

Otago Regional Council meeting 7 May 2014

Attached is the agenda for the next meeting of the Otago Regional Council, which is to be held on Wednesday 7 May commencing at 11.00 am. The venue is the Council Chamber, Regional House, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 7 May 2014 commencing at 11.00 am

Membership:

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

Apologies:

Requests for Leave of Absence:

- Cr Bell – 17 May to 3 June 2014
- Cr Kempton - 17 to 31 May 2014
- Cr Neill – 3 June to 20 July 2014

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 5 May.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

Page Nos.

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 26 March 2014, having been circulated, for adoption.

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Matters arising from minutes

PART A - REPORTS FROM CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- Item 1 17 - 18
2014/0804 **Chairperson's Report.** Chair, 30/4/14

Providing an overview of the Chairperson's activities for the period to 30 April 2014.

- Item 2 19 - 20
2014/0810 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 1/5/14

Providing an overview of the Chief Executive's activities for the period to 1 May 2014.

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

- Item 3 21 - 24
2014/0793 **Request to vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015: Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes.** DPPRP, 16/4/14

The report explains that NZ Transport Agency has requested the addition of a new project, the Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes, to the Otago Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15. Following discussion of this matter by the Regional Transport Committee, the report recommends that Council vary the RLTP by making this addition.

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

- Item 4 25 - 31
2014/0809 **Financial Report.** DCS, 1/5/14

Providing information in respect of overall Council finances for the nine months to 31 March 2014.

- Item 5 32
2014/0813 **Documents signed under Council's Seal.** DCS, 2/5/14

Listing documents signed under the Council's Seal.

- Item 6 **Reports from Councillors** 33

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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 13	Minutes of the non public portion of the Council meeting held on 26 March 2014, for adoption	To protect the privacy of natural persons. (S7(2)(a)), and To enable the Council to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage. (S7(2)(h)), and To enable any local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations. (S7(2)(i))	S.48(1)(a)(i)
Item 14	Minutes of the non public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 16 April 2014, for adoption	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 Council held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 26 March 2014 commencing at 1.35 pm

Present:

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

Leave of Absence:

Cr Kempton - request for leave of absence from
 5 September to 5 October 2014.
 The request for leave of absence was approved on the
 motion of Crs Woodhead and Neill.

In attendance:

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

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Alex Merrilees – Taieri drainage and flood protection targeted rates.
 Mr Merrilees advised that he had owned his 35ha property in Dukes Road, Mosgiel, since 2008, and farmed sheep and beef. He was concerned about the ongoing increases in the drainage and targeted rates. Mr Merrilees noted the decision to spread the 72% rates rise for the proposed Leith Lindsay flood protection work over three years, but the Taieri 300% rates

rise took place over one year, which he considered was unfair. Mr Merrilees's property was beside Dukes Road drain, which was not full very often, and was serviced annually for weed spraying. The Upper Pond had water in it for quite long periods some times, and Mr Merrilees considered it should be rated appropriately, commenting that landowners "couldn't farm water". Those living higher up the drain lines benefited by having their land drained, but higher rates were paid by landowners further down the drain. Mr Merrilees also noted that the Silverstream, for which the ORC was responsible, leaked through the gravel banks, and put forward the view that ORC was supplying water that ratepayers paid to get rid of. Mr Merrilees queried the zero drainage rate in Mosgiel and queried where the town's stormwater went to. Mr Merrilees concluded by querying whether the ORC had considered the ethical and moral level of targeted rating in the Taieri area, and asked whether the ORC had the right to make small holdings not viable and almost unsellable.

MINUTES

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 12 February 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Bell.

Matters arising from minutes

Cr Eckhoff referred to Item 3 of the minutes (Notice of Motion "That the Otago Regional Council endorse (in principle) the exploration for oil and gas off the Otago Coast"). He accepted the solicitor's advice that it was unlawful for the Council to debate matters of commercial enterprise that it could be required to consider at some stage in the future, and asked if it was therefore unlawful for the Council to discuss anything of a commercial nature, for example irrigation. Mr Bodeker explained that each issue would be discussed on its own merits. Cr Eckhoff emphasised that he wanted clarity about what could or could not be discussed by Council.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - REPORTS FROM CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Item 1

2014/0737 **Chairperson's Report.** Chair, 20/3/14

The Chairperson provided an overview of his activities for the period to 20 March 2014.

Cr Woodhead further noted the following:

- He had signed the Wilding Tree Trust Deed on behalf of Council. ORC and Environment Southland were advisory members.

- The Triennial agreement had been signed.
- Both Te Roopu Taiao groups (Ōtākou and Murihiku) were reviewing their charters.
- He and the Chief Executive had been involved in meetings with the DCC and other parties about the AgResearch proposals.

Concern was expressed that a number of groups were campaigning to retain AgResearch presence at Invermay, but no clear decision seemed to have been made. Cr Woodhead advised that AgResearch had been asked to provide a timetable, but nothing had been received, and he noted that some Invermay staff had already left. He noted that farmers had expressed their concern about the loss of the genetics hub at Invermay. Meetings were held fortnightly with DCC and others, a meeting with local MPs had been arranged, and a petition was being circulated. Cr Woodhead commented that the full business case, which had only been received recently, did not show any clear case for the AgResearch proposal to drastically downsize staffing at Invermay.

In response to a question about advisory membership of the Wilding Trust, Cr Woodhead explained that ORC would provide advice. It was the responsibility of the Board to source funding for the Trust's work.

Item 2

2014/0731 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 18/3/14

The Chief Executive provided an overview of his activities for the period to 18 March 2014.

Mr Bodeker commented that a visit to earthquake affected areas in Christchurch had reinforced the need for ORC to continue with its natural hazards work.

Further to the Chair's comments, Mr Bodeker commented that there were ongoing discussions with AgResearch relating to the availability of scientists and environmental management practitioners, and a decision had yet to be made on the make-up of the remaining staff group at Invermay. ORC relied on the environmental systems expertise that had been available, and the removal of key staff was of concern.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Croot seconded

That the Chair's and Chief Executives' reports be noted.

Motion carried

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3

2014/0734 **Plan Change 6A (Water Quality)**. DPPRM, 19/3/14

The report explained that Proposed Plan Change 6A to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago could now be approved as all appeals had been resolved. Council's seal needed to be affixed and a date set for making the plan change operative. The Consent Order, a full copy of Plan Change 6A, and a schedule of minor and consequential changes were circulated with the agenda.

Cr Woodhead commented that this was the culmination of a very long process, and noted that the appeals had been resolved without the need to go to the Environment Court. Mr McRae commented that amendments made during the mediation process did not alter the basic principles of the Plan Change. He also noted that the effects based approach was new to New Zealand.

In response to a question about the discretionary consenting regime, Mr McRae explained that two types of consent were possible. If time was required to adjust farm management to comply with permitted activity rules, a restricted discretionary consent with a five year limit could be granted; there was only one opportunity for a non notified consent to be granted. Otherwise, application could be made for a full discretionary consent which could run for a term of 35 years. That did not however mean that landowners could be well outside the standards set out in the Plan Change. The Plan Change would be reviewed as necessary to include future changes to technology that allowed the standards to be met.

