various locations throughout Otago this reporting period.

The primary drain spraying programme within each of the Council managed schemes was completed during this period while the “spray-twice” drains in the East and West Taieri schemes are 95% complete.

One of the pumps servicing the Alexandra scheme was lifted for servicing and retrofitting of cables and sensors to match those in use at Kaitangata enabling the ability to interchange the pumps if required giving better resilience to the schemes.

The number 1 Kaitangata pump was also lifted and sent to Invercargill for routine servicing and application of a protective coating. Some issues with the telemetry system at Kaitangata were resolved by specialist electrical contractors.

5. Environmental Incident Response

5.1 Contaminated Sites

5.1.1. Remediation Projects

The Site Validation Report and Long Term Site Management Plan for the former Placemakers Timber Treatment site on the Oamaru Foreshore have been received. The reports confirm that the site has been remediated to a suitable standard, and is acceptable for use as a recreation reserve. During the reporting period, the Project Closure Report prepared by ORC was accepted by the Ministry for the Environment, and 50% of the project costs were recovered from the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund. The balance of project costs was funded by Waitaki District Council.

BP Oil New Zealand Limited removed the underground petroleum storage system from the Regent Street service station, following its closure last year. The site was heavily impacted by hydrocarbon contamination, and a significant amount of soil was removed from the site for treatment and disposal. Works were completed in accordance with ORC consents. URS New Zealand Limited are currently preparing an environmental site assessment which will detail if any further work is required.

The Site Validation Report and Long Term Site Management Plan for the Little Wonders Childcare facility were received. The site was formerly used as a vehicle repair workshop, and elevated concentrations of lead, nickel, benzo(a)pyrene and asbestos were identified on site. Disturbance of the site for the construction of the childcare facility was completed in accordance with ORC consents. Contaminated soil has been isolated below the building foundations and geotextile fabrics, and the site is suitable for use as a childcare facility.

5.1.2. Investigations

One underground petroleum storage system (UPSS) removal report was received during the reporting period. Following the assessment, letters were sent to the site owner, local authority and oil company. Work and investigation was carried out in accordance with industry best practice and ORC has no concerns regarding any on-going environmental effects.

5.1.3. Landfills

The Dunedin City Council's solid waste facilities at Green Island and Waikouaiti were inspected. Both sites appeared to be well managed, and were largely compliant with ORC resource consents. Waikouaiti landfill is now largely operating as a transfer station, with most waste brought to Dunedin rather than buried on site. The site received a large amount of suitable capping material from a slip on SH1 north of Kilmog. As a result, partial capping of the landfill has been completed and the site may close sooner than originally anticipated.

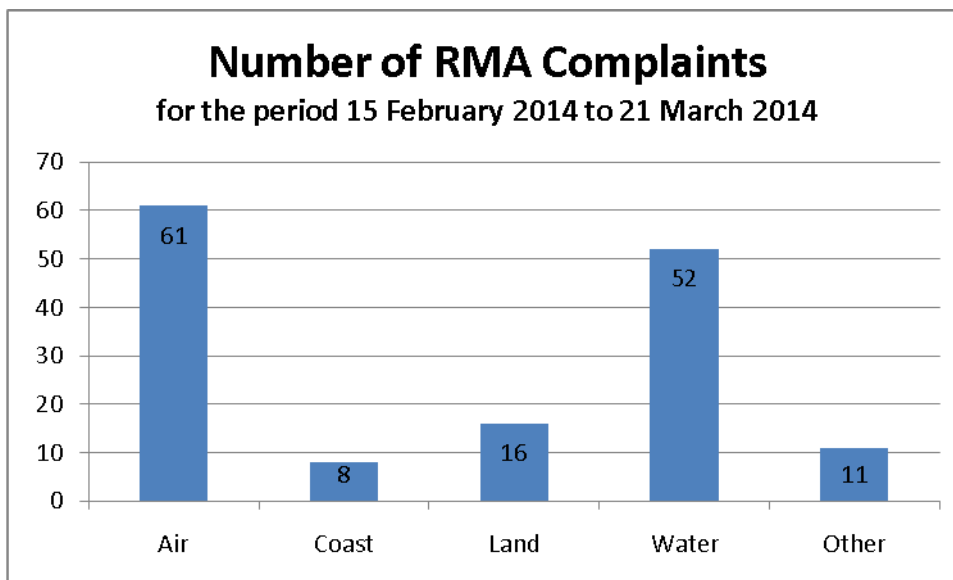
The Green Island Landfill received a minor non-compliant grade because groundwater level monitoring showed a period during which three sections of the leachate collection trench did not appear to be functioning properly. These issues have since been resolved. It was also noted that further contouring work at the composting pad was required to ensure that no contaminated stormwater is discharged from the site. Strong odour at the active sludge pit was noted during the inspection. While there was no odour beyond the boundary of the site during the inspection, there were several complaints during the past summer which may have been attributed to the landfill. With the sludge incinerator coming back on line at the Tahuna Wastewater Treatment Plant later this year, it is hoped the potential for odour generation at the landfill will decrease.

5.1.4. Other Actions

Thirty-four public enquiries regarding the contamination status or land-use history of thirty-seven specific properties were received and responded to within ten working days. This is an average of 7.2 enquiries per week. The number of enquiries has continued to increase since the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health came into effect on 1 January 2012.

5.2 Environmental Incidents

A total of 149 incidents were reported for this period. The following is a summary of the incidents received by activity type.



The majority of the air incidents can be attributed to odour. Domestic chimneys were the second most prevalent form of air pollution. The coastal incidents were in regard to marine oil spills. The majority of land incidents were from land contamination followed by disturbances. Concerns about fresh water pollution were the cause of the majority of water investigations. The other types of incidents were varied and included issues like pest insects, vandalism, dead livestock and rubbish on private land.

5.3 Oil spill Management

An oil spill exercise was carried out on 17 and 19 March 2014. On 17 March a land based oil spill gear familiarisation exercise took place. This involved pulling out land/sea, harbour and rapid deployment booms and connecting them together. The exercise also refreshed staff on the most effective methods of tying rope knots, anchor placement and deployment methods. On the 17 a desktop exercise took place on a possible oil spill scenario at the T and U wharfs in the inner harbour.

On the 19th of March a field exercise using the scenario developed on the 17th of March was implemented. It was a very testing exercise due to strong NE wind conditions and heavy sea chop conditions. It was pleasing that despite these weather conditions and the inadequacy of the Council vessel, staff implemented the exercise with expertise and with energy that achieved the required outcome.

6. Recommendation

That this report be noted

Jeff Donaldson
Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)

General location		Air							Coast					Land					Water					Other		
	Row summary	Backyard burning	Burning	Domestic chimneys	Dust	Industrial discharge	Odour	Spray drift	Coastal structures	Marine oil spill	Marine pollution	Reclamation	Removal	Deposit	Disturbance	Land contamination	Mining	Abstraction	Damming	Diversion	Fresh water quality	Storm water	Noise	Other	Staff performance	
Catlins	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	
Central Otago	20	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	5	0	0	2	0	
Clutha Plains	11	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	10	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	
Dn - Coast North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Coast South	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Dn - Inner City	31	1	0	4	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	2	0	
Dn - Mosgiel	9	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Otago Harbour	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Dn - Peninsula	6	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dn - West Harbour	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
East Otago Uplands	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Lakes	17	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	8	0	0	1	0	
Maniototo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
North Otago	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	
Roxburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South West Otago	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Strath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Taieri Plains	13	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
TOTALS	149	5	11	19	3	0	23	0	2	4	1	0	1	0	5	11	0	3	4	3	38	4	0	11	0	

REPORT

Document Id: A618925

Report Number: 2014/0779
 Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
 Prepared By: Marian Weaver
 Date: 3 April 2014

**Subject: Consent Processing and Building Consent Authority Progress Report
 24 February to 3 April 2014**

1. Project E.1 – Resource Consent Application Processing

- 1.1 Consent applications and objections where status has not changed since the last report are summarised in Appendix 1.

Applications

1.2 Publicly Notified Applications

RM13.474 Fulton Hogan Limited

To discharge contaminants, namely odour, to air for the purpose of operating a solar sludge drying facility 2 km from Luggate. The sludge is from the Wanaka sewage treatment plant. The applicant requested public notification and it was notified on 26 March with submissions closing on 28 April.

RM13.024 – Dunedin City Council

The applications are to reclaim part of the coastal marine area to widen Portobello Road and Harington Point Road along the Otago Peninsula, to complete the pedestrian and cycle path between Vauxhall and Harington Point. The application was notified Saturday 18th January 2014. The hearing is set down for April 10 and 11.

RM14.026 Lakes Marina Projects Limited

The applications are for the construction of a 195 berth marina, and are sought to disturb, reclaim, remove and place structures and deposit material on, over or under the bed of Lake Wakatipu and Marina Creek, discharge sediment and divert Marina Creek. The applications were jointly notified along with the application before the QLDC on Wednesday February 19th, with submissions closing on March 19th. 36 submissions were received (32 in support and 4 in opposition) This is a joint process with the ORC as lead agency. A request for further information will be sent shortly.

1.3 Limited Notified Applications

RM12.436 - N S Moore - to construct a bridge across Waipori River

Written approval could not be obtained from Council's Engineering Unit (potential effects on the flood protection network in the area) and so the application was limited notified. Council's Engineering Unit provided a submission opposing the application. The application remains on hold to allow for mediation between the two parties.

RM13.427 – Red Tractor Estates Limited

Application for a new consent to take and use groundwater from the Pisa Alluvium Aquifer for the purpose of irrigation, fertigation (application of fertiliser via irrigation system) and domestic supply. Limited notified to neighbouring well owners on 21 January 2014 as unconditional written approval from all potentially affected parties could not be obtained. Submissions closed on 19 February 2014. Only one submission in support received. Staff granted the permit under delegations and there has been no appeal.

RM14.001 – Clutha District Council

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Kaitangata WWTP to the Clutha River/Mata-Au. Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Kāi Tahu ki Otago, Public Health South (PHS) and adjoining neighbouring landowners were given limited notification at the applicant's request. Submissions closed 17 February 2014. One submission received in support from PHS. Staff granted the permit under delegations and the appeal period closes on 22 April.

RM12.095 – Clifford MacKay Blaikie

Application to discharge treated wastewater from the Dunstan Hotel to the Clutha River/Mata-Au. Public Health South and Kai Tahu Ki Otago were served the applications, as written approval could not be obtained from these parties. The submission period closed on Monday 3rd March. Public Health South opposes the application. A request for further information has been sent.

2. Objections

2000.264 – J K McArthur - Objection to cancellation

This permit was cancelled as it had not been used for more than five years. An objection has been lodged to the cancellation decision. A report has been drawn up and sent to the objector who is deciding their options. The objector's lawyer has put options before the objector to consider and a response is awaited. Despite follow up, no response has been received.

2007.310 Strath Taieri Agricultural and Tourism Trust

This is an objection to the outstanding costs of processing a suite of consents for a proposed Strath Taieri water scheme. Strath Taieri Irrigation (STIG) is presenting the objection on behalf of the Trust. STIG has been provided with details of the charges incurred and have been asked to provide the details of their objection. Once that is received a date for a hearing by the Objections Committee in Dunedin will be set.

3. Appeals to Environment Court

RM13.299 – Pacific View Limited

To transfer the point of take and amalgamate two permits to take and use water from the Waikouaiti River. To install a gallery intake structure within the river. A hearing was held 14 February and the decision to grant was given. The applicant and Otago Fish and Game have appealed the decision. ORC has requested mediation.

4. Consent Statistics

Table 1. Consents Statistics Summary

Reporting Period	Lodged			Rejected	Decision Given		
	Consents	Variations			Consents	Variations	
		Regular	Water reporting date			Regular	Water reporting date
2011/2012 Year Total	501	70	N/A	51	419	21	N/A
2012/2013 Year Total	473	57	303	22	461	31	368
8 July - 16 Aug 2013	50	4	7	3	36	4	11
19 Aug - 1 Nov 2013	104	1	24	1	62	5	26
3 Nov 2013 – 17 Jan 2014	117	7	1	3	119	6	1
20 Jan - 21 Feb 2014	54	2	3	0	38	5	4
24 Feb - 3 Apr 2014	55	5	1	0	69	7	4
YTD 13/14	380	19	36	7	324	27	46

Applications to change the date for reporting water use on existing water permits were invited to comply with the water measuring regulations.

4. Consent Administration

Table 2. Consent Administration Statistics

Reporting Period	Transfers Received	Transfers Issued	S417 Certs Received	S417 Certs Issued
2011/2012 Year Total	141	189	8	4
2012/2013 Year Total	130	156	3	0
8 July to 16 August 2013	12	36	3	1
19 Aug to 1 Nov 2013	41	34	0	0
3 Nov 2013 to 17 Jan 2014	17	12	5	0
20 Jan to 21 Feb 14	7	8	6	1
24 Feb to 3 Apr 14	17	10	0	1
Totals 13/14	94	100	14	3

5. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

In Progress

Dam Building Consents	8
Code Compliance Certificates	14
PIM	0
Certificate of Acceptance	6

6. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 206 enquiries were received by the Consents Units during the reporting period.

Table 3. Public Enquiries Statistics

Period	Number of Enquiries
2011/2012 year	1866
2012/2013 year	1778
8 July to 16 Aug 2013	191
19 Aug to 1 Nov 2013	329
3 Nov 2013 to 17 Jan 2014	267
20 Jan to 21 Feb 14	128
24 Feb to 3 Apr 14	206
YTD 13/14	1121

7. Legislation

The amendment to the RMA that is to be enacted when there is an order in Council has not been enacted yet. Most of these amendments relate to consent processing. If there is no Order in Council the amendment is enacted in May 2015.

8. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Appendix 1: Summary of applications that have not changed since the last report to the Committee

Applications

RM13.215 - Queenstown Lakes District Council

The applications are for the discharge of odour to air, and treated effluent to the Shotover River and then later, to land from the Queenstown waste water treatment plant in the Shotover delta. QLDC already holds permits for these activities but wishes to change the timing and method of the disposal to land. The applications were lodged on 17 May and publicly notified on 1 June. When submissions closed on 28 June there were four submissions; one in support and three opposed. A hearing was set down for 28/29 August but has been postponed while the applicant continues to negotiate with submitters. The Hearing Panel did a site visit on 22 August 2013.

RM12.138 – Fish & Game - to dam water on the Takitōa Swamp.

Fish and Game have applied to place a structure and dam water on the Takitōa Swamp, which is a Schedule 9 Regionally Significant Wetland under Plan Change (PC) 2. Under PC2, the activities proposed are non-complying. Additional information is being sought before a decision on notification is made. The application is on hold under S.92.

RM12.066 – Environment Canterbury - to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River.

Environment Canterbury has applied for consents to allow them to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River. Numerous erosion protection measures are proposed over a 3 km stretch of river. DoC, Iwi, Fish and Game and owners of land on which the works are to take place are all considered to be affected parties. The application is on hold while other affected parties are identified. A decision on notification is pending.

RM12.051 – Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC)

QLDC have applied to take 30,000 m³ (total) gravel from Moke Creek over 25 years. An affected landowner provided a submission in opposition in response to limited notification. The application is on hold to allow for mediation between the applicant and the submitter.

Pending Applications of Interest

RM13.423 – Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCWSG)

A working party has been established comprising MCWSG, Golder Associates and ORC staff. The aim of the working party is to develop a consenting strategy giving regard to existing mining privileges, individual water takes and irrigation options within the Manuherikia catchment.

RM13.428 – Dunedin City Council – Ocean Beach erosion protection

Pre-application discussions have been held with DCC and their consultants to discuss consent requirements for proposed coastal protection works and the potential disturbance of a contaminated site at Ocean Beach

Objections

97544 - Buchanan

This is an objection to the cancellation of a water permit in Letts Gully, Alexandra. A report is being prepared for the objector's consideration.

