



Our Ref A610586

Committee meetings Wednesday 4 June 2014

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Wednesday 4 June commencing at 10.00 am. The venue is the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 4 June 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:

Leave of Absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 2 June.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0819 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 22/5/14

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 22 March to 30 April 2014.

Item 2

2014/0858 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 23/5/14

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 3 April to 16 May 2014.

Item 3

2014/0830 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.** DPPRM, 14/5/14

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 29 March to 13 May 2014.

Item 4

2014/0843 **Appointment of hearing commissioners.** DPPRM, 20/5/14

Listing hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 20 May 2014.

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

REPORT

Document Id: A628776

Report Number: 2014/0819
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations
Date: 22 May 2014

Subject: **Biosecurity & RMA Monitoring Report for the period 22 March to 30 April 2014**

1. Water Quality and Quantity

1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

1.1.1 Audit Monitoring

Consent audits were carried out on Blackhead Quarries Ltd for their Logan Point Quarry on Tuesday 6th May 2014. The operations of rock extraction and crushing have moved from the lower pit to the upper pit with the old crushing plant having been dismantled and a new mobile crushing plant in use at the top pit. For their discharge to air consents 2000.045V2 and 2010.176 they were graded Grade 2, due to two reports being submitted to the Consent Authority late. Both these consents expire on 1st May 2015 and Blackhead is aware of the need to renew them in plenty of time. For their discharge to water consents 2004.515 and 2004.516 they were graded Grade 2, due to testing not being carried out within the month required and for pH and Turbidity levels being outside the values of the consent.

A consent audit has been carried out on the works taking place on the Water of Leith between the St David Street footbridge and Union Street. The consents are from 2006.571 to 2006.611. The consent holder is the ORC and the contractor carrying out the work is Downer. The work is progressing well with a new phase about to be entered where a 20 metre long and 1.2 metre diameter polythene pipe is to be placed in the Water of Leith to divert water over each section where in-stream concrete work is to take place.

1.1.2 Water Metering

Progress with water meter installations has been steady over this reporting period.

Council staff issued formal warnings to a number of consent holders who had not contacted the Council to confirm that water measuring equipment has been installed in accordance with the regulations. As a result of this, 30 Recommendations for Enforcement Action (REA) were put forward, the majority of which are expected to result in an abatement notice being issued specifying a date to comply. In addition the abatement notice states that no water can be abstracted until the consent is compliant. If the consent is still non compliant by the date specified (in most cases 1 August 2014) further enforcement action will be considered.

A further 163 water takes are to receive a formal warning as the Council has previously heard from the consent holder, but have not had confirmation of installation. If their consent is not compliant by the date specified on the Formal Warning, an Abatement notice will be considered.

Currently, 60% (631) of consent holders who have takes of 20l/s or greater have water measuring and recording equipment installed.

26% (276) of consent holders have advised the Council of their installer and a predicted installation date, however some of the information provided (up to 2 years ago) is not current, and/or installation has stalled. This group have or will be receiving formal warnings and will be followed up with abatement notices if information is not received as requested.

51 Consents are non-consumptive and are not subject to the regulations, however some of these do require measuring as a consent condition. The remaining 8% of consents are being researched as many of these have not been exercised for more than 5 years and may have lapsed.

1.1.3 Oceana Gold (NZ) Ltd

A site visit was carried out during this period to discuss recent construction to extend an area of waste rock stack, and to check for progress on a newly commissioned tailings storage facility. A large amount of performance monitoring reporting has been received during this period. These reports covered regular quarterly environmental monitoring data, the annual aquatic biological assessment, and the annual report on mine site activities. This incorporates details on rehabilitation and the proposed bond for the 2014/2015 year. All reports are currently under review.

During this period there was a high rainfall event causing widespread flooding through much of North Otago. This caused a large slip to occur in Frasers Pit which cut off access to open pit mining and the underground mine. Work has been underway to reinstate access to the bottom of the pit, as a large amount of pit water has accumulated due to the flood event. Discussion is on going with Oceana Gold staff as to the management of this excess pit water and the use of ORC consents to discharge this water.

1.2 State of Environment Monitoring

Low flows continued through March and early April in Central and South Otago catchments. East Coast rivers remained above minimum flow levels. An easterly weather system brought extensive flooding to the North Otago region on 18th April. This was the largest event in North Otago since the flood event of March 1986. Many monitoring stations recorded maximum levels since their records began. Flood warnings through Twitter and auto-dialler ring lists were issued prior to the event and throughout the flood as water levels exceeded monitoring stations' alarm levels. Flood waters overtopped at one station, Waianakarua at Browns, at the peak of the event. Flow measurements were carried out on the Leith and Silverstream rivers coinciding with the flood peaks at the monitoring sites.

1.2.1 Electric Fishing Survey

The survey started as usual in the south of the region with the Owaka River at Purekireki on November the 6th 2013 and concluded in the north on the 10th April with the Waiareka Creek at Taipo Road. All 27 sites were fished.

Weather conditions were ideal at the start of the season as Otago enjoyed a hot dry spring and early summer. This allowed the Southern catchments and Taieri catchment sites to be fished in good conditions. During summer the weather deteriorated and fishing became more difficult; with some careful planning the Dunedin rivers and Central Otago catchments were successfully fished. The North Otago rivers proved to be problematic with high flows and inclement weather hampering efforts to complete the project. Early autumn provided a small window of relief and the last sites were able to be fished but in higher than optimal flows.