Councillors commended the work by the hearing panel and by staff to achieve the final approval of the Plan Change.

Cr Shepherd acknowledged the significance of this moment for ORC, and particularly referred to the consultation and mediation work which had obviated the need to go to the Environment Court. He expressed thanks to staff, legal counsel, and hearing panel members Duncan Butcher and Clive Geddes.

Cr Woodhead noted that Mr Geddes was unable to attend this meeting. Mr Geddes had written that he appreciated the professional approach of ORC staff, and working with the other panel members. He considered that the collaborative and consultative process followed meant that the ORC did not incur the financial or time costs incurred by other councils going through a plan change process. The plan change gave effect to the NPS Freshwater Management, and also gave effect to the desires of the Otago community. The effects based approach was unique to Otago, and gave landowners freedom to decide how to operate their properties, but they had responsibility to meet the standards in the plan change. The community

needed to make the most of the transition times so that they could deliver on the intent of this plan change.

Cr Robertson commented that prior to the start of the Plan Change process in 2009, data collected showed that there was good water quality in some places and poor water quality in others. Wide ranging community consultation and water forums determined what the community wanted, and there was agreement on how to manage that. Cr Robertson considered that this milestone was the starting point for something enduring.

Cr Brown was pleased that water quality was now dealt with in the Plan. He was surprised how well the community had adapted to the changes, and improvements would be seen as the Plan Change came into effect.

Cr Eckhoff acknowledged the initiative and thought process shown by former Chief Executive Graeme Martin in bringing this Plan Change forward, and he expected that Plan Change 6B, urban streams, would follow.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the Council:

- (i) *Approve minor changes made to Proposed Plan Change 6A under Clause 16(2) of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991, attached to this report as Appendix 2; and*
- (ii) *Approve Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago, attached to this report as Appendix 3; and*
- (iii) *Affix Council's seal to Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago; and*
- (iv) *Make Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago operative on Thursday, 1 May 2014 and publicly notify that date on Saturday, 19 April 2014.*

Motion carried

Cr Woodhead congratulated staff and the hearings panel on the very satisfactory culmination of a long process.

Item 4

2014/0735 **Audit and Risk Subcommittee.** CE, 20/3/14

The report sought Council approval for the establishment of an Audit and Risk Subcommittee, and presented the Terms of Reference for adoption. The Subcommittee would report to the Finance and Corporate Committee. Mr Bodeker commented that the Subcommittee had responsibility beyond financial matters. It was noted that the Terms of Reference could be

amended if necessary, and would be reviewed at the beginning of each triennium.

Councillors supported the establishment of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee, and the appointment of an independent chair. Comment was also made that the Subcommittee was important in ensuring protection for the Council.

The inclusion of Health and Safety responsibilities in the Terms of Reference was noted. Comment was made that the ORC dealt with a work environment which included use of poisons, firearms, helicopters, boats, and cars, and it was recommended that a separate Health and Safety committee be established.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Croot seconded

1. *That the Audit and Risk Subcommittee of Finance and Corporate Committee be established.*
2. *That the Terms of Reference as appended be adopted for the subcommittee.*

Motion carried

Cr Brown left the meeting at 2.54 pm

Item 5

2014/0733 **Delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991.**
DPPRM, 19/3/14

The report recommended altering delegations relating to consent processing provisions under the Resource Management Act.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Neill seconded

That Council approve the amendment of delegations under the Resource Management Act to include the Principal Consent Officer into the pool under Sections 37(1), 37(2), 42A, 42A(5), 43A, 92(2), 95, 95A-C, 95F, 99 [deciding who to attend prehearing], 99A, 100, 102, 103, 104, 104A-D, 104F, 105, 107, 108, 108A, 109, 110, 124, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 136(1), 136(2)(a), 136(2)(b), 136(4), 137(3)-(7), 138, 357, 357A, 357B, and 417.

Motion carried

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6

2014/0736 **Otago Marine Protection Planning Forum.** DPPRM, 20/3/14

The report noted that Council had nominated the Director Policy Planning and Resource Management for membership of the Otago Marine Planning Forum. Advice had been received from the Department of Conservation that this nomination was unsuccessful, but it was suggested that Council participate in the Officials Group. The Chief Executive was to consider an appropriate staff appointment to the Group.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be noted.***Motion carried**

Item 7

2014/0707 **Financial Report.** DCS, 20/3/14

The report provided information in respect of overall Council finances for the eight months to 28 February 2014.

Cr Shepherd moved

Cr Kempton seconded

*That the report be received.***Motion carried**

Item 8

2014/0738 **Documents signed under Council's Seal.** DCS, 20/3/14

The report listed documents signed under the Council's Seal.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Kelliher seconded

*That the report be noted.***Motion carried**

Item 9 **Reports from Councillors**

- (a) *Cr Kempton – Regional Transport Committee*
 Cr Kempton reported on the inaugural meeting of the Committee held on 13 February, the LGNZ Transport summit in Wellington on 13 March, and the workshop on ONRC and road safety on 17 March.
- (b) *Cr Deaker – Tertiary Precinct Planning Group*
 Cr Deaker reported on a meeting of the TPPG held on 17 March. He advised that, in light of the apparent good uptake of bus concessions by students, the University had surveyed students on their mode of travel to campus, and noted that the University wanted an update on the number of students using public transport. Cr Deaker had provided an update on the St David Street to Union Street flood protection works, and the University had expressed satisfaction with the progress of the works.
- (c) *Cr Croot - Otago Anniversary Day Dinner*
 Cr Croot had represented the Council Chairperson at the Anniversary Day dinner and had proposed the toast to new settlers. She commented on DCC Cr Neville Peat's encouragement to the the gathering to fly the Regional flag which had been selected from 200 entries in a competition held in 2004.
- (d) *Cr Eckhoff - Cromwell Terrace and Earnscliffe Terrace aquifers*
 Cr Eckhoff had attended community meetings in Alexandra held to discuss water quantity in the Cromwell Terrace and Earnscliffe Terrace aquifers. The meetings were reasonably well attended and there was a good exchange of views. There was wide acceptance of the need to manage the aquifers. Cr Eckhoff commended the good presentations given by staff.

PART D - MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- Item 10 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting** held on 13 March 2014, for adoption

Cr Deaker moved
 Cr Croot seconded

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 11 **Recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting** held on 13 March 2014, for adoption

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 12 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting** held on 13 March 2014, for adoption

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 13 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting** held on 13 March 2014, for adoption

Cr Neill moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 14 **Recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting** held on 13 March 2014, for adoption

Cr Scott moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014 be adopted.

Motion carried

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Bell 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 15</i>	<i>Minutes of the non public portion of the Council meeting held on 12 February 2014, for adoption</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons. (S7(2)(a)), and To enable the Council to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage. (S7(2)(h))</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Item 16</i>	<i>Minutes of the non public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014, for adoption</i>	<i>To enable any local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations. (S7(2)(i))</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Item 17</i>	<i>Contractual Issues</i>	<i>To enable the Council to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage. (S7(2)(h))</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 Items 15, 16 and 17,

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the meeting resume in open session.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 3.23 pm.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A625892

Report Number: 2014/0804
Prepared For: Council
Prepared By: Chairperson
Date: 30 April 2014

Subject: **Chair's Report - May 2014**

1. Zones 5&6 and South Island Strategic Alliance

These meetings were held in Invercargill 27/28 March. Updates were received from LGNZ including concern from the Rural and Provincial sectors who want the Government to reinstate the previous requirement that each affected community must signal agreement through a poll before a reorganisation proposal can proceed. National Council is meeting with the Local Government Commission to express members' concerns.