Appendix 2 Public Enquiries

Total Number of Enquiries **206**

Enquiry Type	No.	% of Total
Current Consents	112	54.4 %
Mining Privileges	2	1 %
Other	10	4.9 %
Permitted Activities	47	22.8 %
Pre-application	23	11.2 %
Property Enquiries	6	2.9 %
Students	1	0.5 %
Transfers	5	2.4 %

Enquiry Location	No.	% of Total
Central Otago District Council	91	44.2 %
Clutha District Council	12	5.8 %
Dunedin City Council	23	11.2 %
Outside Otago	2	1 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	30	14.6 %
Throughout Otago	2	1 %
Unspecified	33	16 %
Waitaki District Council	13	6.3 %

Enquiry Method	No.	% of Total
Counter	13	6.3 %
Email	129	62.6 %
Fax	1	0.5 %
Letter	1	0.5 %
Telephone	62	30.1 %

REPORT

Document Id: A619077

Report Number: 2014/0781

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 28 March 2014

Subject: Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 25 February to 28 March 2014

1. Précis

This report details Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council during the period 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014.

2. Enforcement Action under the Resource Management Act 1991

a) Consent Auditing (Project C4)

No enforcement action taken.

b) Consent Performance Monitoring (Project C4)

Table 1. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
To cease taking water in breach of resource consent	1	1
To cease taking water in breach of water meter regulations	2	2
TOTAL	3	3

c) Permitted Activity Rules - Inspections (Project C4)

Table 2. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule	0	4
TOTAL	0	5

Table 3. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	0	4
TOTAL	0	4

d) Incidents (Project S5)**Table 4. Infringement Notices**

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	0	12
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	2
Failing to provide details as required by section 22 of the RMA	0	1
Occupation of the common marine and coastal area	0	1
Disturbing the bed of a river - pugging	0	1
TOTAL	0	17

Table 5. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Disturbing the bed of a river – mechanical excavation	0	2
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	0	2
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials; and – burning at a landfill	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water - effluent	0	2
TOTAL	0	7

Table 6. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 25 February 2014 to 28 March 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
To remove obstructions from a dam overflow inlet structure	0	1
To undertake remedial works on a dam	0	1
To cease the display of advertising signage in the common marine and coastal area	0	1
TOTAL	0	3

3. Biosecurity Act 1993

No enforcement action taken during the period.

4. Building Act 2004

Two Notices to Fix were issued with respect to earth embankment dams in the Otago region. The Notices required the dam's owner to:

- make an application for a certificate of acceptance for the construction of the dam (Notice 1).
- provide a report advising the remedial works required to ensure the dam is compliant with the Building Act 2004 and Regulations (Notice 2).

5. Recommendation

That this report be noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A618683

Report No: 2014/0774

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 2 April 2014

Subject: Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to 2 April 2014

1. Précis

Under the Resource Management Act, consent hearing commissioners must be appointed by the Council. The Commissioner Appointment Subcommittee has this function and reports to the Regulatory Committee. The appointments made in this reporting period are set out in this report.

2. Meeting 10-11 March 2014 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot and Woodhead
Applicant	DCC
Appn. No	RM13.024
Activity	To undertake various activities within the coastal marine area associated with reclaiming the foreshore and seabed to widen Harington Point Road and Portobello Road, Otago Peninsula
Motion	Moved Cr Woodhead and Cr Croot
Appointment	Crs Robertson (Chair) and Kempton, Mr Cubitt (DCC appointee)

3. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Technical Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday
16 April 2014 following the Regulatory Committee meeting**

Membership:

Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)
Cr Doug Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: **Cr David Shepherd**

Leave of Absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 14 April.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption.

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0747 **Review of information on the Tomahawk Lagoons.** DEHS, 24/3/14

Information on the lagoons is provided with the intention of supporting discussion with the community about issues resulting from historical land use practices.

Item 2

2014/0767 **Assessment of hazard significance of landslides in Dunedin City.**
DEHS, 1/4/14

The report discusses the updated GNS Science report on landslides in Dunedin City, and recommends that the dataset is provided to Dunedin City Council and uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database.

Item 3

2014/0749 **South Otago Basin Aquifers.** DEHS, 24/3/14

Reporting on an information review carried out for groundwater resource management of the Pomahaka, Kuriwao, and Clydevale/Wairuna aquifers which make up the South Otago Basin, updating information from studies published in 1999-2002.

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/0754 **Management Flows for Aquatic Ecysystems in the Tokomairiro River.** DEHS, 4/4/14

The report advises that a management flow report has been prepared presenting hydrological informaiton and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Tokomairiro River. The full report is circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 5

2014/0769 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 4/4/14

The report describes progress with Council's flood protection, land drainage and river management programmes, and the management of natural hazards and civil defence and emergency management, and provides an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Resource Science Unit.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 11.20 am

Present:

Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)
Cr Doug Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Trevor Kempton
 The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Scott and Shepherd.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0676 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 2/3/14

The report described progress with Council's flood protection, land drainage and river management programmes, and the management of natural hazards and civil defence and emergency management, and provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Resource Science Unit.

The following issues were discussed further:

- Kakanui River erosion protection work – Dr Palmer advised that when the leadership and internal resourcing of the local group recently formed had been determined, a meeting would be arranged, and the group's scope and terms of reference would be discussed.
- Upper Taieri River – Mr Donaldson advised that Environmental Monitoring & Operations and Science staff had worked together on the continuing high bacteria levels in the upper Taieri River, and had taken a broader look at swales and creeks. There was good support from the farming community.
- Launch of LAWA (Land and Water Aotearoa) website – Mr Bodeker advised in response to a question that ORC would assist in publicising the website by a press release, and would feature it on the ORC website. It was noted that the content of the LAWA website would be managed at regional council level and the Communications Manager would ensure the ORC's section was topical and of high quality. The site would provide good information on water quality in Otago.
- Bacteria in the Manuherikia River - Dr Palmer advised that the location of the bacteria meant it could not be attributed to local dairy activity.
- MfE report on NES for air quality – Dr Palmer advised that this was a one off report based on the end of the 2013 compliance period.
- Monitoring bores in South Dunedin – Dr Palmer was to report back on:
 - location of the bores, and whether they were long term sites,
 - the SOE report referred to,
 - whether these were additional bores to those used to investigate seawater incursion as reported in November 2011.
- Number of visits to the alpine fault information on the ORC website (see report 2014/0683 to Communications Committee) – there was concern that the information might create anxiety. Dr Palmer stated that he was not aware that any specific work the Council was doing would give rise to this increase in visits, which could result from school or university work.
- Works on St David Street to Union Street reach of the Water of Leith – Dr Palmer noted timing issues which were largely attributable to the late requirement by the University that the existing footbridge not be removed until a replacement bridge was in place. This was not

allowed for in the budget and was regarded as a contingency item. The cost included regulatory approvals from ORC and DCC, expert professional engineering advice, and the large span of the temporary bridge. Dr Palmer advised that staff had not foreseen the need for a temporary footbridge given that there was alternative access nearby, and the works were of short duration. Dr Palmer advised that the work was within budget, as there had been some variations to the work which had reduced the cost. Based on current forecasts of future costs, Dr Palmer did not expect that the contingency fund would be fully expended.

- Moisture content of firewood – the suggestion was made that wood merchants be required to certify the moisture content of their wood. Dry firewood would have a significant impact on air quality.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A616022
Report No: 2014/0747
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Dean Olsen, Water Resource Scientist
Date: 24 March 2014

Subject: Review of information on the Tomahawk Lagoons

1. Précis

The Tomahawk Lagoons are two shallow coastal lagoons located in the seaside suburb of Ocean Grove in Dunedin City (Figure 1). Both lagoons are nutrient-rich as a result of historical land-use practices, which results in the occurrence of blooms of cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae). Such blooms have been recorded as early as the 1960's and the upper Lagoon has been documented to switch, or flip, between a macrophyte¹-dominated clear water state and a phytoplankton²-dominated turbid water state. The drivers of the switching between these states are not well understood. The presence of zooplanktivorous fish (especially juvenile perch, but also rainbow trout) are likely to exacerbate the occurrence of cyanobacterial blooms by reducing numbers of large zooplankton³, which may suppress populations of cyanobacteria by feeding on them.

Management methods are considered, including catchment nutrient management, the use of a capping agent such as Phoslock[®], macrophyte harvesting, dredging, removal of European perch, ceasing stocking of rainbow trout and stocking with silver perch. However, most of the methods considered are unlikely to be successful in Tomahawk Lagoon, largely due to the large internal load of phosphorus in the sediments of the lagoon. Management methods that may be technically feasible include dredging and the use of a capping agent, such as Phoslock, to flocculate and bind phosphorus. However, the use of Phoslock may not be an effective long-term solution in the Tomahawk Lagoons due to their exposure to strong winds and sediment resuspension. Dredging may be the most practical means of reducing internal nutrient sources and would have the added benefit of increasing water depth in the lagoon. However, the cost of dredging and appropriate disposal of the sediments removed has not been assessed.

2. Background

The Tomahawk Lagoons are two shallow coastal lagoons located in the seaside suburb of Ocean Grove in Dunedin City (Figure 1). Concerns have recently been expressed about the state of the lagoons (for example, Otago Daily Times, 23 February 2014), largely due to public warnings about the presence of cyanobacteria blooms (see Appendix 2 for cyanobacteria counts for 2013/14). This report reviews the information on the lagoons and is intended to support discussions with the community about these issues.

The Tomahawk Lagoons are recognised as a regionally significant habitat for waterfowl and wading birds, are used by migratory wading birds and provide habitat for native fish and eels (Schedule 9, Regional Plan: Water, ORC). The lagoons are also recognised as being of significant conservation value in the Dunedin City District Plan (DCC 2006) and as a regionally important wildlife habitat for gamebirds and protected species by Otago Fish and Game (Otago Fish and Game Council 2003).

¹ Macrophytes are aquatic vascular plants that are big enough to be seen with the naked eye.

² Phytoplankton are free-floating microscopic plants or cyanobacteria that exist as single cells or colonies of cells.

³ Zooplankton refers collectively to microscopic animals and protozoa, that are free-living in the water column.

The upper lagoon also supports a trout and perch fishery that is valued due to its proximity to the city. Angler usage for the catchment was estimated at 670 (± 370) angler days in 2001/2002 and 320 (± 190) angler days in 2007/08. Some boating does take place in the upper lagoon, although the shallow depth of most of the lagoon limits this.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this report is:

1. To provide information on historical and present day blooms in the lagoons,
2. To consider the potential factors that may affect the water quality in the lagoons, and
3. To consider management methods for the Tomahawk Lagoons.

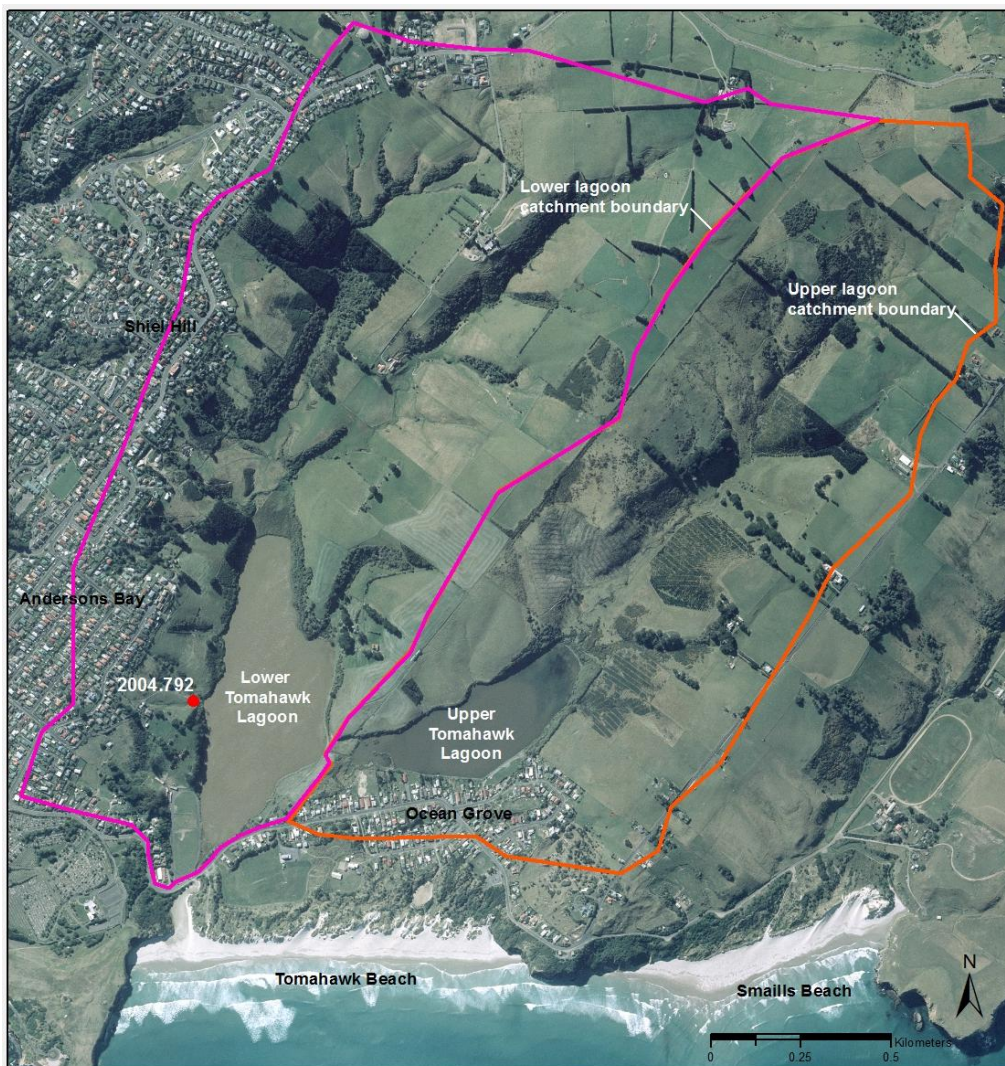


Figure 1 The location of the Tomahawk Lagoons showing the catchment boundaries. The red point signifies the consented location for the discharge of stormwater to land (resource consent 2004.792) by the DCC.

4. Limnology and water quality

4.1. Lower Tomahawk Lagoon

The lower Tomahawk Lagoon (also known as Tomahawk Lagoon No. 1) has an area of approximately 19.5 ha and a catchment of approximately 250 ha, which is dominated by pastoral (72%) and urban (16%) land-uses. It is shallow, with most of the lake less than a metre deep, and it is more saline than the upper lagoon (chloride concentration = 2,500 mg/l c.f. 278-580 mg/L in the upper lagoon; Mitchell 1971).

Limited limnological or water quality sampling has been undertaken in the lower lagoon, although sampling undertaken by Hamilton & Mitchell (1997) indicates that it is more nutrient rich than the upper lagoon, with higher algal biomass and higher total phosphorus (TP) than the upper lagoon, but lower total nitrogen (TN). Based on the data of Hamilton & Mitchell (1997), the lower Tomahawk Lagoon is classified as supertrophic⁴ (TLI = 5.5 based on chlorophyll a, total phosphorus and total nitrogen and using the classification scheme of Burns et al. 2000).

4.2. Upper Tomahawk Lagoon

4.2.1. Physical characteristics

The upper Tomahawk Lagoon (also known as Tomahawk Lagoon No. 2) has an area of 10.9 ha and a catchment of 191 ha, most of which is in pastoral farming (75%), with some gorse and broom (10%), urban development (7%) and exotic forestry (5%). Historically, the surrounding farmland has been top-dressed with superphosphate.

The upper lagoon is shallow, with a mean depth of 0.9 m and a maximum depth of 1.2 m, although an area of approximately 20,000 m² in the centre of the lagoon was suction dredged to between 2.0 to 2.6 m in the early 1960's in an attempt to improve conditions for trout (Mitchell 1971).