This is the fifth year that this SOE Fisheries project has been operating. Although true long term trends are unlikely to be detected over this time scale, there are two sites that require comment. While nearly all sites' fish numbers have fluctuated during this time (which is most likely to be explained by natural environmental conditions), Kaikorai Stream at Brighton Road fish numbers have significantly reduced. Five years ago over 1100 fish were caught while last season less than 200 were caught. There have been no fluctuations in fish numbers at this site, it is a case of constant decline.

The other site worthy of mention is the Kakanui River at McCones. This is the SOE Fisheries project most abundant site with average catches of over 2000 individuals from often more than ten species. While this still is the case the alga and periphytum growth has increased very noticeably, even in years of higher than average flow. This growth at present does not seem to have any effect on native fish numbers, although it is possible that trout numbers have decreased.

While these are only observations and not scientifically tested, it does appear on the surface that nutrient availability causing eutrophication and poor use of storm water drains in urban areas may be causing the degradation in river and fish health at these two sites

2. Air Quality

2.1 State of the Environment Monitoring

All monitors have now been commissioned prior to the start of the winter. The monitor for Arrowtown has been situated at a new location close to the river where the highest concentration of pollution has been observed.

2.2 Clean Heat Clean Air project

13 ORC heating subsidies were allocated for installation of new clean heating appliances in Air Zone 1. One of our approved heating contractors represented the programme at the Arrowtown Autumn Festival on 25 April and programme information was provided to the public. Support from the Arrowtown Warm Homes Trust for the Clean Heat Clean Air programme continues within the community also.

Since 14 April, in agreement with the DCC Executive, ORC has held the role of Chair for the Cosy Homes Governance Group. The governance group vision is for all homes within the Dunedin City area to be warm by 2025. The Chairman's role will be taken over by Mayor Dave Cull in the start of the new calendar year.

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 maximum allowable level (MAL) for rabbits have been ongoing.

Overall 11,954ha have been inspected covering 86 properties in the rabbit prone areas of Hawea Flat, Ardgour, Roxburgh and Ettrick. Of the 86 properties inspected, 77 (89.5%) were identified as having rabbit infestations that breached the MAL and only 9 (10.5%) were fully compliant, indicating there are still high levels of non-compliance in historic areas.

A total of 79 rabbit control programs (RCPs) have been requested. RCP return rates have been good with 55 plans being returned and others still within the acceptable written requirement period. Of those returned there is generally a good standard of program being proposed by landholders. Council has taken a more proactive approach to supplying information to enable landholders to develop robust programs that will meet their requirements under the Regional Pest Management Plan. Council has also taken a more proactive approach to ensuring neighbouring properties have compatible programs by advocating, where possible, for more neighbour liaison in the development of RCPs.

3.1.2 Rook Control Update

Rook distribution in Otago is currently limited to a number of small rookeries mainly in the Strath Taieri area with sporadic rookeries elsewhere.

The annual rook control program which began in late August has now been completed.

It commenced with an advertising campaign with surveillance carried out in historic locations. Rooks were controlled using the nest baiting / pasting method in the Middlemarch, Macraes, and South Otago areas. In total 40 rooks were counted which resulted in 24 nests being treated.

In addition, 3 rooks were sighted at Pukerangi, and 7 rooks at Hyde. No nests were located in either area, but 2 rooks were later controlled at Pukerangi. In the Maniototo, 4 rooks and 2 nests were reported later in the year to Council, but the birds had already vacated the nests.

There is also a population of approximately 10 rooks known to be moving around between the Otago and Southland boundary, again no eggs/chicks have been recorded. Staff of both Councils are working closely together in an attempt to control this population.

A further 2 rooks were reported south of Duntroon near our northern boundary with ECan. This information was forwarded to their Biosecurity team to follow up.

Of particular note, observations and monitoring show there has been no record of any chicks hatching in the last three years and it is believed that we may now have a non-breeding population. Full results of our pasting will not be known until late winter when birds in a locality form one group, and only then we will get a better understanding of how successful the nest baiting and pasting has been, and what number of rooks remain in Otago.

4.2 Plant Pests

4.2.1 Old Man's Beard

160 property inspections for Old Man's Beard in Dunedin City have been carried out. 23% of properties inspected were found to be fully compliant, while 64% of properties were found with minor non compliance at the time of inspection. In many instances non compliant properties have absentee landowners, who have been contacted by letter requesting control to be completed within 21 days prior to the re-inspection. In all cases of non compliance the property will be re visited to check for control of Old Man's Beard. A total of 23 re-inspections were completed during this period with nearly all properties found to be compliant upon re-inspection. One property was found with on going major non compliance and is currently under consideration for a Notice of Direction.

5. Operations

5.1 Contract Management

Two TBfreeNZ possum contracts (Etrick and Taieri / Hindon) were completed and successfully performance monitored. Three others are at various stages of completion (Silverpeaks, Toko-Kaitangata and Teviot River).

Tenders were submitted for TBfreeNZ projects across the region, and five operations have been offered to Council in the South and Central Otago areas.

5.2 Engineering Field Operations

Staff were kept busy with a significant rain event during the Easter break. It predominantly affected the Silverstream catchment and North Otago. Staff manned the Taieri pump stations around the clock from early Good Friday until Easter Sunday. On Easter Monday the tidal mouth of the Matau Branch of the Clutha River blocked, causing localised flooding of adjacent properties. Contractors were deployed in the morning to undertake an opening of the bar that had developed. The final cut was made at approximately 7.30pm that night and the river began to flow. Staff and members of the Lower Clutha community worked together to undertake some sand-bagging at the Rutherford Locks to protect the structure and road from water over-topping while the mouth opening was taking place. As a result of this occurrence, Council has installed a water level sensor at Rutherford's to alert staff early if water levels in the area begin to rise.

Staff have also been busy visiting landowners in the North Otago area affected by the rain event during this reporting period. A number of debris dams identified during post flood inspections have been removed.