Discussion on the need for a central litigation fund to assist councils, particularly small councils, who find themselves dealing with legal challenges on issues such as fluoridation, as South Taranaki DC did. These issues often have national precedence.

The proposed three year communications programme aimed at lifting the profile and professionalism of local government was discussed. Members agreed that we need to lift external audience perception of the value of local government and a collective programme building a stronger image would be of value to individual councils and the wider sector. The question is, will councils be prepared to reallocate some of their existing communications budget or contribute to a levy to fund the programme.

Dr Grant Batterham, Shell NZ, reported on the Great South Basin (GSB) 2D seismic survey they successfully concluded in March. Significant delays occurred due to rough weather and marine mammal sightings. He also updated plans for the well to be drilled 150km off Dunedin during early 2015.

Lou Sanson, Director General DOC, spoke of the many partnerships the department is working on with community groups around the country.

Jim Harland, NZTA, updated the meeting on the one network road classification which is going to categorise the network based on function, define customer level of service for each category, and determine the gap between current and fit for purpose levels of service. He also referred to the midterm NLTP review, which showed spending was behind projections in some work streams.

PTOM implementation was covered, with ORC identified as early implementers.

Southland District Council raised the issue of the driving habits of overseas visitors following three deaths since Christmas in the southern South Island. A group including NZTA is following this up.

2. Ballance Environment Awards

Crs Bell and Scott and I attended the awards ceremony in Wanaka. Brendan and Suzie Bearman from Milton were presented the ORC award for this year.

3. NZ Petroleum and Minerals

Mayor Cull, Dr Bidrose and I met to assist NZPAM prepare for a community information meeting, the purpose of which is to explain and answer questions on all aspects of the government's regulatory regime.

4. Other meetings attended

- Clutha and Taieri flood and drainage information meetings.
- Port Otago meeting with directors, presentation and view of port operations.
- Waipori pump station upgrade opening.
- NZ Planning Institute conference panel presentation (Milton 2060).
- Lindis minimum flow meeting.
- ANZAC Day Service, laid a wreath on behalf of Council.

Stephen Woodhead
Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A626346

Report Number: 2014/0810
Prepared For: Council
Prepared By: Chief Executive
Date: 1 May 2014

Subject: **Chief Executive's Report - May 2014**

1. Health and Safety

The senior management team has been addressing the matter of health and safety for staff working in the field on their own. While ORC operates a buddy system where staff indicate their intended work for the day, circumstances arise where staff alter their intended work and end up in locations that have not been identified.

Historically a limited number of emergency personal locator beacons were available but these will now be made available and required to be carried by all ORC staff working alone in the field.

Additionally, management has addressed the secure carriage of equipment required for work activities. Water sample boxes, temporary screens, and printed material all pose a safety risk if not securely stowed in a vehicle. Field staff operating from trucks will be required to either secure loose items in the cab, or stow them in the canopy area of the deck. For office-based staff a station wagon will be converted to allow a protective wire screen to be installed between the driver and front seat passenger and the freight area.

2. Code of Conduct

The HR Manager has completed a Code of Conduct which has been distributed to all staff. As its name suggests, this document outlines the conduct expected of staff while working for the Council.

3. River Management

Various community groups and individual farmers have requested ORC actively manage rivers to prevent damage to properties and to allow gravel extraction.

While options for individuals to manage rivers are catered for in the RMA, timing and cost implications often preclude this.

As a result of a public meeting held in North Otago in late 2013, a project has been initiated which will use the Kakanui as a pilot for how ORC may use a global consenting process to allow individuals to manage aspects of a river.

The proposed approach is similar to how ORC initiates a minimum flow by engaging with communities, identifying their expectations and values, and ascertaining an agreed or common goal for river management.

Due to the resignation of the North Otago Community Liaison staff member, we will use an external consultant to facilitate the initial part of this work.

4. Irrigation Development Grants

At the Lindis River minimum flow public meeting, a question on the availability of funding for irrigation development was raised.

Investigation subsequent to that meeting as to how ORC may address funding for irrigation development, particularly as a result of the Local Government Act changes, will require Council to reconsider its approach.

Management will prepare a paper for consideration by Council at a future meeting.

5. Director of Stakeholder Engagement

I have pleasure in announcing that Jane Leahy has been appointed as the inaugural Director of Stakeholder Engagement.

Ms Leahy has had extensive experience in communications and staff management in the primary sector in both Australia and New Zealand. She commences her role on 23 June.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A623332

Report Number: 2014/0793
Prepared For: Council
Prepared By: Transport Policy Analyst
Date: 16 April 2014

Subject: **Request to vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015:
Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes**

1. Précis

NZ Transport Agency's Highway and Network Operations has requested a new project be added to the Otago Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015 (the RLTP). This relates to the Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes. The Regional Transport Committee (RTC) has considered this request, and recommends the project be added to the RLTP. This report recommends that Council vary the RLTP by making this addition.

2. The cycleway project

The project is to replace existing un-protected cycle lanes with cycle lanes which are separated from the traffic flow. The location is along State Highway 1, Dunedin, between Pine Hill and the Oval. The attachment contains the entry that NZTA's Highway and Network Operations has requested be added to the RLTP, and explains the project's objectives and the outcomes anticipated.

3. RLTP variation process

Transport activities must be included in the RLTP to qualify for national funding from the National Land Transport Fund. To include a new activity such as the Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes in the RLTP, a variation to the RLTP is required.

The process for varying an RLTP is as follows:

- The RTC considers the variation request.
- Consultation is undertaken if the variation is significant.
- Council decides whether to approve the variation, and forwards it to NZTA to consider whether to include in the National Land Transport Programme.
- The variation is placed on the Council website.

4. RTC recommendation

The RTC considered the project, and decided that there were good reasons for adding the project to the RLTP:

- To improve road safety for cyclists;
- To facilitate the adoption of cycling in the inner city
- To integrate the one-way system cycle lanes with the wider city cycling network.

The RTC considered the variation was not significant (under the significance policy in the RLTP). Although the variation will likely affect a large number of residents, it is not considered significant as:

- NZTA and Dunedin City Council already have undertaken public consultation on the project, receiving around 5000 submissions.
- It is a new cycling activity, budgeted to cost less than \$3M in any one year.