Mitchell (1975) estimated the mean retention time of the upper lagoon at 103 days, and noted that during the period of his study, the flow of water was always observed from the upper lagoon into the lower lagoon.

4.2.2. Water quality

Historical information for the upper lagoon indicates that it has been nutrient rich since at least the 1960s, with Mitchell (1975) describing it as “highly eutrophic”. There have been extensive observations to show that the upper Tomahawk Lagoon alternates (or “flips”) between a phytoplankton-dominated turbid state and macrophyte-dominated clear water state. During turbid water phases, high concentrations of phytoplankton can reduce the aesthetic appeal of the upper lagoon and can impact on recreational activities.

Based on the data of Hamilton & Mitchell (1997), the upper Tomahawk Lagoon is classified as supertrophic (TLI = 5.2 based on chlorophyll a, total phosphorus and total nitrogen and using the classification scheme of Burns et al. 2000).

⁴ The trophic status of lakes ranges from microtrophic to hypertrophic, depending on nutrient concentrations, the biomass of phytoplankton (chlorophyll *a* concentration) and/or water clarity (as measured by Secchi disk). Supertrophic is the second highest category and indicates excessive nutrient concentrations and phytoplankton biomass and/or low water clarity.

4.2.3. Algal blooms

Cyanobacteria, such as *Anabaena*, can form dense blooms and have the potential to produce a range of toxins (collectively known as cyanotoxins). Cyanotoxins include neurotoxins (affect the central nervous system), hepatotoxins (affect the liver) and dermatotoxins (cause skin irritation). These toxins pose a health risk to humans and animals and the risks are greatest during blooms, when the concentrations of cyanobacteria are high. Cyanobacteria identified from the upper Tomahawk Lagoon are potential toxin producers: *Anabaena lemmermanni* has been found to produce microcystins (hepatotoxins) in New Zealand (Wood et al. 2006). The other taxon identified by Mitchell (1971), *Microcystis*, is known to produce microcystins and saxitoxins in New Zealand (Wood et al. 2006).

Blooms of the cyanobacterium *Anabaena* have previously been recorded in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon in the 1960s and 1970s and a mid-winter bloom of the cyanobacterium *Microcystis* occurred in July 1963 (Mitchell 1971). These blooms were usually associated with high phytoplankton productivity and resulted in low water transparency (Secchi depth ranging from 0.15-2.6 m; Mitchell 1971). *Anabaena* also bloomed in the upper lagoon in 2003 (Spencer, 2003). It is likely that blooms occurred in some of the intervening years, but that these were not reported. More recently, blooms of *Anabaena* were recorded in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon in spring 2012 and 2013. In February 2014, a thick scum was observed in the outlet stream from the lower Tomahawk Lagoon (Figure 2). This scum occurred due to strong north-easterly winds blowing the buoyant cyanobacterial cells down the lower lagoon, which then concentrated in the outlet stream.

Mitchell (1975) also recorded several blooms of other phytoplankton species, including a red dinoflagellate (*Gymnodinium*) in the upper lagoon. A bloom of a red dinoflagellate was observed in the summer of 2014 (Figure 3). DNA analysis indicates that this was a *Gymnodinium*-like species.



Figure 2 A thick cyanobacterial scum observed in the outlet from the lower Tomahawk Lagoon in February 2014.



Figure 3 The distinctive red colouration of a bloom of a red dinoflagellate in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon in March 2014.

5. Management Issues

5.1. Land use

The high concentrations of nutrients in the Tomahawk Lagoons are almost certainly a result of historic land-use practices, especially aerial top-dressing with superphosphate. Mitchell (1975) estimated that the average load of phosphorus to the upper lagoon was 0.6 kg P/month, but that in the month following aerial topdressing in the catchment, the load was 35 kg P/month, resulting in an increase in phytoplankton productivity, leading him to suggest that agricultural phosphate was responsible for the highly eutrophic state of the lagoon.

Experiments conducted to determine which nutrients may be limiting phytoplankton production in the upper Tomahawk have provided evidence of N-limitation on occasion, but never P-limitation or co-limitation by N and P (summarised in Schallenberg 2004). These experiments are consistent with high phosphorus availability as a result of phosphorus stored in the bed sediments of the lagoons and indicate that on some occasions phytoplankton numbers could be managed by reducing the amount of nitrogen entering the lagoons. However, this is unlikely to be effective in reducing the incidence of blooms of *Anabaena*, as they can fix atmospheric nitrogen (see Section 6.1.1).

5.2. Discharges

The only consented point discharge in the Tomahawk catchment is a discharge permit held by Dunedin City Council to discharge stormwater to land in circumstances where it may enter Tomahawk Lagoon (resource consent 2004.792). This permit relates to the discharge of stormwater from Stanley and Gloucester Streets to land close to the lower lagoon (E2318985 N5475698) (Figure 1). The effect of this discharge on the lagoon is unknown, as the contents of the discharge have not been sampled and characterised, although stormwater can contain a range

of contaminants including sediments, hydrocarbons, organic matter, toxic metals, faecal coliforms and nutrients. One of the conditions on this consent is that the discharge may not contain any human sewage.

5.3. Internal nutrient sources

The nutrients that fuel lake productivity can come from internal or external sources. External sources include the surrounding land uses and inflows from tributaries. Internal sources refer to reserves of nutrients (particularly phosphorus) that are stored in lake sediment and that can be released to the water column. Thus, even if external sources of nutrients are reduced, recovery in water quality can take a long time as sediment-bound nutrients are released from the bed.

In the case of the Tomahawk Lagoons, there is likely to be substantial internal loading of phosphorus resulting from historic land-use practices.

5.4. Water levels and lagoon outlet levels

The water levels in the lower lagoon are controlled by the level of the sand on Tomahawk Beach at the outlet from the lagoon. Nash & Ross Ltd. have resource consents (2010.256 and 2010.257) to extract up to 7,100 m³ of sand in any 12 month period from Tomahawk Beach in the area around the lagoon outlet. Over the period 2001-2011, the mean annual volume of sand extracted was 3,173 m³ and ranged from 675 m³ to 5,108 m³.

The consents include conditions that set a minimum beach profile (Condition 6) although the level of the beach at the outlet is usually higher than the level of the invert of the culvert at Tomahawk Road, meaning that the level of the lower lagoon is dictated by the level of sand in the outlet area.

ORC (2012a, b) estimated that a 100 year return interval event (water level 2.05m above msl) associated with a storm surge or tsunami event will not inundate residential land in Ocean Grove.

Water levels in the upper Lagoon are controlled by a structure on the narrow channel that links the upper and lower lagoons. The ownership of this structure is uncertain. However, in response to concerns from the local landowner about unauthorised operation of this structure, it has been locked. Given the small catchment area of each of the lagoons, inflows and outflows are expected to be limited, except during heavy rainfall events.

6. Management methods

One of the purposes of this report is to consider the methods available to manage the water quality in the Tomahawk Lagoons. These methods can be broken down into three main approaches:

1. Nutrient management (reducing external sources of nutrients),
2. Nutrient removal (reducing internal sources of nutrients),
3. Biomanipulation.

6.1. Management of external nutrient sources

6.1.1. Land use

Usually the most practical means of improving water quality is to reduce the external sources of nutrients entering waterways. Given the high internal loading of phosphorus in the lagoon, measures to reduce phosphorus inputs are unlikely to be effective. However, nutrient amendment experiments have indicated that nitrogen may be limiting phytoplankton productivity on occasion, so measures to reduce nitrogen loading may reduce phytoplankton biomass. Such measures could include reduced stocking rates, increased afforestation of the catchment or controlling the application of nitrogen-based fertilisers.

Rule 12.C.1.3 of Plan Change 6A (Regional Plan: Water), sets out nitrogen leaching (as calculated by OVERSEER[®] v.6.0) thresholds for permitted activities in various catchments in Otago. OVERSEER[®] estimates nitrogen loss from a variety of land uses taking account all aspects of nitrogen management outlined above. Prior to Plan Change 6A coming into effect, there were no rules setting nitrogen discharge limits in Otago catchments, including the catchments of either of the Tomahawk Lagoons. Plan Change 6A will control the effects of runoff in a way that will prevent a reoccurrence of the high rates of nitrogen leaching of the past.

However, many cyanobacteria (including *Anabaena*) are able to fix atmospheric nitrogen, so nitrogen management is unlikely to be an effective means of controlling cyanobacterial blooms. Low concentrations of dissolved nitrogen may actually favour blooms of nitrogen-fixing species due to them having a competitive advantage under low-nitrogen conditions.

6.2. Nutrient removal

6.2.1. Phoslock[®]

Phoslock is an activated bentonite clay that locks in phosphorus, and then settles to the lake bed as inert silt. Phoslock is applied from a boat as either a powder or slurry and strips phosphorus from the water column and then forms a reactive capping on the bottom sediments with the potential to bind dissolved phosphorus if it is released from the sediment into the overlying water. By removing or reducing phosphorus in water, algae are deprived of nutrients and thus growth is reduced.

Phoslock does not readily re-release phosphorus and is stable over a wide pH range and a wide range of salinities. However, capping agents like Phoslock may not be effective in shallow lakes given that wind-generated waves can resuspend the layer of capping agent (Stueben *et al.* 2002). This is a particular issue in both lagoons given that both are very shallow and exposed to strong winds.

Phoslock has been trialled in Lake Okareka by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Approximately 60 tonnes of Phoslock was applied over an area of 170 ha in three applications between August 2005 and March 2007. Monitoring of the lake before and after the application of Phoslock shows that the release of phosphorus from the bed has been reduced by approximately 100 kg P/year and that the rate of deoxygenation of the hypolimnion (deepest waters) has reduced. Monitoring also indicated that there was no evidence of adverse effects on lake chemistry, fish

or koura health. However, it should be noted that Lake Okareka is much deeper than Tomahawk Lagoon and this may affect the effectiveness of Phoslock.

The application rate for Phoslock depends on the target reduction in phosphorus and this will affect the cost of the use of Phoslock. However, the likely effectiveness of Phoslock in exposed coastal lagoons requires further investigation.

6.2.2. Macrophyte removal

The harvesting of macrophyte biomass from the upper Tomahawk lagoon would be a means of removing nutrients from the system. However, macrophyte biomass varies markedly in the upper Lagoon (Mitchell 1971) and macrophytes play a role in stabilising the bed sediments during clear-water phases. The removal of macrophytes is unlikely to be an effective means of reducing nutrient loads in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon and that it may inadvertently favour phytoplankton dominance by promoting sediment resuspension.

6.2.3. Dredging

Dredging of lake sediments would increase the water depth and remove nutrient-rich sediments from the lake, thereby reducing the quantity of nutrients that can be released when the bed sediments are resuspended during strong winds. It would also increase water depth in the lagoon, which may improve habitat quality for trout. However, dredging would be costly and the sediments produced during dredging would have to be disposed of.

6.3. Biomanipulation

6.3.1. European perch removal

European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) are abundant in Tomahawk Lagoon. Small perch feed on large zooplankton and aquatic insect larvae, while larger individuals feed on small fish (including juvenile perch). Perch have been implicated in encouraging cyanobacteria blooms by suppressing populations of large zooplankton (Smith 2005) and thus perch removal has been suggested as a means of reducing the incidence of cyanobacterial blooms.

Perch removal is currently being attempted in the upper Karori Reservoir in the Zealandia-Karori Sanctuary (Wellington) using boat electric fishing and netting. In 2007, it was estimated that there was in excess of 20,000 perch in the upper Karori Reservoir, while a survey in 2008 after perch removal estimated more than 3,000 perch remained. A survey in 2009 estimated that perch numbers had increased and a further 5,400 perch were removed. However, monitoring indicates that the removal of perch has been followed by an increase in zooplankton and a decrease in cyanobacteria blooms. The results of this study show that perch removal is likely to reduce the incidence of cyanobacteria blooms, but also highlight the difficulty in successfully eradicating perch.

Removal of perch from the upper Tomahawk Lagoon is likely to be impractical and costly. Most capture techniques (boat electric fishing, netting) are more likely to be more effective at capturing large perch, which are piscivorous (i.e. they feed on other fish). This may have the unintended consequence of reducing the predation pressure on juvenile perch, which may exacerbate the predation of zooplankton communities by juvenile perch. Perch have the potential to produce a large number of offspring, with a single female capable of laying several thousand to 200,000 eggs, meaning that perch are likely to rapidly repopulate unless they can be completely eradicated.

6.3.2. Rainbow trout stocking

In stillwater environments, rainbow trout are known to predate on large zooplankton and do so in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon (personal observation). As discussed above for perch, the predation of large zooplankton can reduce grazing pressure on cyanobacteria, which may increase the risk of the occurrence of blooms. A range of sizes of rainbow trout are released into Tomahawk Lagoon annually by the Otago Fish & Game Council.

Given that trout fishing is one of the major recreational uses in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon, and that anglers are the group most likely to come in contact with blooms, the cessation of stocking of the upper Tomahawk Lagoon would compromise the objective of the rehabilitation effort and use of the upper lagoon. However, stocking large (>1 kg) brown trout is likely to reduce the effect on algal blooms, as large brown trout are less likely to feed on zooplankton. Historic stocking with brown trout in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon has been successful.

6.3.3. Silver carp

Silver carp were introduced to New Zealand from China for their potential to control phytoplankton blooms. They are unlikely to form self-sustaining populations in New Zealand due to their very specific breeding and rearing requirements. A trial of the effectiveness of silver carp in controlling cyanobacteria blooms was conducted in Lake Orakai in Hawkes Bay and demonstrated that silver carp had potential for biocontrol of cyanobacteria blooms (Carruthers 1986). However, given that silver carp growth ceases below 16°C, it is doubtful that they would be successful in Tomahawk Lagoon.

7. Conclusions

Both Tomahawk Lagoons are nutrient-rich as a result of historical land-use practices, which results in the occurrence of cyanobacterial blooms. Such blooms have been recorded as early as the 1960's and the upper Lagoon regularly switches between a macrophyte-dominated clear water state and a phytoplankton-dominated turbid water state, although the drivers of the switching between these states are not well understood. The presence of zooplanktivorous fish (especially juvenile perch, but also rainbow trout) are likely to exacerbate the occurrence of cyanobacterial blooms by reducing numbers of large zooplankton.

Management methods are limited, largely due to the large internal load of phosphorus in the sediments of the lagoon. Technically feasible methods include dredging and the use of a capping agent, such as Phoslock, to flocculate and bind phosphorus. However, the use of Phoslock may not be an effective long-term solution in the Tomahawk Lagoons due to their exposure to strong winds and sediment resuspension. Dredging may be the most practical means of reducing internal nutrient sources and would have the added benefit of increasing water depth in the lagoon. However, it is likely to be costly and the sediments removed would have to be disposed of appropriately.

8. Recommendations

That:

1. This report is received.
2. The information presented in this report forms the basis for a meeting with the Ocean Grove community.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Appendix 1 – References

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Appendix 2

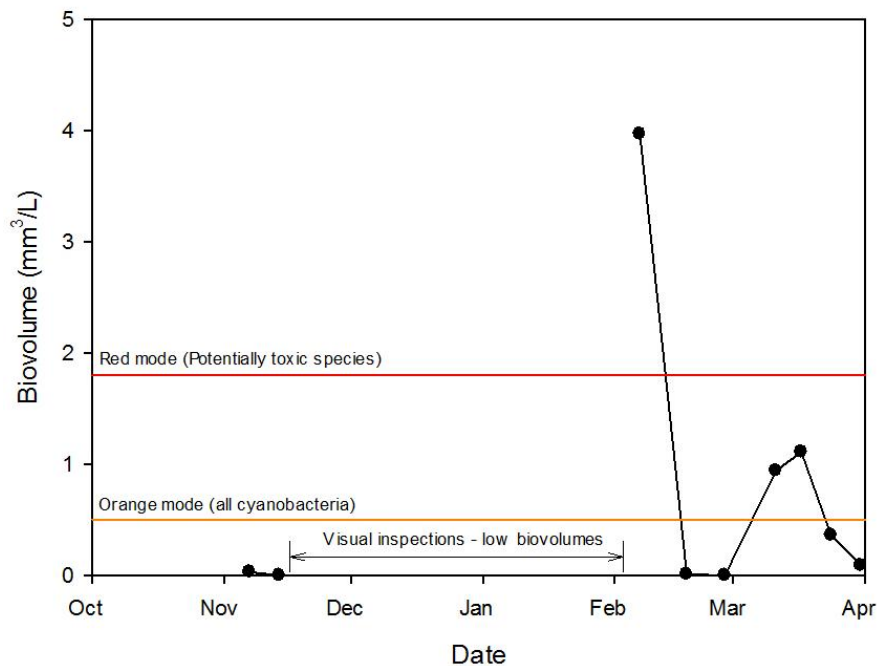


Figure 4 Biovolume⁵ of cyanobacteria in the lower Tomahawk Lagoon outlet between October 2013 and March 2014.