Other than urgent or emergency works, all in-stream operational river works have now ceased due to the commencement of the fish spawning season.

6. Environmental Incident Response

6.1 Contaminated Sites

6.1.1. Remediation Projects

A request was received for approval to slurry-fill an underground fuel tank at a residential address. Removal of the tank was not practicable because of its proximity to building foundations.

6.1.2. Investigations

A subdivision on a former timber treatment site near Wanaka was inspected following concerns that significant earthworks involving contaminated material had been undertaken without appropriate authorisation. The inspection confirmed that while earthworks had been undertaken, this involved the deposit of clean material near the timber treatment site, rather than disturbance of contaminated material. While this complicates the remediation process for the developer, there was no breach of the Regional Plan: Waste. The developer has prepared a remediation action plan, and intends to lodge an application for consent in due course.

6.1.3. Landfills

The Clutha District Council's solid waste facility at Mount Cooee, south of Balclutha, was inspected. The area of landfill appeared to be well managed. Better management of stormwater was observed, and the landfill has been staged to allow for a more systematic and deliberate progression towards the final landform. The District Council arranged for repairs to be completed on the culvert that runs through the landfill; however, concerns remain regarding the

quality of water exiting the culvert. Analysis of results collected during the April sampling round will confirm whether additional work is required.

The Queenstown Lakes District Council's Victoria Flats landfill was inspected on 10 April 2014. The landfill appeared to be generally tidy and well managed. The amount of exposed refuse at the active landfill face has been reduced since the previous visits and there appears to be much greater use of cover material. There was only moderate odour at the active face. The sludge pits remain a very strong source of odour. It is hoped with the construction of a sludge drying facility at Luggate, this source of odour will ameliorate. There were several complaints over the winter of 2013 regarding odour from the landfill. These complaints originated both from people travelling past the landfill and residents in Gibbston, approximately 5 km up the valley. In response to the odour complaints, the landfill operator commissioned an investigation into landfill gas generation at the landfill. The investigation identified areas of elevated gas emission, and steps have been taken to reduce the emission of odorous gasses.

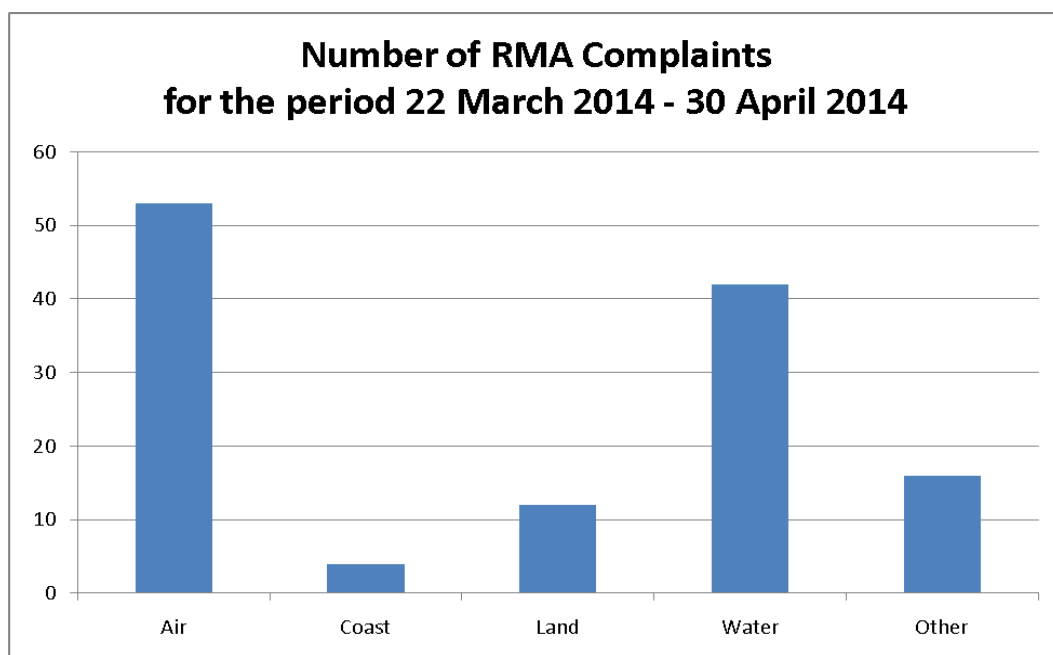
Transpacific Industries Limited's landfill at Fairfield was inspected during the reporting period. While the landfill generally appeared well managed, performance monitoring data have indicated that water quality outside of the landfill continues to be poor. It is difficult to draw firm conclusions about the contribution of the landfill to the elevated levels of contaminants in the receiving environment. The consent holder has undertaken work to repair a section of the leachate collection trench which has been suspected of performing poorly. The landfill is approaching closure, and suitable cover material from the Caversham By-pass road works has been stockpiled at the landfill. With a final capacity of just under 1 million cubic meters, this will become the largest closed landfill in the Region.

6.1.4. Other Actions

Thirty-five public enquiries regarding the contamination status or land-use history of specific properties were received and responded to within ten working days.

7.2 Environmental Incidents

A total of 127 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 domestic chimneys. Odour complaints were the second most prevalent form of air pollution. The coastal incidents were in regard to marine pollution and marine oil spills. The majority of land incidents were from land contamination followed by depositions. 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.