5. Recommendations

That the Council approves as a variation to the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015, the addition of the Dunedin One-Way System Cycle Lanes activity, set out in the attachment.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

ATTACHMENT

Details of the proposed variation for inclusion in Table 17 (Walking and Cycling Facilities) of the Otago Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15

Organisation	Project name	Description	Phase scope	Objective	Investment Outcomes
NZTA - Highways	Dunedin One-Way System Cycle Lanes	In Dunedin, to establish separated cycle lanes on the State Highway 1, one-way routes, through the central city.	Indicative Business Case, Detailed Design and Construction	<p>The Indicative Business Case objective is to develop a business case to test the assumptions in the development of this activity to date, and to identify a preferred – to build option, should this be supported through the business case.</p> <p>The over-arching objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve road safety for cyclists; • to provide a safe route choice for cyclists, • to facilitate the adoption of cycling as a safe and practical choice for inner city transport; • and to integrate with the wider city cycling network. <p>The latter detailed design and construction stages, are then to implement the preferred option as determined through the Indicative Business Case</p>	<p>Improved road safety, in particular in regard to cyclists and pedestrians. This can be measured directly through before and after crash monitoring over time; a baseline is established.</p> <p>Increase in transport capacity of one-way system through a more attractive cycle lane option. This can be measured directly on an annual basis through before and after cycle count data; a baseline is established.</p> <p>Intangible, but which is commonly recognised with active transport modes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community health • Reduced fossil fuel usage and corresponding emissions • Improved people choice for transport • Reduced cost for people of transport • Reduced cost to Dunedin economy for transport (less expenditure on outsourcing of petrol, which is sourced remotely from the Dunedin economy)

FAR (%)			Cost (\$)			Total cost for 3 years (\$)	Cost to NZTA for 3 years (\$)	Organisation funding (\$)	Expected duration (months)	Indicative cost to complete full package (\$)
2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15					
-	-	100%	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	NZTA	12	\$3,500,000 - \$4,500,000 (less actual spend in 2012/13 – 2014-15 RLTP, to be promoted for next RLTP)

REPORT

Document Id: A626338

Report Number: 2014/0809
 Prepared For: Council
 Prepared By: Finance Manager
 Date: 01 May 2014

Subject: **Financial Report to 31 March 2014**

The following information is provided in respect of the overall Council finances for the nine months to 31 March 2014.

1. Activity Expenditure

Expenditure for the Council's activities, including capital expenditure and internal charges, is summarised as follows:

		Annual Budget \$000's	YTD Budget \$000's	YTD Actual \$000's	Variance (unfav) \$000's
Air Quality	Note 1	1,452	1,091	694	397
Bio-Security		2,082	1,574	1,468	106
Coast		339	254	170	84
Dam Safety		368	276	307	(31)
Emergency management		378	285	211	74
Environmental Incident response	Note 2	631	475	575	(100)
Flood protection & control works	Note 3	8,613	6,844	4,968	1,876
Governance & Community		3,995	3,005	2,987	18
Regional Policy Statement	Note 4	498	366	473	(107)
Rivers & Waterway Management		1,088	817	691	126
Natural hazards	Note 5	1,395	1,049	672	377
Transport		8,606	6,535	6,370	165
Water	Note 6	8,913	5,981	5,340	641
		38,358	28,552	24,926	3,626

Significant variances are commented upon in the notes below.

Note 1 Air Quality

The prime reason for this variance is lower than budgeted expenditure in the Clean Air Initiative project, reflecting a lower level of activity undertaken in the project than was provided for in the budget.

Note 2 Environmental Incident Response

The primary reason for this variance is remedial work amounting to \$74,000 in respect of an Oamaru Foreshore contaminated site. It is noted that recoveries of \$71,000 have been received in respect of these costs.

Note 3 Flood protection and control works

The prime reason for this variance is lower than budgeted expenditure in the Leith Flood Protection project. This largely reflects a timing difference in that the level of activity undertaken in the project to date, amounting to \$3,214,000, is \$1,455,000 less than was provided for in the budget. Additionally, expenditure in the Lower Clutha Flood Protection project of \$663,000 is \$406,000 less than budgeted largely due to the timing of capital expenditure related to pump station assets.

Note 4 Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement is showing an unfavourable variance of \$107,000. However work budgeted within the Regional Plan – Hazards project has been incorporated within the Regional Policy Statement project. The combined project variance is minimal at 4.0%.

Note 4 Natural Hazards

The Regional Plan – Hazards project has a year-to-date budget of \$126,000, however no costs have been incurred under this project as the work envisaged to be performed under this plan now forms part of the Regional Policy Statement.

The remaining portion of the favourable variance in this activity is largely a result of the diversion of resources from that budgeted, to projects outside the Natural Hazards activity.

Note 5 Water

This activity comprises 11 projects with a net favourable variance of \$993,000 or 28.8% of budget, and 5 projects with a net unfavourable variance of \$352,000, or 13.9% of budget. Comment is provided below on the most significant variances.

The most significant *favourable* variance is the Consent Processing – Water Project, with a variance of \$244,000 compared to the budget of \$823,000. The major component of the project cost and variance is staff time, reflecting a lower level of consent activity demanded from that provided for in the budget.

Other significant favourable variances are the Compliance Monitoring-Water project (\$140,000), the Incidents-Water project (\$106,000) and the Community Water Quantity project (\$106,000).

The most significant *unfavourable* variance is the Regional Plan – Water project with an unfavourable variance of \$209,000 compared to the budget of \$725,000. The variance primarily reflects additional minimum flow and groundwater work, 6A appeals and legal fees.

2. Income Statement and Balance Sheet

An Income Statement for the nine months to 31 March 2014 and a Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014 are attached.

3. Recommendation

That this report be received.

R W Scott

Director Corporate Services

Otago Regional Council

 Income Statement
 For the Nine Months to 31 March 2014

	Annual Budget \$000's	YTD Budget \$000's	YTD Actual \$000's	Variance (unfav) \$000's
Income:				
Rate income	15,632	11,724	11,737	13
Grant and subsidy income Note 1	4,284	3,318	3,685	367
Interest received Note 2	1,918	1,438	1,799	361
Other income Note 3	4,914	3,686	3,279	(407)
Dividend income Note 4	7,200	5,400	5,400	0
Rental income	903	677	761	84
Gain in value of investment Property Note 5	241	-	-	-
Other gains Note 6	-	-	410	410
Total Income	35,092	26,243	27,071	828
Less Expenditure:				
Operating expenses	29,205	21,328	20,890	438
Finance costs	555	416	370	46
Depreciation expense	1,341	1,006	930	76
Total Expenditure	31,101	22,750	22,190	560
Surplus	3,991	3,493	4,881	1,388

Note 1 – Grant and Subsidy Income

The prime cause of this favourable variance is a variance of \$292,000 within the Dunedin passenger transport project. The actual level of subsidy received in respect of bus contracts is greater than that budgeted, as the budget was set at a lower than normal level reflecting the uncertainty of subsidy revenue at that time. The impact of the increased revenue will be a lower drawing on transport reserves than budgeted.

Note 2 – Interest Received

The favourable variance is mainly due to a higher level of investments held in interest bearing financial instruments than anticipated in the budget.

Note 3 – Other Income

This variance comprises a net *unfavourable* variance of \$925,000 in respect of operational activity projects, offset by a net *favourable* variance of \$519,000 in non-operational cost centres.

The majority of the unfavourable variances are due to a lower level of activity in the projects compared to budgets, with a consequential reduction in revenue.

The major non-operational favourable variances include additional rate penalty income over the nominal budgeted amount and an unbudgeted surplus on asset disposals.