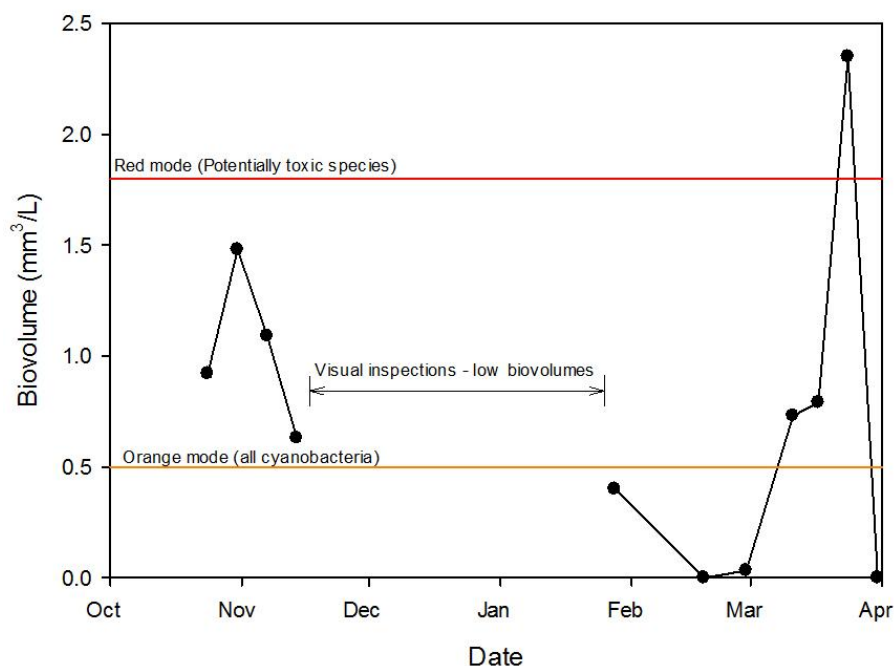


Figure 5 Biovolume of cyanobacteria in the upper Tomahawk Lagoon between October 2013 and March 2014.

⁵ Biovolume is calculated based on the estimated number of cells per litre multiplied by the average volume of a single cell of the cyanobacteria species. For example, a count of 8,620 cells of *Anabaena lemmermannii* (biovolume of 116 μm^3) per mL is: $8,620 * 116 = 999,920 \mu\text{m}^3$ per mL, divide by 1,000,000 to convert from μm^3 per mL to mm^3 per L = 1.00 mm^3 per L (rounded up).

REPORT

Document Id: A617911

Report No: 2014/0767

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Alex Sims, Natural Hazards Analyst
Michael Goldsmith, Manager Natural Hazards

Date: 1 April 2014

Subject: Assessment of hazard significance of landslides in Dunedin City

1. Precis

Data on landslides in Dunedin City was updated for ORC by GNS Science in 2012, using data from a variety of sources.¹ ORC subsequently engaged GNS Science to update this data with additional parameters, to allow the hazard significance of landslides in particular areas to be determined. The information is intended to be used primarily in planning, policy and consenting activities. The updated dataset includes new landslide point data,² and a summary of the relationship between landslide characteristics and underlying geology. It is recommended that the dataset is provided to Dunedin City Council and uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database.

2. Background

The term "landslide" describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of sloping materials such as rock, soil, artificial fill, or a combination of these. Landslide processes have shaped the topography of Dunedin City over thousands of years.

In 2012 GNS Science was engaged by ORC to update and collate landslide information for Dunedin City. GNS were not asked to map any new landslide features, but rather to collate and verify information already available, including information that was held by GNS, but not by ORC. As a result of this work ORC now hold information on the location, extent, age, movement type and history of mapped landslides in Dunedin City. The work focused on landslide characteristics and did not include any assessment of the hazard significance of mapped landslides in Dunedin City or any information on any areas possibly susceptible to future landslide activity.

To enable a better understanding of the hazard associated with landslides in Dunedin City, ORC engaged GNS Science to supplement the information compiled in 2012 with information about the hazard significance of landslides for selected areas. GNS Science undertook the following work:

- (a) Addition of four categories to the existing landslides database, specifically:
 - i. *Certainty*; The certainty of the interpretation that the mapped feature is actually a landslide,

¹ "Updated landslide data for Dunedin District", Report 2012/1261, Prepared for Engineering and Hazards Committee, Otago Regional Council, 23 January 2013.

² Locations where a landslide is known to have occurred, but the spatial extent of that feature has not been determined.

- ii. *Activity*; Classification, in general terms, of the age and degree of activity of each landslide,
- iii. *Remediation*; classification of what remediation (stabilising measures), if any, have been undertaken,
- iv. *Sensitivity*; an estimate of how easily landslide movement could be reactivated.

Together the *Certainty* and *Sensitivity* categories provide the best indication of the potential hazard associated with landslides, with the *Activity* category summarising what is known about current rates of movement (if any).

- (b) Update the existing ORC landslides database for the Dunedin District by:
 - i. Refining the extent of mapped landslides where updated information is available,
 - ii. Adding other landslide point data held by GNS Science to the database.
- (c) Provide a generalised description of the overall character and hazard significance of landslides in each assessment area.

This work was undertaken to gain a better understanding of landslide risk in Dunedin City and will also provide additional information to support the Dunedin City Council in reviewing the natural hazards provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan. Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan, Report 2014/ 0765, Prepared for Policy Committee, Otago Regional Council, 1 April 2014.

3. Results

The report '*The hazard significance of landslide in and around Dunedin City*' (GNS Science Consultancy Report 2013/339) summarises hazard significance of the landslides within six areas of Dunedin City. The six areas are those parts of the city where landslides have been previously identified, and where there is either existing development or further development potential.

The report distinguishes between deep-seated bedrock landslides — typically large, prehistoric landslides common in weak mudstones — and shallow-seated surficial landslides — landslides in the mantle of shallow soils that overly moderate to steep slopes — and relates the distribution of each to existing information about underlying geology. Information regarding historical instances of landslide activity or contemporary rates of movement was obtained from sources other than the ORC, including the Dunedin City Council and local contractors responsible for monitoring of active landslides.

This information will be made available to the public via the ORC website, and through the updated Otago Natural Hazards Database platform once development of this is complete.

4. Recommendations

That:

1. This report is noted;
2. The improved landslide dataset for Dunedin City is provided to the Dunedin City Council and updated to the Otago Natural Hazards Database.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A616304

Report No: 2014/0749

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Rebecca Morris, Resource Scientist - Groundwater

Date: 24/03/2014

Subject: South Otago Basin aquifers**1. Précis**

An information review has been carried out for groundwater resource management of the Pomahaka, Kuriwao, Clydevale/Wairuna aquifers which make up the South Otago Basin. This updates information from studies published in 1999-2002. The new information has implications for water management, as the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (RPW) is based on those earlier studies.

2. Background

The Pomahaka, Kuriwao and Clydevale/Wairuna aquifers make up the South Otago Basin. Previous studies undertaken in 1999 – 2002 defined them as ‘gravel alluvium aquifers’¹. That information has been reviewed by ORC and it has been found that the basins are largely comprised of weathered/hard rock overlain by low-yielding carbonaceous claybound gravels. Quaternary alluvial gravels and boulders, that make up ‘gravel alluvium aquifers’, were found to be only located along the various surface water courses that traverse the basins. These findings are reported in “Groundwater resource management review of the South Otago Basins”.

The information review concluded that wells that target the thin veneers of Quaternary alluvium along the surface water bodies demonstrate properties of higher yielding material and for the most part the piezometric levels are higher than the surface water bodies, meaning that the surface water bodies are discharge points for groundwater. Water chemistry analysis indicates there are at least two types of groundwater; groundwater from shallow bores has the same chemical signature as the surface water and groundwater from deep bores has a higher residence time and appears to undergo anaerobic biological de-nitrification under reducing conditions. Groundwater quality results indicate that the groundwater may not be aesthetically pleasing and faecal coliform bacteria is present and is most likely due to local contaminants and/or poor well head protection. Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen (NNN) levels are below the guideline, however an increasing trend is visible in two monitoring wells in the Pomahaka and Clydevale basins.

¹ Kingston Morrison Ltd. 1999. Kuriwao Basin Groundwater Report. Prepared for Otago Regional Council. August 1999.

Kingston Morrison Ltd. 1999. Pomahaka Basin Groundwater Report. Prepared for Otago Regional Council. August 1999

Otago Regional Council. 2002. Clydevale and Wairuna Basins Groundwater Investigation. Otago Regional Council, Dunedin, September 2002

3. Implications for water management

The new information for the South Otago basin aquifers has implications for water management, as the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (RPW) is based on the results of the 1999 - 2002 studies. The current groundwater management regime for the Pomahaka and Kuriwao basins may be overly restricted as the majority of the basins are hard rock or low yielding claybound gravel, not connected to the surface water and rely mainly on localized recharge and discontinuities for long yielding water supply. However, the presence of recent gravel alluvial ribbons in the basins means that groundwater management has the potential to affect surface water bodies in the Pomahaka Catchment which have significant natural and recreational values. These matters are explained below.

3.1 C-series maps of Aquifers, Groundwater Zones and Groundwater Protection Zones

The Regional Plan: Water for Otago (RPW) includes both the Pomahaka and Kuriwao basin aquifers in the C-series maps of Aquifers, Groundwater Zones and Groundwater Protection Zones (C13, C14 and C16). That was based on the presumption they are gravel alluvium aquifers and are connected to surface water. As noted above, the majority of the basins are hard rock and are not connected to surface water making the current groundwater management for these basins overly restrictive. Consideration should therefore be given to removing the Pomahaka and Kuriwao Aquifers from the C-series maps of the RPW.

3.2 Gravel alluvium management

The RPW allows the designation of 'alluvial ribbons'. Groundwater takes within alluvial ribbon aquifers are treated as surface takes with restriction imposed during low river flows (where applicable) as per Section 6.4.1A of the RPW.

No alluvial ribbons are presently defined in the RPW for the South Otago basin because the studies undertaken in 1999- 2002 identified the basins as being gravel alluvial aquifers, which subsequently resulted in the entire basin being mapped as an aquifer. The review has therefore defined potential alluvial ribbons for the purposes of further consideration as to whether to amend the RPW. The suggested alluvial ribbons are based on two reaches of the Pomahaka River and one reach of the Waipahi Stream which have the highest natural values (Figure 1).

Notwithstanding the comments in 3.1 above, the identified ribbon aquifers may be vulnerable to leachate contamination because of their connection to surface water. Consideration should therefore be given to defining the ribbon aquifers as nitrogen sensitive zones in the RPW (on the H-map series). Additional work would be required to determine which leaching rate (15, 20 or 30 kg/N/ha) should be applied.

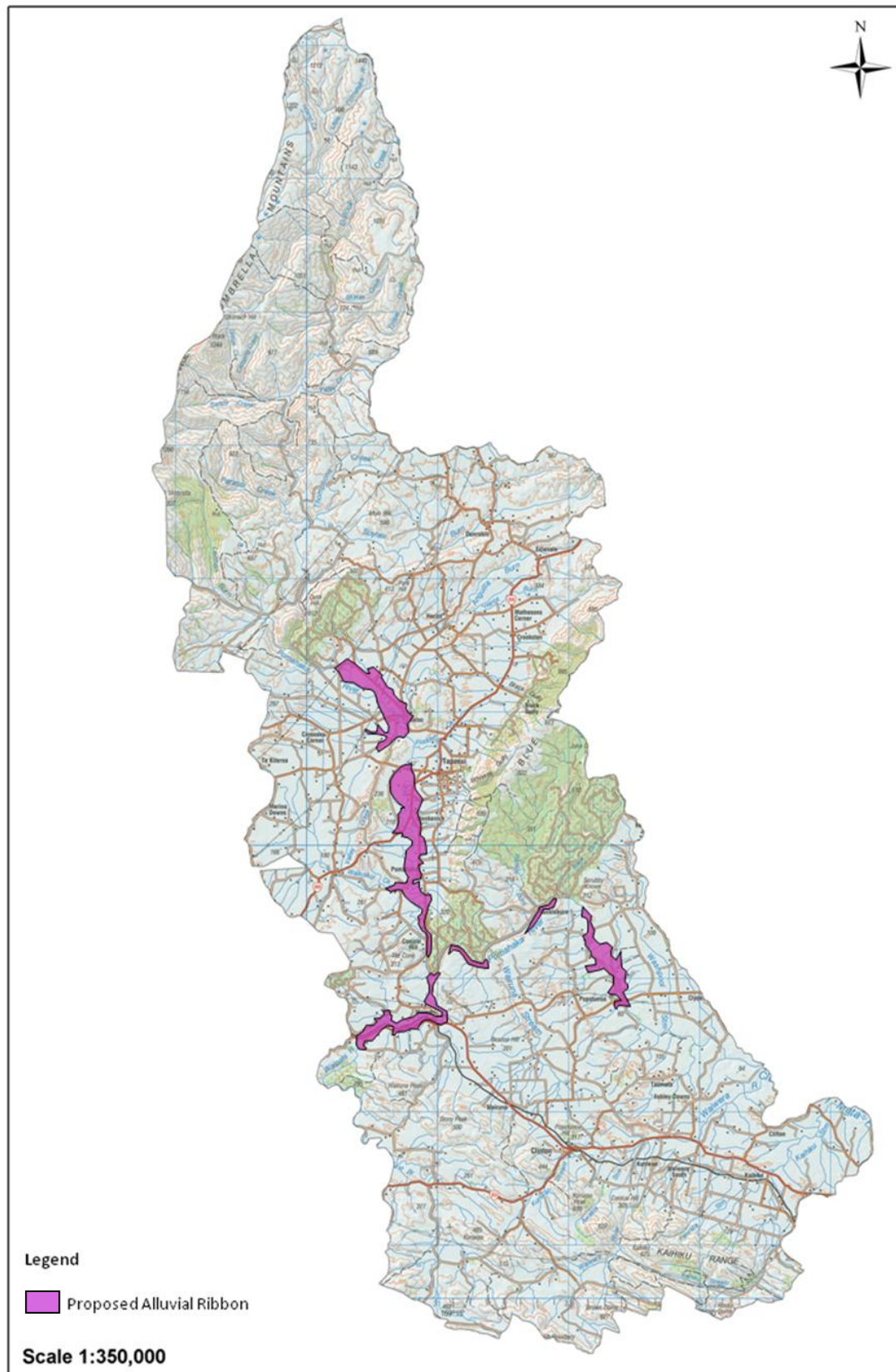


Figure 1: Proposed alluvial ribbon aquifers in the Pomahaka, Waiwera and Kaihiku Catchments

3.3 Management of hard rock aquifers

The way in which water is transmitted through a fractured rock aquifer differs from the way it moves through alluvial gravel aquifers. Alluvial gravel aquifers transmit water through pore spaces between the individual granules and groundwater is generally continuous throughout the area of the aquifer. A rock aquifer relies on discontinuities such as joints, fractures, crevices etc to transmit water. Therefore, the availability of long-yielding water is localized and depends on the interconnection of the discontinuities (Figure 2). This means it is difficult to set allocation limits for the aquifer.