8. **Recommendation**

That this report be noted

Jeff Donaldson
Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)
the six weeks from 22-Mar-14 to 30-Apr-14

General Location	AIR								COAST					LAND				WATER							
	Row burning	Backyard Burning	Burning	Domestic chimneys	Dust	Industrial Air discharge	Odour	Spray Drift	Coastal Structures	Marine Oil Spill	Marine Pollution	Reclamation	Removal	Deposit	Disturbance	Land	Mining	Abstraction	Damming	Diversion	Fresh water quality	Storm water			
Catlins	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Central Otago	13	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Clutha Plains	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dn - Coast North	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dn - Coast South	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 - Inner City	40	1	0	13	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	3	0
Dn - Mosgiel	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Dn - Otago Harbour	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dn - Peninsula	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dn - West Harbour	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Otago Uplands	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	0
Lakes	22	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	12	0	0	2	0
Maniototo	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
North Otago	13	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	0
Roxburgh	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	127	3	9	19	0	2	17	2	0	1	3	0	0	3	0	9	0	3	1	3	32	3	0	16	0

REPORT

Document Id: A633207

Report Number: 2014/0858
 Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
 Prepared By: Marian Weaver and Chris Shaw
 Date: 23/05/ 2014

Subject: **Consent Processing and Building Consent Report 3 April to 16 May 2014**

1. Hearing Commissioner certification

Cr Gary Kelliher has recently completed training for the Making Good Decisions hearing commissioner certification. Otago Regional Councillors certificated as hearing commissioners are:

Cr Louise Croot
 Cr Sam Neill
 Cr Bryan Scott
 Cr David Shepherd
 Cr Gretchen Robertson
 Cr Gary Kelliher

2. Project E.1 – Resource Consent Application Processing

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

Applications

2.2 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. This is a joint process with the QLDC and the applicant requested public notification and it was notified on 26 March with submissions closing on 28 April. Eight submissions have been received; 7 in opposition and 1 in support. The application is on hold for further information requested by QLDC and ORC.

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 was held on April 10 and 11. The Hearing Panel decision is pending.

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 QLDC application on February 19th. When submissions closed 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. The application is on hold for further information requested by the QLDC and ORC.

2.3 Limited Notified Applications

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 there was no appeal.

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 answered. The application is on hold for the draft report and consent document to be completed and circulated to the applicant and submitter for consideration.

RM13.452 – Oceana Gold Limited

Various consents associated with the Tipperary Freshwater Dam. Application was limited notified with no submissions. Consents granted 20 May 2014; appeal period closes 12 June.

RM12.138 – and RM14.043 Fish & Game - to dam water on the Takittoa Swamp.

Fish and Game applied to place a structure and dam water on the Takittoa Swamp, which is a Schedule 9 Regionally Significant Wetland under Plan Change (PC) 2. Application was withdrawn and a new application lodged - RM14.043. Application limited notified to neighbouring landowners. All other necessary approvals obtained.

RM12.051 – Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC)

QLDC 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 was on hold to allow for mediation between the applicant and the submitter. Application withdrawn.

3. 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 was lodged to the cancellation decision. A report has been drawn up and sent to the objector who is deciding their options. The objection has been withdrawn and the cancellation stands.

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 provided a summary of their objection issues. A report on the objection has been circulated and the hearing is set down for 28 May 2014, in Dunedin.

4. 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 and the Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki has joined the appeal. Mediation with an Environment Court commissioner is set down for 4 June 2014.

5. 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 13 –17 Jan 14	117	7	1	3	119	6	1
20 Jan - 21 Feb 14	54	2	3	0	38	5	4
24 Feb - 3 Apr 14	55	5	1	0	69	7	4
4 Apr – 20 May 14	35	5	0	2	38	11	0
YTD 13/14	415	24	36	9	362	38	46

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

6. 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
4 Apr to 20 May 14	34	26	0	0
Totals 13/14	128	126	14	3

7. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

In Progress

Dam Building Consents	4
Code Compliance Certificates	6
PIM	0
Certificate of Acceptance	2

8. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 158 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 13 to 17 Jan 14	267
20 Jan to 21 Feb 14	128
24 Feb to 3 Apr 14	206
4 Apr to 21 May 2014	158
YTD 13/14	1279

9. 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.

10. 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 disposal to land. The applications were lodged on 17 May and publicly notified on 1 June 2013. 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.

RM12.066 – 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.

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



Resource Consent Public Enquiry Report

For period from 04 April 2014 to 16 May
2014

Report generated on 21 May 2014 at 8:38:10 p.m.

**Total Number of
Enquiries 158**

Enquiry Type	No.	% of Total
	0	0 %
Current Consents	85	53.8 %
Mining Privileges	2	1.3 %
Other	13	8.2 %
Permitted Activities	36	22.8 %
Pre-application	7	4.4 %
Property Enquiries	9	5.7 %
Transfers	6	3.8 %

Enquiry Location	No.	% of Total
	0	0 %
Central Otago District Council	53	33.5 %
Clutha District Council	16	10.1 %
Dunedin City Council	19	12 %
Outside Otago	1	0.6 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	31	19.6 %
Throughout Otago	4	2.5 %
Unspecified	17	10.8 %
Waitaki District Council	17	10.8 %

Enquiry Method	No.	% of Total
	0	0 %
Counter	9	5.7 %
Email	96	60.8 %
Fax	1	0.6 %
Letter	2	1.3 %
Telephone	50	31.6 %

REPORT

Document Id: A630333

Report Number: 2014/0830

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Peter Kelliher, Legal Counsel

Date: 14/05/2014

Subject: **Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 29 March 2014 to 13 May 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 29 March 2014 to 13 May 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 – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
To cease taking water in breach of resource consent	0	1
To cease taking water in breach of water meter regulations	1	3
TOTAL	1	4

c) Permitted Activity Rules - Inspections (Project C4)

Table 2. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 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 – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water – effluent	2	6
TOTAL	2	6