Note 4 – Dividend Income

Dividend Income comprises an accrual of nine months of the current year annual dividend expected from Port Otago Limited. It is noted that \$1.9 million of the expected income was received in September 2013 by way of a final dividend for the June 2013 year, and the first interim dividend for the current year of \$2.5 million was received in February 2014.

Note 5 – Gain in the value of Investment Property

Investment Property is revalued annually at 30 June. Accordingly the year to date budget and actual gain are reported as nil amounts to 31 March 2014.

Note 6 – Other Gains

The year to date gains recorded to 31 March 2014 are an increase in the value of the BNZ managed Investment Portfolio of \$299,000 and a gain of \$111,000 in respect of the Mark to Market valuation of the interest rate swap associated with the BNZ loan.

Otago Regional Council

 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 March 2014

		31 March 2014 \$000's	30 June 2013 \$000's
Public Equity			
Public equity		138,476	143,186
Available-for-sale revaluation reserve	Note 1	341,264	341,264
Asset revaluation reserve		7,485	7,485
Asset replacement reserve		4,800	4,633
Building reserve	Note 2	5,152	-
Emergency response reserve		3,529	3,425
Irrigation grants reserve		404	206
Kuriwao endowment reserve		5,970	5,500
		507,080	505,699
Current Liabilities			
BNZ Loan	Note 3	10,000	10,000
Accounts payable and accruals		4,619	6,624
Other financial instruments		27	138
Revenue in advance	Note 4	3,978	-
		18,624	16,762
Total Equity and Liabilities		525,704	522,461
Non-Current Assets			
Operating assets		79,356	80,196
Intangible assets		1,784	1,893
Investment Property		9,546	9,546
Deferred tax asset		73	98
Shares in Port Otago Ltd	Note 1	361,264	361,264
		452,023	452,997
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	Note 5	1,334	1,893
Other financial assets	Note 5	66,983	62,869
Receivables		3,919	4,137
Other current assets		60	180
Inventories – stock and property held for sale		385	385
Dividends Receivable		1,000	-
		73,681	69,464
Total Assets		525,704	522,461

Note 1 – Available-for-Sale Revaluation Reserve and Shares in Port Otago Ltd

The Shares in Port Otago Ltd are included at the June 2013 valuation, and the available-for-sale revaluation reserve reflects the revaluation amount of the shares.

Note 2 – Building Reserve

In accordance with the Annual Plan 2013/2014, this interest bearing reserve was created on 1 July 2013 by the transfer of \$5.0 million from public equity. The purpose of the reserve is to set aside funding for a new head office for the Council.

Note 3 – Bank Loan

The term loan reflects external borrowing of \$10 million drawn from the Bank of New Zealand to fund part of the Council's contribution to the Forsyth Barr Stadium.

The term loan facility termination date is 30 June 2014.

Note 4 – Revenue in Advance

Revenue in advance includes the portion of rating income invoiced in September 2013 that will be reflected as revenue over the remaining three months of the financial year.

Note 5 – Cash and Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Assets

Funds surplus to the Council's immediate and short term requirements are managed on Council's behalf by the BNZ. An Investment Portfolio and term deposits with durations of 4-12 months are included in the classification Other Financial Assets. Current bank balances and term deposits with durations of less than 4 months are included in Cash and Cash Equivalents.

REPORT

Document Id: A626472

Report Number: 2014/0813
Prepared For: Council
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 2 May 2014

Subject: **Documents signed under Council's Seal**

1. Précis

To inform the Committee of delegations which have been exercised.

2. Documents signed under the Council's Seal

- Deed of assignment passenger transport service contracts from Invercargill Passenger Transport Ltd to Go Bus Transport Ltd.
- Certificate under S417 of the Resource Management Act 1991 – D C Crutchley, Shortland Station, for Water Rate No. 8106, Cromwell Registry.

3. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

R W Scott
Director Corporate Services

Report back from Councillors

Otago Regional Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Transport Committee held in the Gore District Council Chamber, Civic Avenue, Gore on Thursday 3 April 2014 following the combined Otago/Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting

Present	Cr Trevor Kempton	Otago Regional Council (<i>Chair</i>)
	Cr Graeme Bell	Otago Regional Council
	Cr Hamish Anderson	Clutha District Council
	Cr Barrie Wills	Central Otago District Council
	Cr Kate Wilson	Dunedin City Council
	Cr Lyal Cocks	Queenstown Lakes District Council
	Mr J Harland	NZ Transport Agency
	Apology	Cr B Kingan
In attendance	Mr T Sizemore	NZ Transport Agency
	Mr I McCabe	NZ Transport Agency
	Mr I Duncan	NZ Transport Agency
	Mr B Richards	NZ Transport Agency
	Dr J Turnbull	Otago Regional Council
	Mr M Harrison	Dunedin City Council
	Mr E Barnes	Queenstown Lakes District Council
	Mr C Bopp	Clutha District Council
	Ms A McAlevey	Otago Regional Council
	Ms E Flinn	Otago Regional Council
Mrs D O'Donnell	Environment Southland (Minutes Secretary)	

Minutes of previous meeting

Mr Harland noted that a correction was required on page 7 – the reference to Environment Southland should be a reference to Southland District Council.

Moved Cr Wilson, seconded Cr Bell

That with the above correction, the minutes of the Otago Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 13 February 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Motion carried

Item 1

2014/0744 **Request to Vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15: Dunedin One-way System Cycleways.** 28/3/14, DPPRP

The report requested that the committee consider a variation to the Regional Land Transport Programme, that being the preparation of a business case for the Dunedin one-way system cycle lanes.

Ian Duncan was invited to address the committee and explained the background to the issue and how it had arisen.

Cr Cocks queried where the funding for the project would come from. Mr Richards advised that funds were available to be utilised throughout the country, as these projects were underspent in other areas of the country. Simon Underwood had advised that only the design could be done by June 2015, but it would be preferable to have the construction phase, up to \$3M, included before July 2015.

It was suggested that the 'phase scope' column on page 23 be amended to include 'design and construction' as well.

Mr Duncan advised that \$125,000 was for the indicative business case, the design would cost \$175,000. Mr Duncan suggested that the total of these two figures (\$300,000) be put into the cost column for 2014-15, with the indicative cost being left as it is. There was some discussion, which clarified that NZTA wanted the option of funding the construction in 2014/15, if required, which could be up to \$3m. This would provide the flexibility to bring more funds in this year.

Cr Wilson questioned whether consultation would be required, if the amendment was approved. However, it was noted that the overall cost would remain the same, so further consultation was not required.

Moved Cr Wilson, seconded Cr Anderson

That the Regional Transport Committee accepts that the requested variation is not significant in terms of its RLTP significance policy.

Motion carried

Moved Cr Wilson, seconded Cr Wills

That the Regional Transport Committee

- (1) *agree to vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 by adding to Table 17 the proposed activities, as set out in Attachment 1, with the following amendments:*
 - (a) *in the phase scope column, adding “, and design and construction”, and*
 - (b) *replacing the cost \$25,000 throughout the table with a figure to be confirmed by NZTA of up to \$3m; and*
- (2) *recommend this variation to the Regional Council for its consideration.*

Motion carried

Item 2 **Submission on NZ Transport Agency's Funding Assistance Rates (FAR) Review**

Moved Cr Bell, seconded Cr Wilson

That the Regional Transport Committee receive the submission on NZ Transport Agency's Funding Assistance Rates (FAR) Review.