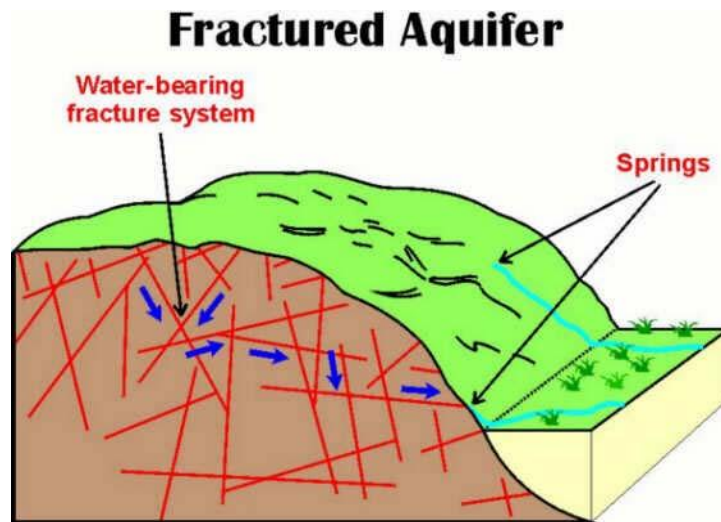


Figure 2: Example of fractured rock aquifer and groundwater flow along discontinuities

Due to the groundwater resources being localized, it is not possible to manage the hard rock aquifer at a regional or even aquifer scale. This is because the water resources will not be the same throughout the aquifer. For example, bores located within close proximity to each other, may not intercept the same discontinuity even though they are within the same rock mass.

Currently the demand for water resources from fractured rock aquifers in both the study area and in Otago is low. Therefore, the management of this resource is considered to be suitably covered in the RPW. When the rock aquifer resource is in greater demand, a detailed management regime taking on a localized approach can be applied.

4. Recommendations

That:

1. This report and the report “Groundwater resource management review of the South Otago Basins” are received.
2. The information in these reports is referred to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Gavin Palmer

Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A616530

Report No: 2014/0754

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Dean Olsen, Water Resource Scientist

Date: 4 April 2014

Subject: Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River

1. Précis

The Tokomairiro River is located approximately 48 km southwest of Dunedin and supports high ecological values including several threatened native fish species in addition to a locally significant trout fishery. Existing allocation of surface water for abstraction is relatively modest, with current consents accounting for less than half (147.59 l/s) of the total available primary allocation limit (514.5 l/s). Notwithstanding that, it is desirable to have technical information on aquatic ecosystems available to the public to inform future discussions on the setting of a minimum flow.

A management flow report (“Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River”) has been prepared presenting hydrological information and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Tokomairiro River. Because of physical differences between the West Branch, East Branch and mainstem of the Tokomairiro River, the flows required to maintain aquatic values in each are considered separately. The assessment has been informed by work undertaken for ORC by the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric research (NIWA). NIWA carried out in-stream habitat modelling in the Tokomairiro catchment along with several other catchments. The results of this modelling are presented in Jowett (2005).

In all cases, habitat for adult brown trout was the most flow-sensitive in-stream value during the irrigation season, while trout spawning was the critical value in the two branches during winter. Using the results of habitat modelling, flows to retain suitable levels of habitat retention have been suggested for each fish species in the two branches and mainstem of the Tokomairiro River. These results indicate that flows to maintain habitat for adult brown trout in summer and trout spawning in winter months (May-September) will also maintain other fish values. The availability of water for abstraction under the various suggested management flows is considered. A flow duration analysis shows that the suggested management flows would not significantly reduce the security of supply for water users.

The results from the technical report should be used as part of community consultation on the potential future setting of a minimum flow for the Tokomairiro River.

2. Recommendation

That this report and the technical report ‘Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River’ are received and noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A611117

Report No: 2014/0711

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Manager Resource Science, Manager Natural Hazards, Manager Engineering

Date: 3 April 2014

Subject: Director's Report**1 Air, Surface water and Groundwater**

Staff are finalising the new Alexandra air quality predictions and this work will be presented at the upcoming Council workshop and the proposed review of the Otago air quality strategy.

Cr Scott and staff met with the Deputy Chairman of the Peninsula Community Board and representatives of the Ocean Grove community on 26 March to discuss the water quality of the Tomahawk lagoons. The issue is the subject of a separate report to committee.

Staff met with Rayonier Forestry and Landcare Research to discuss setting up a project to measure forestry harvest effects relative to the new Plan Change 6A rules in Glendhu Forest (near Lawrence). Rayonier are keen to test their forestry code of practice against the instream outcomes expected under PC6A. A site visit has been conducted and ORC will install flow and turbidity recording equipment within the next fortnight prior to harvesting beginning in May. The forestry block has been monitored for the past 30 years as part of Landcare Research's "paired catchment" work on water yield comparing exotic forest relative to tussock catchments (Photograph 1). The forest catchment covers 318 ha while the tussock catchment is 217 ha in area. The ability to monitor this scale of activity with a natural paired catchment is unique at a national scale and will add knowledge about the relative effects on sediment yields and instream ecology in harvested catchments.



Photograph 1 One of the two flow measuring weirs within Glendhu Forest

Staff participated in minimum flow and groundwater allocation workshops at Ettrick, Cromwell, Earnsclough and Tarras providing technical information on natural values and allocation limits.

One State of Environment (SOE) monitoring bore has been installed at Culling Park in South Dunedin (Figure 1, Photographs 2 and 3). This complements the three bores installed in 2009. The need for a fifth bore is being reassessed.

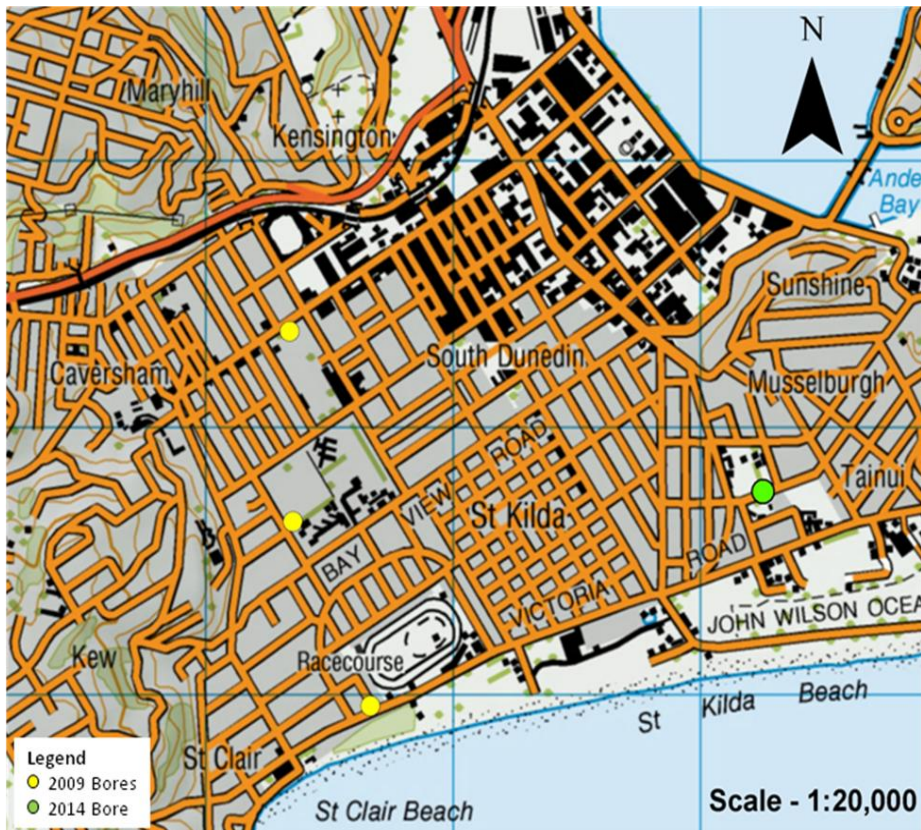


Figure 1: Location of South Dunedin groundwater monitoring bores



Photograph 2 Drilling rig at Culling Park, Photograph 3 Hand dug pit prior to drilling of bore

2. Natural Hazards, Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Further progress has been made by the joint ORC/DCC staff working group set up to incorporate natural hazards provisions into the Dunedin City District Plan. Technical work to describe natural hazards in Dunedin City has continued, which includes preparation of information on landslide hazard (the subject of a separate report to committee) and liquefaction hazard (nearing completion). A description of the natural hazards which affect South Dunedin is underway.

Staff participated, upon request from DCC, in a meeting with the Blueskin Resilience Communities Trust (BRCT) on 31 March to comment on the natural hazards component of a report prepared by BRCT entitled ‘A perspective on climate change Adaptation Planning in Waitati’. The objective of BRCT is to develop a community-led approach to climate change planning in Waitati.

Information and support is continuing to be provided to the lifelines study being undertaken by the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group. Lifeline assets have been critically-rated for all sectors. “Pinch-points” have been identified, where critical assets may be significantly impacted by natural hazards (utilising the Otago Natural Hazards Database). These were discussed at sector-specific workshops in March. The inter-dependency of different lifeline providers (i.e. how closely different lifeline providers rely on one-another) were also discussed and documented. Following the finalising of pinch-points by sector, workshops in May will address emergency response priorities and restoration principles for all lifelines providers. The work is part-funded by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management resilience fund.

3. Flood Protection, Land Drainage and River Management

Works to the St David Street to Union Street reach of the Water of Leith are continuing, with a temporary footbridge crossing of the Leith in place and operational. As a result Contractor Downer has been able to begin modifying St David Street footbridge, work necessary in order to convey the flood flows that the Scheme is being designed for (Photograph 4 & 5). The University of Otago have been advised of the new programme primarily resulting from their requirement that a temporary footbridge be installed, with completion now likely in late July.



Photograph 4: Excavation at western end of St David St footbridge.



Photograph 5: Works to western side of Water of Leith.

Finishing and enhancement works are continuing for the Leith Street to Forth Street reach of the Water of Leith. This includes fencing and additional planting. Other refinements to the rock work downstream of Clyde Street will be made in summer.

An opening ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Waipori Pump Station upgrade was held on 25 March, with formal ribbon cutting undertaken by former Taieri River Trust and West Taieri Scheme liaison group chairman Mr Alastair Cameron (Photographs 6 and 7). The ceremony was attended by Crs Shepherd and Woodhead, staff, representatives from Fulton Hogan Ltd and Tansley Electrical Ltd (the contractors who carried out the upgrade), and West Taieri ratepayers.



Photographs 6 and 7 Commemorating completion of the Waipori Pump Station upgrade on 25 March

Approximately 40 people attended the public meeting at Balclutha on 8 April, chaired by Cr Woodhead, at which the operation of the Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme was explained. A similar number of people attended the public meeting at Mosgiel on 9 April chaired by Cr Scott regarding operation of the Taieri Flood Protection and West Taieri and East Taieri Drainage schemes. At both meetings natural hazards and residual risks were described along with improvements made to the schemes over the past year. Works and investigations included in the Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan were outlined. Drop-in sessions on 9 and 10 April (Balclutha and Mosgiel respectively) were attended by approximately 8 and 20 people respectively.

Tender documents are being prepared for construction of the Paretai pump station access platform. Tenders will be invited in May.

Inspection of the Albert Town river bank protection rockwork has identified ground movement immediately upstream and adjacent to the rockwork. An initial inspection

has been undertaken by a geotechnical engineer who has advised there is no immediate concern. A more thorough inspection will be undertaken later this month. A dive inspection of the base of the slope to check for bed scour and undermining was hampered by the presence of Didymo.

Changes in the channel morphology of the Shag and Waianakarua Rivers since 2009/08 have been assessed using cross-section survey data collected in October 2013. In the Shag River, there was an overall increase in the average bed level at 16 of the 22 cross-sections, with the other sites showing an average decrease. Comparing the most recent survey data with earlier surveys shows the Shag River between Inch Valley and SH1 has changed from a state of overall degradation to one of aggradation / stability. In the Waianakarua River the most significant changes in channel morphology since 2008 have occurred in the South Branch above SH1, where ongoing erosion of the adjacent terraces has occurred.

Changes in the channel morphology of the Kakanui and Kauru Rivers as a result of the June 2013 flood have been assessed using cross-section survey data collected in October 2013. The trends identified in the most recent channel morphology report (September 2013) have largely continued. This information will be discussed with the community group that is to be established for developing a river management plan. Arrangements are being made for a person to lead that group.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Communications Committee to be held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 16 April 2014 following the Technical Committee meeting**

Membership: Cr Trevor Kempton (Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr David Shepherd

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 14 April.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0771 **Report on Community Liaison and Education.** CE, 1/4/14

The report provides an update on Plan Change 6A implementation, catchment programme, and annual plan target progress.

Item 2

2014/0777 **Report on Communications and Media Activity.** CE, 3/4/14

Providing an update on Council communications and media activity carried out during the period 25 February to 31 March.

Item 3

2014/0768 **Report on Customer Services Activity.** CE, 31/3/14

Providing an update on Customer Services Activity for March.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 11.42 am

In the absence of the Communications Committee Chair and Deputy Chair, the Chief Executive recommended that Cr Deaker be appointed to chair the meeting.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That Cr Michael Deaker chair the 13 March 2014 meeting of the Communications Committee.

Motion carried

Present:

- Cr Michael Deaker (Chairperson)
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott (to 11.48 am)
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Trevor Kempton

The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Croot.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Peter Taylor
- Nicola McGrouther (for Item 1)
- Rob Schick (Item 1)
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0694 **Report on Community Liaison and Education February 2014.**
CE, 27/2/14

The report provided an update on Plan Change 6A implementation and catchment programme progress.

Cr Scott left the meeting at 11.48 am.

Ms McGrouther explained in response to a question that staff visited properties where landholders proposing dairy conversions had contacted the Council and requested an assessment. Dairy companies were asked to encourage farmers proposing dairy conversions to ask ORC for an assessment. Mr Donaldson advised that at the start of each season dairy companies notified ORC staff of recent conversions, but that was after the event. Advice of dairy conversions was also provided by field staff who were working around the region.

Mr Bodeker explained that at this stage of the PC6A process the philosophy of the Community Liaison and Education Team and the Communications Team was gathering of data. Once all the necessary information was available, it would be communicated to members of the public. He appreciated that this could cause some frustration, but considered that it was important to have consistent information available for publicising at the same time. He noted that the Judge's decision on 6A appeals had only recently been released.

A question was raised as to whether the appropriate technology was available to landholders to enable them to meet their 6A obligations. Mr Bodeker stated that he was confident that there were tools to measure the requirement for an individual farm or forest to meet 6A. He commented that

Overseer was selected because it was available and reliable, and had scientific validity.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0683 **Report on Communications and Media Activity February 2014.**

CE, 26/2/14

The report provided an update on Council communications and media activity carried out during February 2014.

Mr Taylor advised in response to a question that the Council had a policy in place, based on a set of guidelines and criteria, for the use of social media. Twitter was used for public events, media releases, and news items, and only authorised staff were able to use it. The service provided credible and consistent corporate messages that aligned with the messages on the website. The same process would operate for the Facebook page being developed. Mr Taylor confirmed that all information on social media linked back to source material, and all communication channels were integrated.

A policy on media relations for Councillors would be presented to a Council workshop.

Mr Taylor further explained that Facebook posts would be more story orientated and would link into the website. He was pleased with the number of followers on Twitter, with Tweets being equally positive and negative. He commented that where people sent Tweets in relation to buses, for example a bus being late, it was important that they give their location so that their complaint could be addressed.