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

Details	Period – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 2014	Total – from 1 July 2013
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	0	12
Discharge of contaminants to air – burning prohibited materials	1	3
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
Alteration of a Regionally Significant Wetland	1	1
Discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water - diesel	2	2
TOTAL	4	21

Table 5. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 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 – 29 March 2014 to 13 May 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:

- Remove a dam (Notice 1).
- Undertake remedial works on a dam to ensure it 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: A632095

Report Number: 2014/0843

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 20 May 2014

Subject: **Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to 20 May 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 19-24 April 2014 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot, Woodhead and Robertson
Applicant	ORC
Appn. No	RM14.101
Activity	To drill over aquifers throughout Otago for the purpose of groundwater investigation.
Motion	Moved Cr Woodhead, seconded Cr Robertson
Appointment	Crs Croot and Neill

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
4 June 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:

Leave of Absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday
2 June.**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, for adoption.

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0824 **Spatial study of air quality in Arrowtown and Wanaka.**
DEHS, 26/5/14

The report summarises spatial air quality studies carried out in Arrowtown and Wanaka during winter 2013. Results from the studies provide additional information regarding air quality in the Arrowtown and Wanaka airsheds which will assist in the development of a larger monitoring strategy.

Item 2

2014/0832 **Assessment of liquefaction hazard in the Dunedin City district.**
DEHS, 26/5/14

The susceptibility of land to earthquake-induced liquefaction in the Dunedin City District has been assessed for ORC by GNS Science. The GNS report is circulated separately.

Item 3

2014/0826 **Natural Hazards technical reports to inform the Dunedin City District Plan.** DEHS, 26/5/14

The report explains that a series of 6 technical reports have been created to help inform the review of the natural hazard provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan. The reports identify the characteristics and likely geographical extent of a range of natural hazards, and are circulated separately.

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/0822 **Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study.**
DEHS, 9/5/14

Summarising the report “Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study” (circulated separately) which presents the results of long-term State of the Environment monitoring at two sites in the Shag River/Waihemo, intensive water quality monitoring in 2012-2013, and ecological surveys carried out in 2012-2013.

Item 5
2014/0788 **Water quality of Lake Tuakitoto catchment.** DEHS, 26/5/14

Summarising the report “Water quality and ecosystem health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment” (circulated separately).

Item 6
2014/0854 **Management flows for Tuapeka River ecosystems.** DEHS, 20/5/14

Presenting the management flow report “Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River” (full report circulated separately).

Item 7
2014/0825 **Director’s Report on Progress.** DEHS, 21/5/14

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 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

2014/0711 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 3/4/14

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

REPORT

Document Id: A629606

Report Number: 2014/0824

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Deborah Mills, Air Quality Scientist

Date: 26 May 2014

Subject: **Spatial Variability of air quality in Arrowtown and Wanaka**

1. Precis

The National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ) requires Councils to monitor PM₁₀ in their regions where exceedances of the NESAQ limit are expected to occur. To that end, ORC identified 22 cities and towns where it was thought that PM₁₀ levels may be high enough to exceed the NESAQ's threshold concentration of 50µg/m³ over a 24-hour period. As a secondary requirement, PM₁₀ should be monitored where levels are expected to be their highest and/or where the most people are affected.

ORC's spatial monitoring programme identifies and quantifies spatial PM₁₀ patterns within selected cities and towns in real-time, providing information for decision-making by:

- identifying the 'worst' area of particle pollution in a town,
- confirming the suitability of the location of existing monitors, and
- providing preliminary analysis on the potential for the NESAQ to be exceeded within the city/town.

In a programmed rotation, spatial air quality studies were completed in Arrowtown and Wanaka during winter 2013. Arrowtown currently has a continuous air quality monitor; Wanaka does not. Studies have previously been conducted in Dunedin and Mosgiel (2009), Balclutha and Milton (2010), Palmerston (2011), and Queenstown and Lawrence (2012).

Results in Wanaka reveal that there are some localised areas where PM₁₀ is elevated for relatively short periods of the day.

Results indicate the Council's monitoring site in Arrowtown (at the Arrowtown School) is generally well-positioned to characterise ambient air quality in town. However, the highest PM₁₀ levels are generally found closer to the river in the older section of town. Due to construction at the school in 2013, the monitor has been moved to a new site which will reflect these higher PM₁₀ values.

2. Introduction

Arrowtown is designated as Air Zone 1 in the Otago Regional Plan: Air (Air Plan) along with Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell. These towns have similar climates and topographies, and they frequently exceed the NESAQ during winter months.

Continuous PM₁₀ monitoring began in Arrowtown during July 2006. Since that time, the NESAQ for PM₁₀ has been exceeded anywhere from 39 days in 2007 to 17 days in 2013. Graphs of key indicators are given in Appendix 1. A trend analysis done for Arrowtown showed that since 2007, PM₁₀ concentrations have reduced by about 25% during winter.¹

Wanaka is designated as Air Zone 2 primarily on the basis of limited monitoring done in 2003. Results of that monitoring indicated that while it is possible that the NESAQ may be breached, it is not expected to happen under normal winter conditions. Since 2003 there has been significant population and housing growth in the Wanaka airshed but, to date, there has been no further monitoring done in Wanaka.

Results from these spatial monitoring studies provide additional information regarding air quality in the Arrowtown and Wanaka airsheds which will assist in the development of a larger monitoring strategy.

3. Spatial variation in PM₁₀

3.1 Arrowtown

For the spatial monitoring programme, 15 locations were chosen to provide representative spatial coverage of Arrowtown (Figure 1).

¹ 2013 Air Quality Results, Report No 2013/1105.