Motion carried

Moved Cr Wilson, seconded Cr Wills

That the Regional Transport Committee

- (1) *agree to vary the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 by adding to Table 17 the proposed activities, as set out in Attachment 1, with the following amendments:*
 - (a) *in the phase scope column, adding “, and design and construction”, and*
 - (b) *replacing the cost \$25,000 throughout the table with a figure to be confirmed by NZTA of up to \$3m; and*
 - (c) *in the indicative cost to complete full package column, replacing the cost “\$3,500,000 - \$4,500,000”, with “up to \$4,500,000”; and*
- (2) *recommend this variation to the Regional Council for its consideration.*

Motion carried

Item 3 **Input into the development of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport**

Moved Cr Wilson, seconded Mr Harland

That the Regional Transport Committee receive the letter on input into the development of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (the GPS).

Motion carried

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.55 pm.

Chairman

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April commencing at 10.23 am.

- Present:**
- 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 Stephen Woodhead
- Apologies:**
- Cr David Shepherd
- The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Croot.
- In attendance:**
- Peter Bodeker
 - Wayne Scott
 - Jeff Donaldson
 - Fraser McRae
 - Gavin Palmer
 - Martin King
 - Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Robertson.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

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

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

The high *e. coli* results in the Taieri River at Waipiata had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Upper Taieri Water Users Group. Cr Robertson, who chaired the meeting, advised that it appeared that while no one group was to blame for the result, there were potential hotspots and all landowners would have to look at their current farming practices to understand how they could meet 6A requirements, and to identify hotspots. The meeting had noted the need to start monitoring now. A comment was made about the apparent lack of tools to identify hotspots. Mr King advised that a flyover of the area had identified possible hotspots, which would be further investigated by property owners and irrigation companies.

Cr Neill moved
Cr Bell seconded

.
That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 2

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

The report provided an update on Council communications and media activity carried out during the period 25 February to 31 March. Councillors commended the range and amount of work carried out.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 3

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

The report provided an update on Customer Services Activity for March.

Councillors were pleased to note the introduction of the “day in the field” for Customer Services staff which would help them gain a better understanding of Council activity out in the field. Favourable comment was also made of training provided to Customer Services staff in various aspects of Council work to enable a better service to be provided to customers.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Cr Deaker noted that until the new director was appointed, the Chief Executive held responsibility for the Liaison and Education, Communications, and Customer Services units. Mr Bodeker advised that a contract had been offered to a preferred applicant, and confirmation of that was awaited. Cr Robertson thanked Mr Bodeker for his work with the directorate in the interim.

The meeting closed at 10.37 am.

Chairperson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee
held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 11.00 am**

Present:

Cr Gary Kelliher (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
The apology was accepted.

In attendance:

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

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lynley Hood and Peter Dowden, BusGo

Ms Hood commented that she would have had to catch a bus at Corstorphine at 8.45 am to be at the Council by 11.00 am, but also commented favourably on recent improvements to bus services. She pointed out the unknown of whether bus users would be better served if the DCC had responsibility for the Dunedin public transport system. Ms Hood commented that there were a lot of challenges to using buses which could not be fixed by timetable improvements. She noted Dunedin's vision to become one of the best small cities, and the region to be one of the best regions, and considered these visions could not be achieved without an integrated transport plan that included buses, pedestrians, cyclists, motorists,

traffic lights, footpaths, etc. The Transport Plan had to include all road users. Bus users felt marginalised when integrated transport planning decisions were made. Ms Hood cited as an example the current debate over parking spaces vs cycleways, and pointed out that the bus service was missing from that equation. A major concern was road safety, with Dunedin having the worst crash statistics nationally. Ms Hood also noted that the DCC road safety action plan referred to older drivers doing more walking and cycling, but did not refer to buses. Ms Hood commented on factors in catching a bus, including the need for safe footpaths, safe surfaces at bus stops for dis/embarking, shelter, and safe road crossings – these were all DCC issues. For these reasons she could see a lot of advantage in the DCC taking over responsibility for public transport services. Mr Dowden commented that he would want the public to think the DCC was taking over public transport because it was a better fit with their other responsibilities, not because ORC was not doing a good job.

MINUTES

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 13 March 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 – PRESENTATION

Item 1 Port Otago Ltd

Port Otago Ltd Chair David Faulkner and CE Geoff Plunket attended to present the Group's six monthly report to December 2013.

Mr Faulkner summarised the highlights of the six months:

- Tax paid profit \$5.7m, up 14%
- Operating profit \$8.4m, up 13%
- Assets increased to \$470m, equity ratio of 69%
- Interim dividend of \$2.5m paid
- Container volume 80,400 teus, a decrease of 4%
- Conventional cargo up 6% to 673,000 tonnes
- Log exports up 15% to 397,000 tonnes
- Vessel arrivals up by 4 to 233, including 77 cruise ships
- The log storage area paved
- Health and Safety – 20 months without a lost time injury (LTI), then three LTIs fairly close together. Staff were working on this.
- Medical treated incidents (MTIs) reduced from 26 in 2011 to 16 in 2013.
- 290 permanent staff

- \$4.3m capital expenditure – new tug, two straddle carriers (diesel/electric, fuel efficient and quieter); new tug due July 2014
- Evaluating options and timing of channel deepening – the later advent of larger ships (now five years away) meant lesser deepening could be done over a longer period than originally planned.
- Chalmers Properties – purchase of Bunnings in Glenfield, Auckland; 96% occupancy rate in Auckland and Dunedin properties; design/build industrial development in Sturdee Street, Dunedin; development of first stage of Hamilton industrial land.
- Lyttelton Port Company (LPC) – \$47m holding, dividend over three years = \$0.02/share. Consultants appointed to assist with review of shareholding.
- Slower start to export season because of weather; lower cruise ship numbers; log exports continuing.
- Outlook – lower container volumes for full year. Group result will be similar to previous year.

The strategic operating purpose for the purchase of the LPC shares was noted, and Mr Falkner pointed out that at the time of the purchase there was the possible Hutchinson deal to take over 50% of the shares; the government was talking about port amalgamations; and there were discussions with LPC on operational co-operation, but none of these possibilities had eventuated. The shareholding was now viewed as an investment, with little of its previous strategic purpose. Mr Faulkner further explained that the Darfield developments would probably go through Christchurch, and the Port of Tauranga strategy was not clear. Significant volume to Port Otago from South Canterbury was noted, and Mr Faulkner advised that one of POL's objectives was to increase the share of South Canterbury cargoes.

The establishment of a separate Health and Safety subcommittee was noted, and Mr Faulkner pointed out that the responsibilities of boards of directors in this regard had increased. All six POL Board members were on the subcommittee, with director Paul Rea as chair. The focus was zero harm for staff, and Mr Faulkner noted that health and safety had been high on POL's agenda for a long time.

Mr Faulkner explained that POL Board members were also directors of Chalmers Properties. He explained in response to a question that requests received about freeholding property were considered carefully and valuations were obtained. Frequently, after the valuation was advised, the request was not followed up.