Councillors were impressed by the number of visits to the website, being 26,859 for the month, and noted the importance of keeping the information up to date. Mr Taylor anticipated that the Council's use of social media would increase, and noted examples of Youtube videos showing for example how to test for water quality. It was suggested that an ORC TED (short lectures/ demonstrations) could be set up.

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 3

2014/0697 **Report on Customer Services Activity February 2014.** CE, 24/2/14

The report provided an update on Customer Services Activity for February 2014, including staff training, participation in University Orientation Week, and Subject Pods.

The presence of staff at Orientation Week to provide information to students on bus services and student concessions was commended, with a very good uptake resulting.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.11 pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A618475

Report No: 2014/0771

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Community Liaison and Education Team

Date: 1/04/2014

Subject: Report on community liaison and education April 2014

1. Water Quality: Plan Change 6A

During this period, Plan Change 6A was signed off by the Environment Court Judge and then approved by Council on 26 March, and will be operative on 1 May. This has enabled the cross-council implementation team to continue developing rule interpretation and the implementation strategy.

A second staff training session on 6A was held for Alexandra, Queenstown and Cromwell staff on 19 March (the first was held for key Dunedin staff on 13 February). Further training sessions are planned for all staff.

Factsheets to explain the 6A rules are currently being developed and a series of 6A roadshows are being planned to inform the community about 6A during June and July 2014.

The Community Liaison and Education (CLE) team continues to answer numerous enquiries regarding Plan Change 6A and what the new rules will mean for farmers, foresters and contractors. Staff have met with both Irrigation NZ and Abacus Bio at their request to provide a general overview of 6A prior to the more detailed information which will be provided at the roadshows.

One of the first projects under 6A implementation started in January and is investigating the relationship between forestry activities and water quality. CLE staff are supporting the science team by meeting with key stakeholders to discuss and document the activities of a farm forestry project above the Waihola Wetlands. This project aims at improving understanding of the effects of harvesting on water quality and it is intended to share the results with the community once the project is completed later this year.

2. Developing Council messages

CLE staff facilitated a cross council staff meeting on 20 March to discuss and identify key messages for landowners on cleaning out waterways. This is the first of several meetings to develop practical information for landowners on this topic.

3. Catchment programmes

a) Owaka

On the 25th February, CLE staff met with an Owaka dairy farmer. Recently back from a national DairyNZ leadership forum, he identified the need for Otago farming leaders to stand up in communities and help bring about change with their peers. Getting good information, in an easy to understand manner, out there to the public is essential.

b) South Otago

On the 25th February, CLE staff met with a Waipahi sheep and beef farmer, who also has a contracting business. He wanted to get an understanding of the basics of how Plan Change 6A is to work for his farming operation, including 'risky wintering', and what he needs to plan for, both as a contractor and also if he was to convert his properties to dairy. As a contractor, he was making sure that he followed best practice, while working within the plan rules.

CLE staff met with a forestry harvest planner, on 25th February, to discuss forestry management, in particular crossings. It was an opportunity for both parties to learn what is currently happening, where the potential challenges are, and what they need to understand to help bring about better outcomes which would help in 6A implementation.

c) Kakanui/Waianakarua

A community collaboration meeting was organised by the North Otago Irrigation Company (NOIC) and held on 26th February. During the session all stakeholders introduced themselves, their activities, their stake in the catchment and their concerns.

On the 13 March a North Otago dairy farmer was visited. He is currently developing recently acquired farms in the Waiareka Catchment and was seeking information on consenting requirements for in-stream works. It was pleasing to have been asked to give policy advice prior to works being undertaken.

3. Catchment programmes: Water Quantity

a) Manuherikia

A tour of the catchment was undertaken to gather up knowledge acquired by a staff member who is moving on to new employment.

b) Upper Taieri

Staff attended a meeting of the Upper Taieri Water Users group on 27 March. This group includes representatives of irrigators from the Upper Taieri including the Maniototo Irrigation Company and Kyeburn Irrigators and is also attended by Fish and Game Otago and DoC. Updates were given on Council activities and discussion was held about the high E.coli results at Waipiata. A public meeting is being held on 4 April to discuss the results, problems and potential solutions.

4. Annual Plan Targets

B2 In co-operation with the dairy companies in Otago, visit all dairy farms planning a conversion to discuss environmental considerations and requirements.

No dairy conversions were undertaken during this reporting period.

B3 Hold, in association with Stakeholders and user groups, field days, discussion groups and seminars.

Director Fraser McRae and Manager Nicola McGrouther explained the key aspects of 6A for deer farmers to the Otago Deer Farmers Association on 25th February at Invermay attended by approximately 30 people.

On 25th February a water quality awareness session was held with the Alexandra Scouts. The principles of Plan Change 6A were explained, highlighting the need to balance farming with good water quality. The Manuherikia SOE water quality results were compared with the Schedule 15 standards with discussion on the influence of farming activities. Parameters were measured using Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment (SHMAK) kits and further discussion on results. The timing of the session coincided with the outbreak of the poisonous algae, Phormidium. This allowed an informed discussion on the collective stream conditions that have given rise to the outbreak.

On 28 February staff were involved in supporting a Councillor led presentation, and participating in discussion on Plan Change 6A to Green MP Eugene Sage.

CLE staff attended a DairyNZ discussion group meeting in the Maniototo to inform attendees of the recent high levels of *E. coli* recorded at the Waipiata site. The importance of good stock, effluent and irrigation management was stressed while thanking the group for their notable infrastructural improvements. Many have invested in spray irrigation, water storage and good riparian management. It was mentioned that it is highly possible that high levels came from flood irrigation run-off or other sources.

5. Other non water activities

Water quality sampling is being undertaken on a fortnightly basis out of the tile drain at Calder Stewart near Milton. However, the drain has been too dry to sample recently. The aim is to get good background water quality levels before Calder Stewart put in a constructed wetland.

CLE staff were part of a discussion on 25th February at East Taieri Primary School about what the school's options are both for improving their stream and also for environmental education around water quality and stream life. CLE Staff organised funding through DCC to help with flood control and the CLE team will provide SHMAK kits and teach the children about stream health later in the year.

On the 6th March, staff met with the NZ Science Festival team to plan for the Bioblitz event being held in July. ORC will be providing SHMAK kits and in stream education.

A grant of \$300 was allocated to Weston Primary School through the Honda Tree Fund to help fund their riparian planting project.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A618821

Report No: 2014/0777

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Peter Taylor, Manager Communications

Date: 3 April 2014

Subject: Report on Communications and Media Activity March 2014

This report records communications and media activity between 25 February and 31 March.

1. Media activity

- Six media releases were prepared and distributed.
- ORC activity has received 130 mentions in print media and five broadcast mentions.
- Two letters to the Editor (ODT) requiring responses were received. One, which the Director Policy Planning and Resource Management responded to, dealt with concerns about bus fares on the Peninsula service. The other, which the Director Engineering, Hazards and Science responded to, dealt with concerns about the cause of the toxic algae outbreak in the Manuherikia River.

2. Social media

- ORC launched a Facebook page.
- Eight posts were made on Facebook and 19 Tweets were sent out through Twitter.
- There were 82 Twitter and 17 Facebook followers as at 31 March.

3. Corporate communications

- Five public consultation meetings with feedback sessions are planned to engage the public and obtain their views about the RPS. Communications staff are working with our Policy team to provide material for these meetings planned for May.
- Staff have provided material and support for the Policy team organising the following minimum flow meetings:
 - Clinton, Tuesday 15 April, 1.00-3.00pm, Waiwera minimum flow meeting
 - Tapanui, Tuesday 15 April, 7.00-9.00pm, Pomahaka minimum flow meeting
 - Waikouaiti, Wednesday 16 April, 7.00-9.00pm at the East Otago Events Centre.
- A communications plan will be implemented to publicise our Draft Annual Plan. Extensive print media and radio advertising will promote the plan and invite submissions from throughout the region during March and April.
- Programme planning for the implementation of the new Water Plan water quality rules is continuing with the development of publications. It is expected

an engagement programme will begin with a stakeholders' conference in June followed by a series of roadshows in July.

- Staff are working with Engineering and Natural Hazards staff organising public meetings and drop-in sessions to discuss Taieri and Lower Clutha flood protection schemes as follows:
 - Balclutha, Tuesday 8 April, 7.00pm at the War Memorial Hall. Drop in sessions Wednesday 11.00am- 3.00pm.
 - Lower Taieri, Wednesday 9 April, 7.00pm at the Mosgiel Coronation Hall. Drop-in sessions Thursday 10 April, 11.00am-2.00pm and 5.00-7.30pm at the Mosgiel Public Library.
- Weekly communications reporting the cyanobacteria (toxic algae) monitoring results continue to be sent to the Waipori community.

4. New publications

- Otagowide April edition is at print.
- Information brochure: the guide to rabbit control has been revised.
- Work continues on a series of Water Quality Otago information sheets to assist farmers and foresters to understand and comply with the water quality rules.
- Staff worked with our Corporate Analyst to produce the Draft Annual Plan and Summary document.
- Waipori Pump commemorative brochure

5. Events and community presentations

- The upgraded Waipori flood and drainage station was officially opened on Tuesday 25 March. The opening recognised the work and advice provided by the local committee towards the upgraded scheme. Alastair Cameron who had worked on the pump station in 1939 and throughout his life, as well as chairing the local flood and drainage committee, opened the pump station. The opening was attended by about 30 local land owners and interested people who were able to observe a pump in operation.
- Shag/Waikouaiti Rivers – NZ River Awards celebration planned for Sunday March 23 was postponed at the request of the community as it clashed with another important local event. They would like the event later in the year.
- The Manager Communications is liaising with the Dunedin International Science Festival to arrange ORC activities for inclusion in their July programme. These are likely to be a lunchtime talk on ORC natural hazards work, a family visit to see environmental science at work on the Invermay farm (organised in collaboration with AgResearch and DairyNZ), and collaboration with the University of Otago on a bio-blitz event on the Leith.
- Communication staff organised the 4 April community meeting at Waipiata. This is to discuss and find solutions to the high E.coli levels recorded in the Upper Taieri River during the summer recreational water quality monitoring programme.

6. Website developments

The website is updated on a daily basis as information comes to hand. These are the larger revisions.

- New look Water Info, Air Info and Land Info websites developed and now live. The design of these sites now matches our main ORC website.
- Otago section of the new LAWA website populated with images, text, media releases and events.
- Environmental Data section created on the Home Page, now displaying logos for Water Info, Land Info, Air Info and LAWA.
- Social media buttons set up on the Home Page to take people to ORC Twitter page and ORC Facebook page.
- Continual optimisation of all PDFs on website to conform to accessibility standards.
- Median flow lines are being added to WaterInfo graphs.

7. Website statistics for the period 24 February to 31 March

- 32,974 visits
- 12,871 new visitors – 39% (stats below)
- 20,103 returning visitors – 61%

Country origins for visitors

- New Zealand – 30,970
- Australia – 507
- United States – 454

Visits from around NZ

- Dunedin – 14,252
- Auckland – 6970
- Wellington – 4852
- Christchurch – 1545
- Queenstown – 543

Averages for visits in NZ

- 3.33 pages in our website viewed per visit

Analysis of pages viewed on the ORC website

- Buses
 - Main bus page – 36,997 page views
 - Bus Info page – 4,826 page views
 - Route numbers – 2,636 page views
 - Route – City to Mosgiel – 1,682 page views
 - Route – Mosgiel to City – 1,501 page views
 - Route – Port Chalmers to City – 1,281 page views
 - Route – City to Port Chalmers – 1,277 page views

Information and Services

- Information and Services home page – 1,610 page views
- Resource Consents – 1,189 page views
- Natural Hazards – 1,125 page views
- Water – 1,031 page views
- Rates – 826 page views

About Us and the Region

- Job Vacancies – 3,395 page views
- Contact Us – 1,659 page views
- About the Otago Regional Council – 876 page views
- About Us and the Region home page – 611 page views
- About the Region – 545 page views
- Local Body Elections 2013 – 36 page views

Publication and Reports

- Regional Plan Water – 1,746 page views
- Regional Plan Air – 566 page views
- Regional Policy Statement – 172 page views
- Regional Plan Waste – 89 page views
- Weekly rainfall and river flow report – 81 page views
- Regional Plan Coast – 68 page views
- Rural Water Quality Strategy – 61 page views
- Annual water quality and bio monitoring summaries – 60 page views

Other areas viewed

- News and Notices – 1,857 page views
- Rates – 762 page views
- Proposed Plan Change 6A – 413 page views
- Proposed changes to bus services – 337 page views
- Meetings and Events – 335 page views
- Water Monitoring for recreational activities – 131 page views

Top three PDF downloads

- Bus timetable – 2,037
- Job description – Environmental Officer Hydrology – 213
- Temporary bus stop in Octagon - 128

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A617948
Report No: 2014/0768
Prepared For: Communications Committee
Prepared By: Cher Da-Rin, Team Leader Customer Services
Date: 31 March 2014

Subject: Report on Customer Services Activity March 2014

1. Training

Training is an ongoing and vital part of Customer Services. This month an emphasis has been placed on revision of consent accepting practices preparing for the upcoming Dam Building Consent audit.

Three of the Customer Services Team attended the 6A briefing in Alexandra on 26 March.

Customer Services “day in the field” has been introduced, getting CS staff out of the office for a day to gain a better understanding of what Council actually does out in the field. Staff can choose the area they most want to see/understand and then arrange to go out with that team. The team are very keen on this initiative and already we are seeing a positive effect of better knowledge when talking to the public.

2. Templates

The Team Leader of CS, with the guidance of the Communications team, has updated and redesigned the Science Report Template. This has now been officially launched and training is well underway. The template enables staff creating ORC Science reports to have the basic framework in place with styles available to assist with easy and consistent formatting. This template has been well received with much positive feedback on ease of use.

The launch of the Science Report template has resulted in identifying other documents that would benefit from the same treatment. Other standard templates are planned for rollout as soon as possible.

3. **Subject Pods**

Customer Services refer to the various subjects we take-over the care of as subject pods. The take-over can be quite a simple task in some cases but in others involves quite a bit of research, writing of subject prompters and then training of staff, which can encompass learning new software/applications as well as the details of the subject:

Subject Pod current status:

Added:	Dam Building Consents
Being developed:	Land Information Report Consents

4. **Recommendation**

That this report be received.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee
to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street,
Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 following the
Communications Committee meeting**

Membership:

Cr David Shepherd (Chairperson)
Cr Gary Kelliher (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr David Shepherd

Leave of absence:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Wednesday 16 April.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – PRESENTATION

Item 1 Port Otago Ltd

Presentation of six monthly report to December 2013.

PART B - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 2

2014/0775 Dunedin Passenger Transport Governance Options. DCS, 2/4/14

The report notes ongoing discussions over a number of years about the most appropriate governance model for the Dunedin public transport function, and summarises relevant legislation and existing public transport roles. It is recommended that Council consider if it wishes to retain the public transport function, or believes the function fits more appropriately with the Dunedin City Council.

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2014/0773 8 month review to 28 February 2014. DCS, 2/4/14

The report summarises progress in meeting project targets for the eight months to 28 February 2014.

Item 4

2014/0756 Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014. DCS, 25/3/14

The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 come into force on 1 May 2014, and this report presents the key provisions of the regulations.

Item 5

2014/0772 Benchmarking Administration and Support Services. DCS, 2/4/14

The report notes that the Council is a participant in a regional council benchmarking exercise in relation to administration and support services, and provides a summary of the outcome of the survey following the second year of data collection and analysis.

Item 6
2014/ **Executive Report on Progress. DCS,**

The report describes significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

PART D - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subjects to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 7	Minutes of the non public portion of the meeting held on 13 March 2014	To enable any local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations. LGOIMA S7(2)(i)	S.48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 9.00 am

Present:

Cr David Shepherd (Chairperson)
Cr Gary Kelliher (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Trevor Kempton
 The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Neill and Croot.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Jane Turnbull, Suzanne Watt (for Item 1)
Gerard Collings (for Items 1 and 4)
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Judith Hewitt - Corstorphine resident

Ms Hewitt requested that the Corstorphine bus service be changed back to the pre-July 2013 route. Corstorphine residents had to get two buses, and pay two bus fares, to get into The Octagon. She wanted the service via Wakari and Moana Pool to be reinstated.