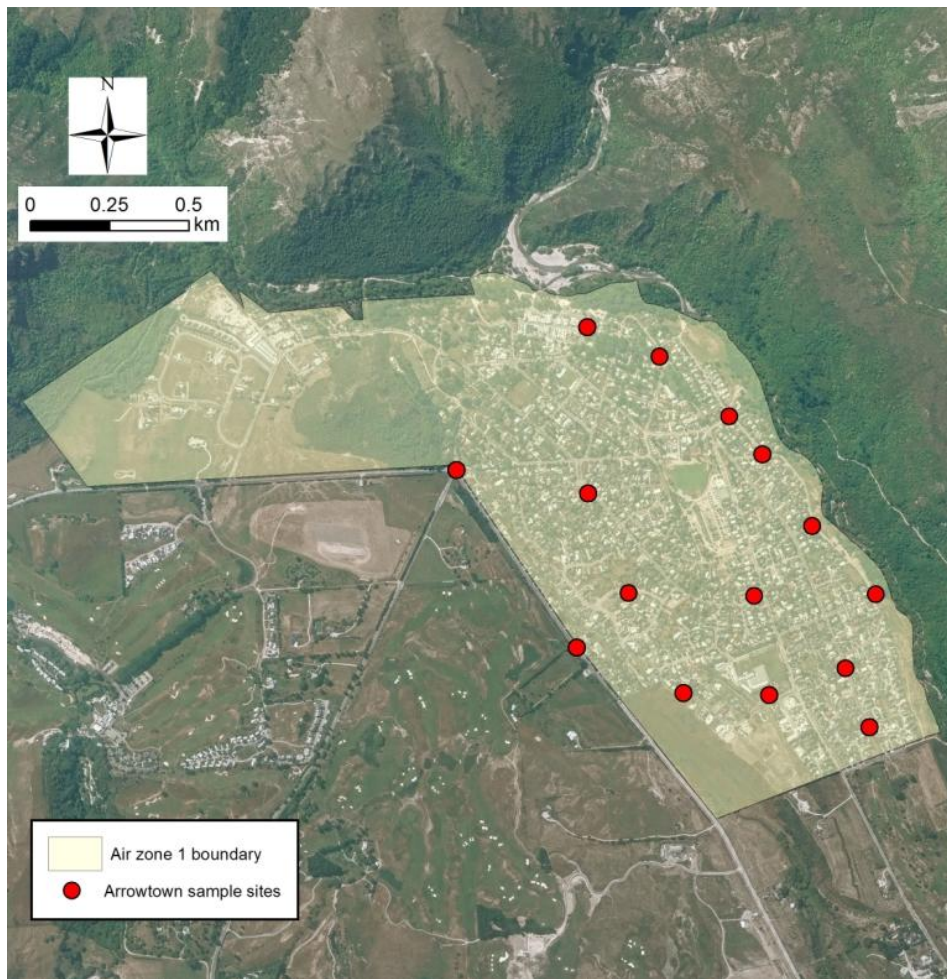


Figure 1. Sampling sites in Arrowtown.

The ORC's mobile monitor (DustTrak) was used to record real-time PM₁₀ levels at these sites over three winter nights and one morning at times when PM₁₀ levels were expected to be high². Weather conditions during sampling were cold and clear, with little to no wind.

An additional run was made on a spring day³ to record background values of ambient air quality.⁴ Background PM₁₀ levels are low, generally between 5 and 15µg/m³.

Individual monitoring results indicate that high PM₁₀ levels can and do occur in most parts of town. Figure 2 shows the overall average sampling result (excluding background). The highest concentrations were routinely measured to the east of Centennial Avenue (marked as a red line), in the older and lower part of town. Gentle nocturnal winds commonly flow in a southeast direction through town, pushing particulates towards this area.

² 28/29 June 2013, 10/11 July 2013

³ 21 September 2013

⁴ Background refers to the natural level of air quality without considering anthropogenic influences; sources include soil, pollen, marine aerosol, etc.