PART B - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 2

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

The report noted ongoing discussions over a number of years about the most appropriate governance model for the Dunedin public transport function, and summarised relevant legislation and existing public transport roles. It

was recommended that Council consider if it wished to retain the public transport function, or believed the function had a more appropriate fit with the Dunedin City Council.

There was general consensus that as the result of a range of improvements by ORC, the Dunedin public transport system was operating well, and that the operation of the transport system sat more appropriately with the DCC. It was noted that DCC and ORC would need to work collaboratively in any transfer of public transport responsibilities, including upcoming developments such as integrated ticketing.

Cr Woodhead proposed the following resolutions:

1. That this Council believes the governance of public transport fits more appropriately with Dunedin City Council;
2. That ORC approach DCC with an offer to transfer public transport planning and operation.

Cr Woodhead considered that regional transport planning and operations should not be separated and should be transferred together.

A concern was raised that ORC needed to be satisfied that the public would be better served if the public transport function was transferred to the DCC.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Kempton seconded

1. *That this Council believes the governance of public transport fits more appropriately with Dunedin City Council;*
2. *That ORC approach DCC with an offer to transfer the public transport planning and operation functions for Dunedin.*

Motion carried

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

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

The report summarised progress in meeting project targets for the eight months to 28 February 2014. The full report was circulated separately with the agenda.

Following discussion at the Lower Taieri meeting, a question was asked about funding set aside for a weighting blanket at Outram. Dr Palmer explained that this referred to a piping/seepage risk from the floodbank, and that money not expended was held in scheme reserves. He was to check when the work would be carried out.

The reduction in the number of homes supplied with new clean heating appliances was noted. It was pointed out that there was still opportunity for

financial support to homeowners, and it was agreed that the programme should be promoted.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Scott seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 4

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

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

The report noted that the required disclosure statements related to planned and actual performance for specific benchmarks, and Mr Scott commented that rates affordability had been a significant national issue for some time. He also commented that items relating to debt did not affect the ORC, and were included for information only. The benchmarks compared expectations with performance, and Mr Scott noted that the process should not drive what a council should do.

Mr Scott advised in response to a question that failure to meet the benchmarks would be reported through the council's audit function.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Brown seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 5

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

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

Mr Scott stated that overall he was comfortable with the Council's performance. He pointed out that while some factors were below the median, this was because of the size of the Council, ORC being the second smallest regional council in the comparison. He commented that there were learnings from the survey, which he noted measured the cost of activities,

not the level of service. Mr Bodeker considered that it was valuable to discuss the results with other councils, which could identify where activities could be carried out differently.

Mr Scott advised in response to a question that staff development and training costs were allocated to the relevant projects rather than to a general Human Resources staff training budget.

Cr Neill moved
Cr Kempton seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 6

2014/0783 **Executive Report on Progress.** DCS, 4/4/14

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

Mr Scott drew attention to Item 2 Passenger Transport Contract Assignment, which advised that Invercargill Passenger Transport Ltd had sold their business to Go Bus Transport Ltd, with effect from 1 April 2014. He advised that discussions were under way in relation to the ORC's and the company's respective GoBus brands.

In response to a question about the Cromwell depot, Mr King confirmed that staff had moved into the new premises.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Deaker seconded

(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.*

Motion carried

PART D - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Bell 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 7</i>	<i>Minutes of the non public portion of the meeting held on 13 March 2014</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.

Motion carried

Following discussion of Item 7,

Cr Croot moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the meeting resume in open session.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.31 pm.

Chairperson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 9.30 am**

Present:

Cr Michael Deaker (Chairperson)
Cr Gretchen Robertson
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 Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr David Shepherd
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Kelliher and Woodhead.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Jeff Donaldson
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Peter Taylor
Richard Pettinger (for Item 1)
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Robertson and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

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

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

Comments made during the consultation process were listed in the report, and the request for a timeframe greater than five years for evidence of water taken by those seeking replacement consents was noted. Mr Pettinger explained that landowners should have a record of monitoring of take or of irrigation, and he noted situations where takes from over-allocated areas had been operating for some time. Mr Pettinger further noted that the proposed plan change provisions reflected what was in the Plan surface water provisions.

It was pointed out that under the plan change, Council would advise water permit applicants of the allocation status of aquifers, which had not been done to date. Mr McRae commented that only a few groundwater sources were over-allocated, and the same mechanisms would be applied to both surface and ground-water takes. Policies were in place to gradually reduce over-allocation. Under the RMA landholders could apply for a consent prior to their existing consent expiring; the plan change did not allow further over-allocation to result from new consents. The plan change did not set out to override the current regime, but intended to gradually provide for appropriate takes.

The recommendation that a hearing committee be established was noted, and it was suggested that this be done nearer to the proposed September hearing period.

In response to a question about the provision for temporary dewatering, Mr Pettinger explained that this was intended to allow for situations where water would be returned to an area following construction. In the case of long term dewatering, consents to take and to discharge would be required.

The issue of the process for sharing water was raised, and Mr McRae explained that parties could reach their own agreement on how this would be done.

In response to a question Mr McRae explained that consents were issued for intended water use; the purpose for the water use would be stated in the consent, and the rate approved would reflect what the applicant had said they would do. If a consent was not activated within five years it would lapse. Mr McRae further explained that where monitoring results showed the full amount of take was not being used, under the consent's review clause the permitted take volume could be reduced. The unused water

could be transferred from one take to another. If a consent holder wanted to change the use of the water, a change to the consent would be required.

Mr McRae noted that the plan change incorporated alignment with the NPSFWM, and the strikeouts in the draft which accompanied the report were to simplify and streamline the original text.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Kempton seconded

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.*

Motion carried

Item 2

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

The report presented a draft proposed plan change for management of the surface water resources in the Lindis catchment and the aquifers of the Bendigo-Tarras Basin for consultation under the Resource Management Act 1991. A draft evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with the proposed change was circulated with the report.

Mr McRae commented that the proposed plan change arose from consultation with the community prior to irrigation scheme proposals in the area. He noted in response to a question that the management of surface water resources in the Lindis catchment had to be resolved, with certainty for water users in the area, before the cessation of mining privileges in 2021.

Councillors supported the minimum flows and allocations, amendment to the boundary of one of the aquifers, and surety of supply for water users. The Section 32 report which set out the rationale for the proposed changes was commended. It was noted that this was a complex situation, and the consultation process would allow for community discussion.

In response to a question about the parties to the consultation listed in the report, Mr McRae explained that the consultation would involve the full community.

More gradual changes between the different minimum flow levels were suggested, but it was felt that this would make the regime too complex.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Bell seconded

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.

Motion carried

Item 3

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

The report advised that a combined ORC/DCC staff working group had prepared a set of natural hazards principles and planning considerations to help develop rules to manage land use activities for inclusion in the Dunedin City District Plan review. It was appropriate that those principles and considerations be endorsed by Council prior to the development of District Plan rules.