Peter Dowden – Bus Go Dunedin

Mr Dowden explained that Bus Go was set up to promote public transport in Dunedin. Corstorphine residents were unanimous in wanting to revert to the pre-July 2013 route. He acknowledged that the improvements that the ORC had introduced last year were done in good faith and also acknowledged Council's willingness to see where they had gone wrong. Mr Dowden noted that research by Lynley Hood showed a drop-off in the number of passengers and an increase in the number of complaints with the changed route. He believed the original route was efficient but the alternative routes added in July 2013 were inefficient and confusing. Mr Dowden also commented that arterial roads were strong enough for heavy traffic, eg buses, but residential streets were not. He considered it would be practical to combine roading and public transport responsibilities in one council department.

Mr Dowden considered that The Octagon was no longer a meaningful terminus and requested that consideration be given to extending the route to finish closer to the inner city supermarkets, university and hospital.

Cr Scott noted the three options in the report to Council which all included returning the Corstorphine service to the pre-July 2013 route. Mr Dowden stated that he would be happy with that if the terminus was moved to the city centre, and the same level of resources was provided.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0688 **Expiring Contracts and Corstorphine Services.** DCS, 26/2/14

The report noted that in order to ensure continuity of services and to obtain the necessary NZTA approval for changes to two Corstorphine bus services, Council needed to decide whether or not to proceed with any or all of the service improvements proposed. Options were included in the report, and it was noted that NZTA approval was required for whichever option was adopted. The meeting noted the presentations during the Public Forum which requested that the Corstorphine pre-July 2013 service be reinstated.

All three options presented in the report included changes to the Corstorphine services. There was general agreement that Option A was

ideal but too expensive. Option C (changes to Corstorphine, Waverley, Garden Village, and Roslyn services) was favoured, but it was noted that there would be a 12 month delay in implementing the changes to the Garden Village and Port Chalmers services. Attention was drawn to the upcoming strategic review of transport, and the Council's responsibilities regarding its rating obligations.

It was noted that following the ORC presence at Orientation Week, student public transport patronage had increased, and care should be taken that contract variations did not impact adversely on this change in patronage.

Comment was made that some of the proposed changes were interim solutions, and that the review required by NZTA still had to be undertaken. The concept of hubbing should also be addressed.

Cr Scott moved
Cr Deaker seconded

- (1) *That the report be received.*
- (2) *That the Council negotiate extensions and variations to the contracts expiring 30 June 2014 including the variations to the Waverley, Garden Village, and Roslyn services and the variations to the Corstorphine contract as presented to the Council workshop on 29 January 2014 – option (c).*

Motion carried

Cr Woodhead advised that a request had been received from the Chair of the Peninsula Community Board to speak at the Public Forum about Peninsula routes. It had been suggested that Mr Bodeker and Councillors meet with the Community Board to discuss the decision made today and plans for public transport in the Peninsula area. Comment was also made that submissions could be made through the Annual Plan process.

Item 2

2014/0677 **2014/15 Draft Annual Plan.** DCS, 24/2/14

The proposed 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan was submitted for consideration and approval for consultation. The Draft Plan was circulated with the agenda. A Summary of Proposal representing the key items from the full document had also been prepared.

Councillors were pleased to note that the general rate increase had been kept to 2.49%. It was pointed out that targeted rates provided a significant portion of rate income. The meeting was also pleased to note that the loan repayment on the Council's stadium contribution would be made in the 2014/15 year.

Councillors thanked Mr Scott and his staff for their work in preparing the Draft Annual Plan document.

A query was raised about the inclusion of biodiversity work, and it was suggested that a stocktake be undertaken of biodiversity projects previously approved by Council. Gaps in earlier work including a regional overview of ecosystems and estuaries could also be identified.

The final repayment of the stadium loan was noted. Mr Scott explained that there was a considerable interest saving by reducing the initial loan term from 15 to seven years, made possible in part by the tax saving.

Councillors commented favourably on the fact that less than one-third of all Council's costs was funded directly by ratepayers. However it was noted that other revenue sources and funding for contingencies and disaster management needed to be secure.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Neill seconded

1. *That the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan be approved for public consultation subject to any minor editorial amendments.*
2. *That public submissions be open until 2 May 2014.*
3. *That hearings be held during the week beginning 12 May 2014.*

Cr Woodhead suggested that the Annual Plan Hearing subcommittee comprise Crs Shepherd, Kelliher, Robertson and Woodhead. Cr Croot advised that she was unavailable for the hearings week. Cr Woodhead was to approach Cr Bell and Cr Eckhoff advised that he could be available if necessary.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Neill seconded

4. *That a hearing subcommittee comprising Crs Shepherd, Kelliher, Robertson, Woodhead and either Cr Bell or Cr Eckhoff consider all submissions received, and make recommendations.*

Motion carried

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2014/0689 **Executive Report on Progress.** DCS, 26/2/14

The report described significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that a new rating system, 'Pathway', would replace the previous system. This system was also used by Dunedin City and Clutha District Councils.

In response to a question Mr Scott advised that the Cromwell depot was an operational depot which provided for the storage of vehicles and poisons, and had office space in one room, which meant it was not feasible to rent out part of the facility to other users. There was some provision for expansion of staffing.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule, totalling \$2,548,242.99, be endorsed.*

Motion carried

PART C - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	<i>General subjects to be considered</i>	<i>Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution</i>
<i>Item 4</i>	<i>Passenger Transport Operational Matters</i>	<i>To enable any local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations. LGOIMA S7(2)(i)</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

Following discussion of Item 4,

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the meeting resume in open session.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 10.15 am.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A618728
Report No: 2014/0775
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 2/04/2014

Subject: Dunedin Passenger Transport Governance Options

1. Précis

Discussions relating to the most appropriate governance of Dunedin's public transport network have been undertaken over some time. It is appropriate that the views of this Council, and of the Dunedin City Council, be formalised to enable a conclusion to the functional responsibility for public transport in the city.

2. Background

Various suggestions and discussions have taken place over some years as to the most appropriate home for Dunedin bus services, this Council or the Dunedin City Council. More recently Dunedin City representatives have expressed interest in progressing the discussion, and staff meetings have occurred over the past six months.

In terms of public transport, the Otago Regional Council functions are broadly twofold; planning, and an operational role in contracting and administering public transport services.

The Council is required to adopt a Regional Land Transport Plan, and also under the Land Transport Management Act, it is the Regional Council which is charged with the preparation, development and adoption of the Regional Public Transport Plan and its implementation.

Under the Local Government Act 2002 a regional council can transfer a function to a territorial authority, and this Council could transfer to the Dunedin City Council the development and adoption of a Regional Public Transport Plan, and the implementation of that plan.

The procedural steps required to be followed for a transfer are that the terms and conditions of the transfer must be agreed between the two local authorities, notice must be given to the Minister of Local Government, and both Councils must initiate the proposal in their Annual Plans or Long Term Plans or separately adopt the proposal through the special consultative procedure.

(Note: The Local Government Amendment Bill currently in the House provides some amendment to the procedure in that consultation may be under a new targeted consultation procedure rather than through an Annual Plan / Long Term Plan process.)

3. Planning Linkages

The Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) is a subset of the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

The RPTP is the more detailed description of the network and services, and includes the services integrated to the network, the structure of the network, and policies on accessibility, fares, monitoring and evaluation and infrastructure. It also forms the basis for co-operation between stakeholders, and of a fair, efficient and competitive market.

Should the RPTP preparation be transferred, it would be logical for there to be a clear understanding that the RLTP content would be to enable the RPTP, and that no restrictions or constraints should be imposed in the overarching document prepared by this Council.

4. Options

While there are subsets of the transfer of function options, for example, operational only or planning only, it is suggested the options to be considered relate to either the retention, or transfer, of public transport functions to the maximum extent possible, i.e. the full planning and operational functions.

Should that be transferred to Dunedin City, the only public transport function remaining with the Regional Council (apart from the regional Total Mobility programme and exempt service register) would be the preparation and monitoring of the wider Regional Land Transport Plan with which the Regional Public Transport Plan must be consistent.

5. DCC Associated Roles

A positive aspect of DCC governance would be the direct organisational integration of DCC activities related to the passenger transport function.

For example:

- the local roading network management,
- street infrastructure,
- parking policies,
- land use policies,
- urban development planning.

6. Queenstown Lakes District Council

It is noted that Dunedin City is not the only part of Otago that has public passenger transport services under a Regional Land Transport Plan. Services operate in the Queenstown basin under the Council's Regional Passenger Transport Plan. It is noted that the Queenstown buses services are presently run on a commercial basis.

If the Dunedin passenger transport function was to be transferred to Dunedin City, options for the Queenstown passenger transport function should be explored, including a similar function transfer to the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

7. Financial

The transport related projects in the 2014/15 estimates amount to \$10.2 million, compared with \$8.6 million estimated for the 2013/14 year. Components include regional transport planning, and passenger transport, both planning and operational.

8. Rating

The projected transport targeted rates for 2014/15 are \$3.2 million for Dunedin, an increase of 0.84% over the 2013/14 period.

Ongoing rating would lie with the authority undertaking the function.

9. Transport Reserve

As the Dunedin passenger transport rate is a targeted rate, a reserve exists for the holding balance of the targeted rates collected.

The balance of the fund as at 1 July 2014 was \$4.2 million. This is a higher level than planned due to various factors including lesser than budgeted contract costs due to a competitive market, subsidies received which were not budgeted, and compounding interest.

The reserve has enabled an opportunity to participate in the essential technology developments and accelerated infrastructure provision without impacting significantly on rating. A significant project is being scoped relating to replacement of the integrated ticketing system, another planned relating to the introduction of 'real time' timetable and bus monitoring, and additional and accelerated infrastructure provision. These enhancements are considered necessary for the ongoing development of Dunedin's public transport services.

It is estimated that following the completion of these planned enhancements, a reserve balance of approximately \$1.1 million is likely. It would be appropriate that the reserve is attached to the Council undertaking the role.

10. Timing

Should a transfer of responsibility for the passenger transport function be agreed by both councils in principle, the timing of such a change needs to be considered.

As noted earlier in this overview, the procedure for transfer of responsibility is proposed to be amended in the Local Government Act Amendment Bill currently before Parliament. It is thought that the Bill should be enacted in May. The provisions of the Bill in relation to transfer of responsibilities provide a more flexible mechanism, with appropriate targeted consultation rather than the current requirement through an Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

The timing of any change need not be constrained by the status of the work programme in completing the Regional Passenger Transport Plan, however it would be enhanced by there being a completion of the Plan or stages towards completion prior to any transfer.

This Council's Regional Public Transport Plan is required to be adopted by 1 July 2015. It would be highly desirable for the document to be adopted prior to that, say at least six months earlier, to enable contract tendering for contracts expiring on 30 June 2015.

The other key aspect with timing is the budgeting and resourcing for the function by whatever organisation has it, through the Long Term Plan / Annual Plan process. Again, this would point to an end of 2014 timeline.

11. Conclusion

Given the discussions and debates over a period of years, it is considered that the Councils should finalise their views as to the most appropriate governance model for the Dunedin public transport function.

12. Recommendation

- (1) That this Council consider if it wishes to retain the public transport function, or whether it believes the function fits more appropriately with the Dunedin City Council.
- (2) That if the Council consider there is merit in the Dunedin City Council providing the governance, an approach be made to the Dunedin City Council with an offer to transfer the function, both planning and operational.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A618632

Report No: 2014/0773
 Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
 Prepared By: Corporate Analyst
 Date: 2/04/2014

Subject: 8 Month Review to 28 February 2014

1. Précis

Formal reviews of progress on all projects are undertaken at four, eight and 12 months, and reported to Council. These reports form part of each year's Annual Report. This report summarises progress in meeting project targets for the eight months to 28 February 2013.

2. Background

Council's Annual Plans and Long Term Plans include levels of service to be met for the significant activities undertaken by Council, and the "key" performance targets for each of those projects within each significant activity. Progress in achieving those targets is reported against in each year's Annual Report.

A report showing financial and non-financial results compared with the Annual Plan levels of service, key performance targets and budgets for the four months to 28 February 2014 has been separately distributed with the agenda.

Queries prior to the meeting are invited in order that any investigation work necessary can be undertaken.

3. Financial Information

Individual financial information for each project is included in the separate report. A summary of the outcome group activity information compared with estimates is scheduled below:

Expenditure

	Actual to 28 Feb \$000s	Budget to 28 Feb \$000s	Variance () = unfavourable	Budget to 30 June 14
Water ¹	4,693	5,323	630	8,914
Air Quality ²	637	972	335	1,452
Coast	145	227	82	339
Regional Policy Stmt ⁵	415	319	(96)	498
Governance & Community	2,701	2,703	2	3,995
Flood Protection & Control ³	4,307	5,708	1,401	8,613
Rivers & Waterway Mgmt	620	727	107	1,088
Biosecurity	1,349	1,401	52	2,082

Environmental Incident Resp. ⁴	496	423	(73)	631
Natural Hazards ⁵	609	935	326	1,395
Emergency Management	186	255	69	378
Dam Safety	256	245	(11)	368
Transport ⁶	5,684	5,714	30	8,606
Total	22,098	24,952	2,854	38,359

Revenue (excluding rates)

	Actual to 31 Oct \$000s	Budget to 31 Oct \$000s	Variance () = unfavourable	Budget to 30 June 14
Water ¹	1,021	1,661	(640)	2,491
Air Quality	233	372	(139)	558
Coast	11	52	(41)	78
Governance & Community	210	85	125	127
Flood Protection & Control	315	232	83	348
River Management	0	35	(35)	53
Biosecurity	1,084	986	98	1,480
Environmental Incident Resp. ⁴	85	70	15	105
Natural Hazards	0	4	(4)	6
Emergency Management	0	37	(37)	55
Dam Safety	71	196	(125)	295
Transport ⁶	3,322	2,899	423	4,296
Total	6,352	6,629	(277)	9,892

Note 1 - Water

The water activity is under spent by approximately \$630,000, and revenue is approximately \$640,000 less than expected. The major variations are discussed below.

The Regional Plan: Water project is overspent by approximately \$126,000. This is in relation to substantial work that had been undertaken to resolve the 21 appeals received on Plan Change 6A (Water Quality).

Consent processing is under spent by approximately \$221,000, and this is due to fewer applications being received than budgeted for (342 applications compared to 493 applications this time last year, 30 water exemptions compared to 104 and no transfers compared to 118 transfers this time last year). This is also reflected in the revenue received from this activity of \$368,000 which is less than the \$702,000 expected.

Incidents within this activity is under spent by approximately \$100,000. Fewer incidents have occurred than that budgeted for, and this is also reflected in the revenue received of \$96,000 compared to a budget of \$230,000.

Most of the other projects within this activity are under spent by smaller amounts, and are due to timing of works.

Note 2 – Air Quality

The air activity is under spent by approximately \$335,000. Within this activity, the Clean Heat, Clean Air project is under spent by \$263,000. Of the 160 homes budgeted to have new clean heating appliances, 52 have been installed to date. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in uptake in the last reporting period, as we enter into the cooler months. The low activity in this project is reflected in the income received from third parties of \$121,000 compared to the budgeted \$247,000.

Note 3 – Flood Protection & Control Works

Within this activity the Leith flood protection scheme is under spent by approximately \$1,150,000 and the Lower Clutha is under spent by approximately \$280,000. In respect of the Leith scheme, the under expenditure relates to the delay in commencing the St David Street to Union Street stage of works. It is likely that this work will not be completed within this financial year, but early into the 2014/15 year.