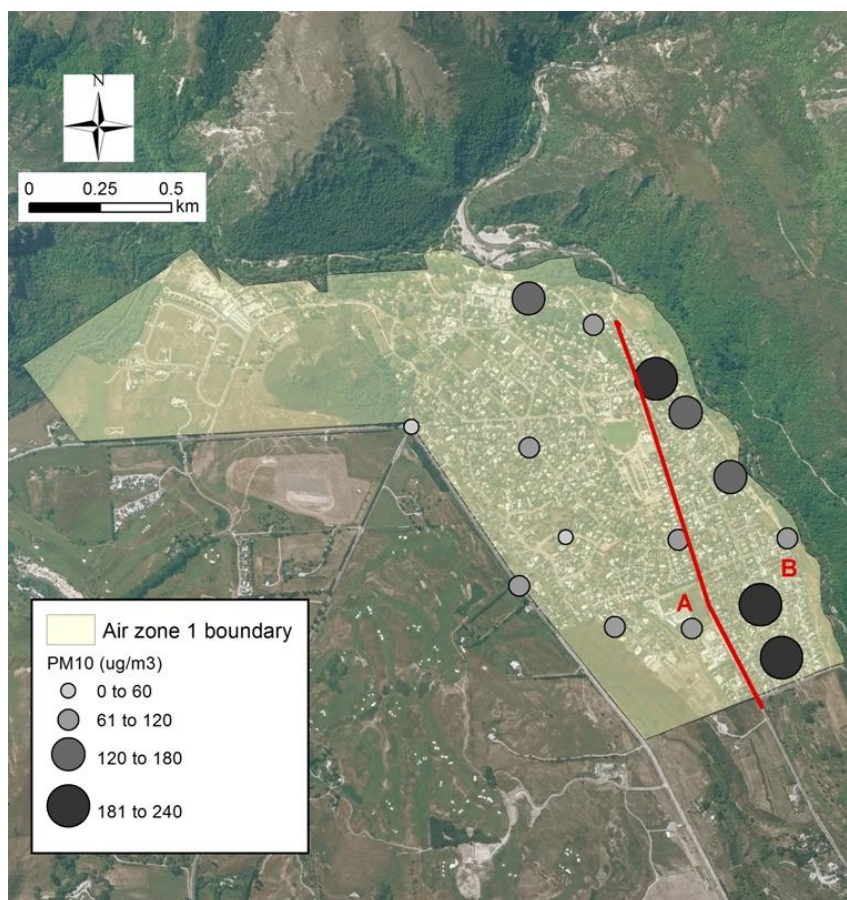


Figure 2. Average PM₁₀ in Arrowtown from all sampling runs.

The permanent air quality monitor has been located at the point labelled “A” from 2007-2013. As of the start of winter 2014, it will be located at the point labelled “B”.

It is expected that the monitor’s new location will more accurately record the town’s “worst” air quality, as required by the NESAQ. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the move from the original monitoring site, a co-location study could not be done between the two sites. Running two monitors, one at the original site and one at the new site, would have provided an understanding of the relationship between the two locations. However, for purposes of quantifying ambient air quality in Arrowtown, results from either site can be considered sufficient.

3.2 *Wanaka*

Mobile PM₁₀ sampling was performed at 20 sites over two winter nights and mornings during 2013⁵ when weather conditions were calm, cold and clear (Figure 3.). In addition, visual observations were made from several vantage points in order to observe patterns and trends in particulates across town.

⁵ Monitoring performed on 10, 11, and 24 July, 2013.

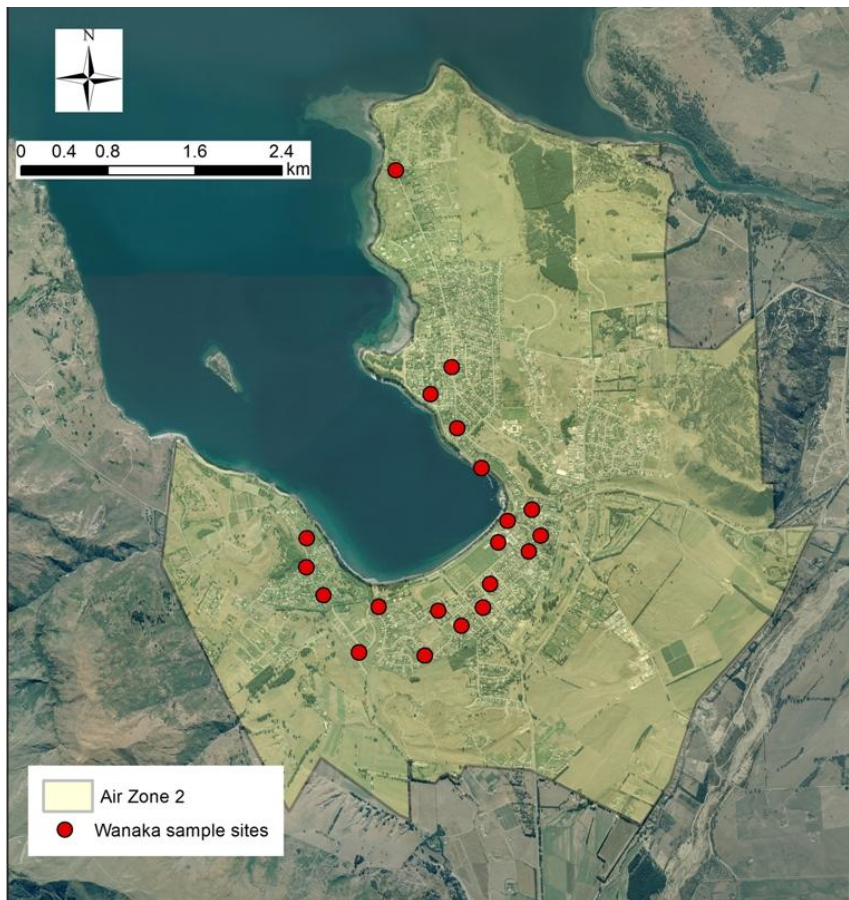


Figure 3. Sampling sites in Wanaka.

As with all other towns in Otago, topography and its subsequent effect on meteorology play a critical role in particle dispersion and the resultant air quality in Wanaka. The town is situated at the southern end of Roys Bay (Lake Wanaka), at the north end of the Cardrona River valley.

The presence of the lake and its surrounding topography generally serves to enhance particle dispersion in three ways:

1. The lake provides an ‘outlet’ for PM_{10} when night-time winds come down adjacent slopes. This facilitates the flushing of evening pollutants.
2. It sets up the temperature differential between land and water, providing for onshore and offshore breezes throughout the day, and
3. It allows for the sun, even at its lowest angle during winter, to hit the town early in the day. Warming of the surface of the Earth creates vertical turbulence which assists with the dispersion of morning emissions.

Figure 4 shows the average of all monitoring results. Measurements indicate that there are small, localised areas where PM_{10} is elevated during times of peak emissions (6-8pm).