Councillors endorsed the proposed principles, noting the importance of utilising the expertise of both councils to ensure the desired outcomes were achieved. It was noted that this work could be extended to include the RPS.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That:

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

Motion carried

Item 4

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

The report noted that the Minister for the Environment had introduced an Environmental Reporting Bill to Parliament on 20 February 2014, and presented a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Neill seconded

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

Motion carried

Item 5

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

The report noted that the Minister for Building and Construction introduced the Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill to Parliament on 9 December 2013, and presented a proposed submission for endorsement by the Committee. It was noted that as the proposed changes in respect to dams were minor, they would have little effect on how Council discharged its responsibilities under the Act.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Robertson seconded

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

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6

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

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

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 10.22 am

Chairperson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
on Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 1.00 pm**

Present:

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 Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr David Shepherd
 The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Eckhoff
 and Croot.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
 Wayne Scott
 Fraser McRae
 Gavin Palmer
 Martin King
 Marian Weaver
 Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

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

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

Questions were raised about overdue performance monitoring relating to water takes. Mr King explained that in many cases this related to overdue inspections, and delays in certification/verification of water meters. In view of the large workload, resource needs were being evaluated and staff recruited.

The performance monitoring procedure was noted. Mr King explained that the procedures were put in place three to four years ago, and were reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Mr King explained in response to a question that compliance assessment was activity based, with risk rankings assigned to the activity. If an activity was non compliant, the frequency of inspection was increased.

Non compliance at wastewater treatment plants in Waitaki District was noted. Mr King commented that significant expenditure was needed to bring the plants up to standard, and ongoing improvements were being made. Concern was expressed that there seemed to be a lenient approach to local government compliance, but farmers were prosecuted. Mr King responded that in some cases dairy farmers often did not have the resources to put in place an infrastructure improvement process, which could result in compounding errors, while TLAs had dedicated staff responsible for their facilities. There were also difficulties for sharemilkers who worked for absentee owners. Mr Bodeker advised that a report would be prepared on consent conditions for TLA wastewater treatment plants, and the level of improvement.

The meeting discussed the need to change dairy farmers' mindset in order for 6A discharge thresholds to be met. Mr King observed that there had been a lot of improvement in the dairy industry, and the small proportion who did not make improvements were subject to more frequent inspections. It was noted that PC6A would mean farmers had to regularly monitor their farm management impact on the discharge quality.

Mr King further noted that there was some leniency where a contract had been signed for a water meter but due to the lack of availability of installers, the work had not yet been carried out. Staff were now following up on those who had no water meter and no contract, and abatement notices to stop taking water would be issued.

Reference was made to Pest Management Strategy implementation and the use of 1080 to control rabbit numbers, and use of genetic modification of pests was suggested.

Concern was expressed at wallaby signs in North Otago, and Mr King commented that night inspections were being carried out. He advised that sign had been found of two to five wallabies, and it was thought that they had been deliberately released. Mr King noted that people caught releasing wallabies in Otago were liable under the Biosecurity Act, but offenders were very hard to catch. It was suggested that consideration be given to public education on the risk of introducing wallabies into Otago, the consequences for offenders, and the damage wallabies could cause to the land.

It was noted that the Pest Management Strategy was coming up for review, and Mr McRae advised that consideration was being given to development of a South Island-wide Strategy, in part because of changes to legislation relating to identifying costs involved. It was intended that a list of common pests be drafted, and the document would also include information about where action as opposed to observation was required.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Kempton seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/0779

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

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

In response to a query about the number of transfers, Mr King explained that these related to the measuring point of the take. A significant number still showed a former owner's name and records were being updated through this process.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

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

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 25 February to 28 March 2014.

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Robertson seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

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

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 2 April 2014.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm

Chairperson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 1.45 pm

Present:

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 Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Cr David Shepherd
 The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Kelliher and Neill.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Wayne Scott
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Matt Hickey
Rebecca Morris
Dean Olsen
Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 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.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0747

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

The report to the Committee, and the full technical report circulated with the agenda, provided information on the Tomahawk lagoons with the intention of supporting discussion with the community about issues resulting from historical land use practices.

A question was raised as to whether concern about algal bloom in the lagoons was justified given the spasmodic appearance and disappearance of blooms in other water bodies such as Lake Hayes. Dr Olsen explained that Tomahawk Lagoons issues were different from those in Lake Hayes because of the lagoons' coastal location and the depth of the water. Staff had investigated the blue-green algal blooms in the lagoons and put forward two potentially viable options for their elimination: use of capping agent Phoslock[®], and dredging. Phoslock[®] had been used successfully internationally, but not in shallow coastal lakes.

Cr Robertson commented that a full understanding of Otago coastal systems was required before decisions could be made on where to target resources. Dr Palmer advised in response to a question that the report had been prepared following an approach from the community about the state of the lagoons.

In response to a question Dr Olsen explained that phosphate was bound into the sediment, and controlling nitrate runoff was not a viable option. He also noted that in the early 1960s about one-fifth of the lagoon was dredged, mainly for the benefit of the trout population. A comment was made that historically there had not been heavy use of superphosphate, and it did not seem to take much to exacerbate the algal blooms.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Brown seconded

That:

- 1. The report be received.*
- 2. The information presented in the report form the basis for a meeting with the Ocean Grove community.*

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/0767 **Assessment of hazard significance of landslides in Dunedin City.**
DEHS, 1/4/14

The report discussed the updated GNS Science report on landslides in Dunedin City, and recommended that the dataset be provided to Dunedin City Council and uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database. The GNS 2014 report “The hazard significance of landslides in and around Dunedin City” was circulated separately with the agenda.

In response to a comment in the report that only 13% of Dunedin City was subject to landslide, Dr Palmer pointed out that the report did not study the whole of the city.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That:

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

Motion carried

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

The report summarised 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. The full technical report was circulated separately with the agenda.

Ms Morris noted that the Pomahaka and Kuriwao Aquifers were initially included in the C-Series maps of Aquifers, Groundwater Zones and Groundwater Protection Zones in the Regional Plan Water based on the presumption they were gravel alluvium aquifers connected to surface water. Additional borelogs since the 1996 and 2002 reports had found that the majority of the basins were hard rock and were not connected to surface water, making the current groundwater management for these basins overly restrictive. The report therefore suggested that consideration be given to removing the Pomahaka and Kuriwao Aquifers from the C-series maps of the RPW. This meant that if people on the Pomahaka and Kuriwao wanted to install a bore and take the permitted amount of water, they would not need to apply for a consent.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That:

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

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4
2014/0754

Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River. DEHS, 4/4/14

The report advised that a management flow report had been prepared presenting hydrological information and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Tokomairiro River. The full technical report was circulated separately with the agenda, and it was suggested that the results from the report be used as part of community consultation on the potential future setting of a minimum flow for the Tokomairiro River.

The report was commended, and it was noted that with areas getting drier due to climate change, a minimum flow needed to be set soon for the Tokomairiro River.

Dr Olsen noted that currently the only flow site on the river, at the SH8 bridge, did not reflect the bulk of the catchment, and there were technical difficulties with putting a flow site lower down the river. He also noted that 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 were considered separately.

The location of additional minimum flow site(s) were discussed, and Dr Palmer commented that the information from the study would assist in determining site location.

Cr Brown moved
Cr Neill seconded

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

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/0769

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

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.

In response to a question about monitoring bores in the South Dunedin area, Dr Palmer advised that results from the bores would be provided to a future meeting once the data had been analysed. The information would be from the three existing bores, plus part year data from the new bore.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 2.36 pm.

Chairperson