With respect to the Lower Clutha, the under expenditure relates to timing of works. Investigations and design improvements to the Koau right flood bank at Factory road will commence in April. The target to refurbish the Smith Road Pump Station at an estimated cost of \$300,000 has been deferred to the 2014/15 year.

Note 4 – Environmental Incident Response

Within this activity, the contaminated sites project is over spent by \$60,000, and revenue received is over budget by \$54,000. These relate to remediation works undertaken on the Oamaru foreshore, which are funded by MfE and the Waitaki District Council.

Note 5 - Natural Hazards

This activity is under spent by approximately \$326,000. It had been intended to develop a Regional Plan: Hazards but this work is now being done as part of the Regional Policy Statement work, which is over spent by approximately \$96,000. The work on a hazards plan was budgeted to cost \$113,000 to February.

The Natural Hazards project is under spent by approximately \$99,000, due to timing issues. The public awareness budget for natural hazards is also under spent by approximately \$86,000, mainly as a result of less time being required than budgeted.

Note 6 - Transport

Within the transport activity, transport planning is over spent by \$169,000. At the request of New Zealand Transport Agency, staff have been working on the development of a regional road safety strategy. To date, this work has cost approximately \$50,000, but is expected to cost in total around \$100,000. This work was not budgeted for in the 2013/14 Annual Plan. Grant funding from New Zealand Transport Agency is being applied for.

The budget for the preparation of a new regional public transport plan was under estimated, and more costs have been incurred in planning the optimisation of the Dunedin bus network than was expected. Costs exceed budget by approximately \$83,000.

Additional costs have also been incurred in respect of liaison with the Dunedin City Council on Dunedin passenger transport planning issues.

The revenue for transport is greater than budgeted by approximately \$423,000, and relates mainly to grant income received, greater than that budgeted for. The difference arises because the budget assumed grant funding would not be received on bus contracts tendered in early 2013 for services commencing on 1 July 2013. Resolution of this matter with New Zealand Transport Agency has meant that grant funding is being received on those contracts.

4. Recommendation

That this report be received.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A616588

Report No: 2014/0756
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Corporate Analyst
Date: 25/03/2014

Subject: Local Government (Financial Reporting & Prudence) Regulations 2014

1. Précis

Section 259 (1)(dc) of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act 2010 provides for the making of regulations to prescribe parameters or benchmarks for assessing whether a local authority is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings.

On 17 March 2014, the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 were made, and come into force on 1 May 2014. The purpose of this paper is to present the key provisions of those regulations to the Finance and Corporate Committee.

2. Regulations

Following provision in the Local Government Act, Regulations have been put in place requiring certain disclosure statements to be included in future annual plans, annual reports and long term plans (LTP). The disclosure statements relate to planned and actual performance for the following benchmarks:

- a) rates affordability
- b) debt affordability
- c) balanced budget
- d) essential services
- e) debt servicing
- f) debt control
- g) operations control

Annual plans are to disclose planned performance for benchmarks (a) to (e). This provision will commence for the 2016/17 Annual Plan.

Annual reports are to disclose actual performance for each benchmark, for the year of the annual report, and for each of the four years preceding the year of the annual report. Reporting against these benchmarks is required in our 2013/14 Annual Report, and will cover the period 2009/10 to 2013/14. Note is made that the 2009/19 and the 2012/22 Long Term Plan's each incorporated a Financial Strategy, and it is the provisions in these strategies that ORC is to benchmark itself against.

The regulations allow that a local authority is not required to disclose the performance benchmarks for the preceding four years in this first annual report, if it is not reasonably practicable to gather the data. No such provisions apply to the 2014/15 Annual Report, and so data from 2010/11 onwards would still have to be disclosed.

LTP's are to disclose planned performance for benchmarks (a) and (b) for each year covered by the plan. Benchmarks (c) to (e) are to be disclosed for the year preceding the first year of the LTP, and for each year covered by the plan.

The disclosure statements are prescriptive, and include bar graphs with specified axis and colours to be used.

3. Benchmarks

The seven benchmarks that Council is required to measure itself against are discussed below:

3.1 Rates affordability benchmark

The rates affordability benchmark comes from the rate limits set in Council's Financial Strategy. The benchmarks measure the planned and actual income from rates compared to the Financial Strategy's quantified limits on rates, and that planned and actual increases in rates are within the quantified limits as set out in that strategy.

Council's 2009/10 to 2011/12 Financial Strategy indicated that general rates would increase no more than by 4.95% per annum. No benchmarks were set for targeted rates.

The 2012/13 to 2014/15 Financial Strategy caps general rate increases to 5% per annum. Targeted rate increases are capped at 10% per annum, with the exception of the introduction of any new targeted rates in a given year.

3.2 Debt affordability benchmark

Quantified limits on borrowing are set out in the Financial Strategy. The benchmark measures actual or planned borrowing against those quantified limits.

The 2009/10 to 2011/12 Financial Strategy only indicated that Council would borrow for big ticket items such as the Forsyth Barr Stadium.

The 2012/13 to 2014/15 Financial Strategy sets borrowing limits in terms of interest expense, in that interest can not exceed 20% of the total rates per annum.

3.3 Balanced budget benchmark

The balanced budget benchmark is met if revenue (excluding revaluations etc.) for the year exceeds operating expenses (excluding devaluations etc.) for the year. Actual or planned performance must be disclosed in both graph and percentage formats.

3.4 Essential services benchmark

This benchmark is met if capital expenditure on network services for year equals or is greater than the depreciation on that service. ORC will have to apply this benchmark to its flood protection and control works.

3.5 Debt servicing benchmark

This benchmark is met if borrowing costs for the year equal or are less than 10% of its revenue (excluding revaluations etc.) for that year. For a “high growth” local authority, the benchmark is set at 15% of its revenue.

3.6 Debt control benchmark

If actual net debt at the end of the year is less than or equal to the net debt planned for in the LTP, then this benchmark is met.

3.7 Operations control benchmark

If actual net cash flow from operations for the year is equal to or greater than planned net cash flow from operations, then this benchmark is met.

4. Recommendation

1. That this report be received.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A618577
Report No: 2014/0772
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 2/04/2014

Subject: Benchmarking Administration and Support Services

1. Précis

This Council is a participant in a regional council benchmarking exercise in relation to administration and support services.

A summary of the outcome of the survey following the second year of data collection and analysis is provided.

2. Background

This Council has been participating in a benchmarking project of eight regional councils focusing on seven administration and support services functions.

The purpose of the initiative (known as BASS) is for participating regional councils to provide and compare information on the cost, efficiency and effectiveness of administration and support services in the regional government sector. Similar benchmarking occurs in the state sector.

The 2012/13 results outlined are the second comparative year, and the project details have been fine-tuned over the time of the project.

Participating regional councils are Otago, Canterbury, Waikato, Greater Wellington, Bay of Plenty, Horizons, Hawke's Bay and Northland.

The information collected for the benchmarking related to the functions of Human Resources, Finance, Rates, Information Technology, Procurement, Property Management and Corporate and Executive Services.

3. Survey Results

The survey results need to be considered in the context of council size, and the levels of service adopted by individual councils, and that low cost does not necessarily indicate quality or best practice.

A summary of the survey outcomes for Otago is:

- Total Administration and Support Services (A&SS) costs as a percentage of overall running costs are 4% above the median. This needs to be seen in the context of Otago being the second smallest regional council in the comparison.
- Otago has the lowest A&SS head count.

- Human Resources (HR) costs per employee are the second lowest and 15% below the median, and the lowest HR staffing ratio per 100 employees.
- Overall finance function costs are 12% above the median, however unlike most other councils, Otago does collect its own rates. Net of rates collection Otago has the smallest finance team.
- The cost of rates collection is the lowest of all councils surveyed.
- Information Technology (ICT) costs are the third lowest per user, and 11% below the median.
- Property costs per square metre are the second lowest and 27% below the median.
- Corporate and Executive Services (CES) costs are 11% above the median, reflective of organisational size.
- Communications and external relations spend is 5% more than the median.
- Fleet management costs are 13% above the median of all councils as a percentage of overall running costs. Otago has the second highest number of vehicles per 100 employees, 7 more than the median.

4. Summary

The exercise has been useful in looking into the efficiencies of the Council's administration and support services. The survey identifies efficient and cost effective operations, and has identified some aspects to investigate for efficiency, and some for perhaps increasing the level of service provided.

It has also been a useful forum for the sharing of ideas and consideration of joint approaches to improvements.

The full survey analysis document and the Otago specific summary by the consultant are available on request.

5. Recommendation

That this report be received.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A619242

Report Number: 2014/0783

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate

Prepared By: Director Corporate Services

Date: 4 April 2014

Subject: **Executive Report - March 2014**

1. Draft Annual Plan

The 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan has been distributed and advertised, and is now in the public consultation phase. Submissions close on the 2nd of May, with the Hearings Subcommittee hearings and considerations scheduled for the week commencing 12 May.

2. Passenger Transport Contract Assignment

Invercargill Passenger Transport Limited has sold their business to Go Bus Transport Limited, with effect from 1 April 2014.

The Council has approved the assignment of the passenger transport contracts operated by Invercargill Passenger Transport to Go Bus Transport, as well as commercial services.

Passenger Transport Contract	Description
2008/3 (Part 1)	City Routes Weekday #3 – Part 1 Balaclava / Kenmure / Helensburgh
2008/3 (Part 2)	City Routes Weekday #3 – Part 2 Corstorphine St Clair Park
2009/1	City Routes Weekdays #1 Garden Village / Glenleith, Ocean Grove / Bay Cemetery, Maori Hill / Prospect Park / University, and Bradford / Belleknowes / City Rise / University
2009/2	Weekday Evenings, Sundays and Public Holidays (Residual)
2009/3	Harbourside Routes Peninsula Port Chalmers and Waverley
2009/5	Palmerston
2010/1	Southern Routes Mosgiel / Fairfield / Green Island / Brighton

3. Dunedin Network Patronage

Table 1 below represents the comparative patronage (passenger trips) trend for the Dunedin network between November – March 2013/14 and the same period 2012/13. The total patronage for the period 2013/14 was 1,080,510 trips compared with 1,078,633 trips for the same period in 2012/13.

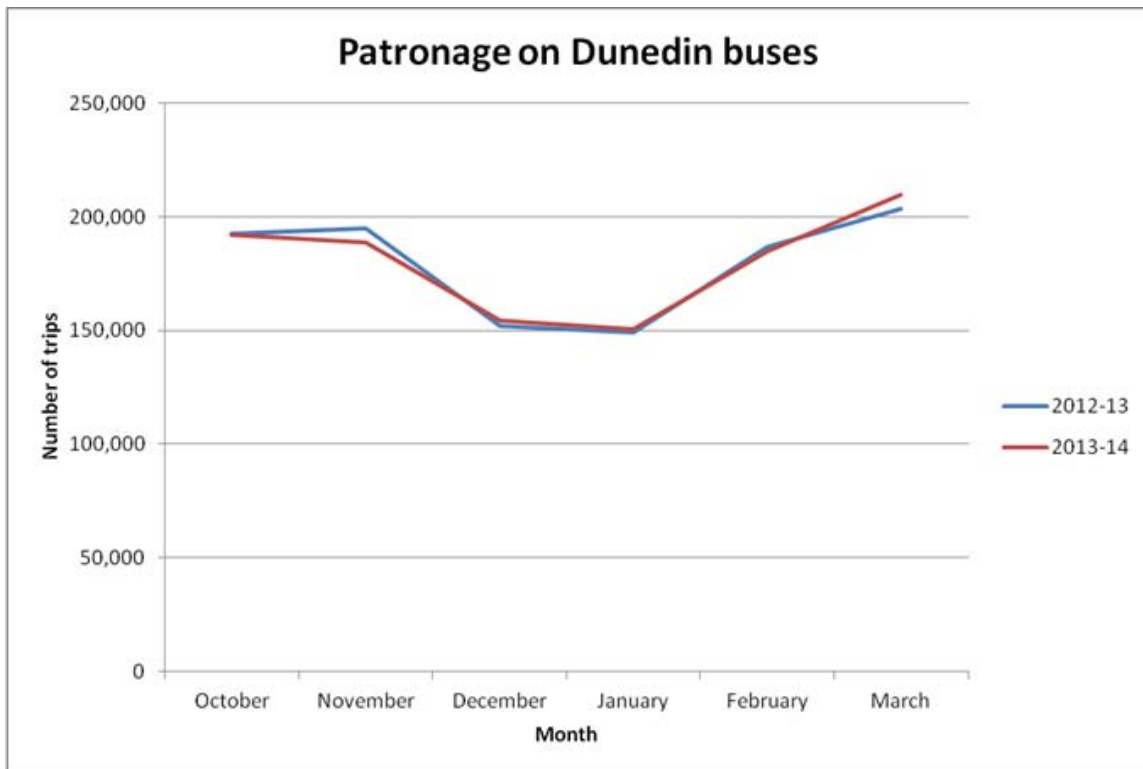


Table 1

Student Travel Concession Trial

Table 2 represents the weekly student patronage figures since the commencement of the trial on 17 February to the week ending 30 March. Over the first six weeks of the trial the weekly average sits at just under 6,000 trips per week. Due to changes in the network current and passenger trends, we are unable with any certainty to make a direct correlation of the impact the student concession has had on the network at this time.

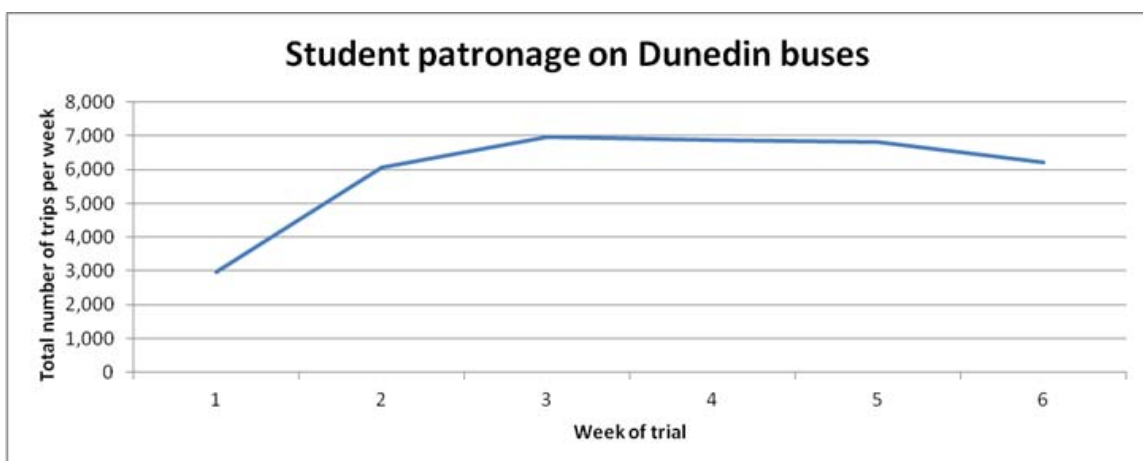


Table 2

4. Cromwell Depot

Construction of the Cromwell Depot is substantially complete and the contractor is now working through the minor defects list. Code compliance has been issued by CODC. The site is now in the process of being commissioned with staff scheduled to shift back into the depot and commence operating from the site on 14 April.

5. Account Payments

Schedules of payments made are referred to the Finance and Corporate Committee for endorsement. The financial commitments and payment authorisation are made in accordance with Council's financial delegations and internal control procedures.

Payment Categories	February 2014 \$	March 2014 \$	Total \$
Trade and general payments	2,381,161.79	2,595,626.49	4,976,788.28
Payroll	574,212.13	578,784.18	1,152,996.31
Investments	1,300,000.00	500,000.00	1,800,000.00
Total	4,255,373.92	3,674,410.67	7,929,784.59

6. Recommendation

- (1) That this report be received.
- (2) That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule, totalling \$7,929,784.59, be endorsed.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services