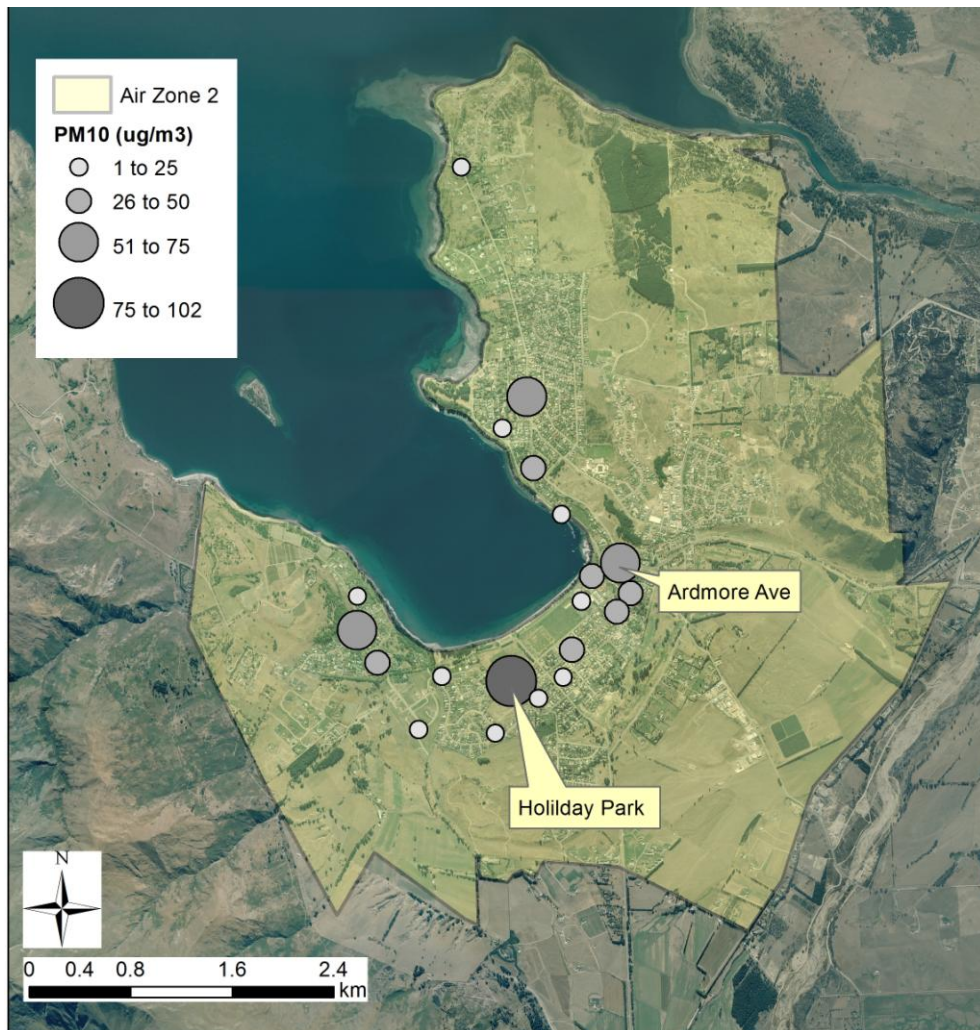


Figure 4. Average PM₁₀ in Wanaka from all sampling runs.

It was observed that between 4-5pm there is a noticeable start-up of restaurant emissions. One of the higher evening readings was taken on Ardmore Street in a commercial area where restaurant and bar emissions predominated.

Residential areas exhibited moderate concentrations which seemed to clear relatively quickly due to persistent offshore breezes. The one notable exception to that was around the Holiday Park where the highest concentrations were recorded.

To investigate this area further, the monitor was set up on the evening of 10 July at the Holiday Park to record overnight PM₁₀ in 10-minute averages from 5.30pm through to 8.30 the next morning. Figure 5 is a graph of overnight PM₁₀ values. While the evening does exhibit elevated PM₁₀, this is a very different signature to those seen in other Central Otago towns where PM₁₀ increases sharply through the evening.

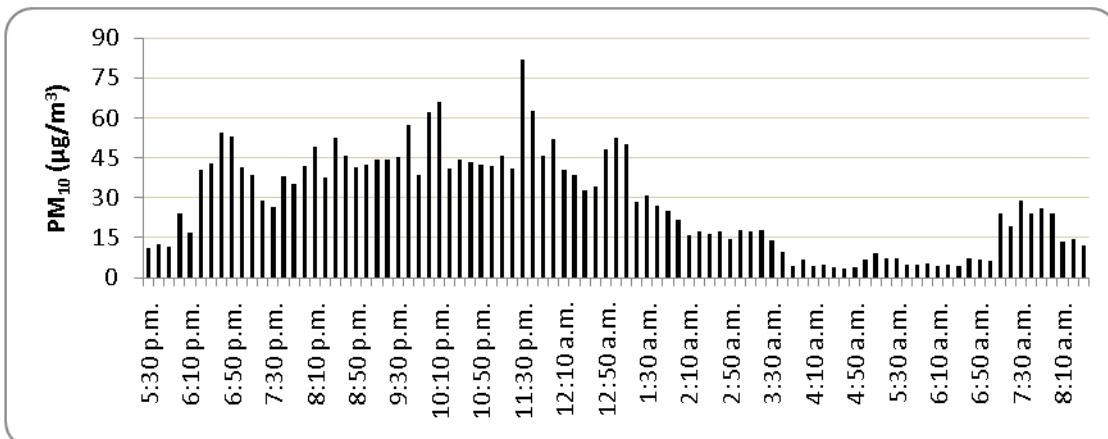


Figure 5. Ten-minute PM₁₀ data at the Holiday Park in Wanaka, July 10-11, 2013.

In Wanaka, it appears that as emissions are being added to the atmosphere, they are also being dispersed at about the same rate through the evening. After 1am, concentrations start to drop and are very low until about 7am when, presumably, fires are re-lit. However, the morning peak is not significant. Again, this is in sharp contrast to Arrowtown's diurnal profile where morning peaks can be significant and prolonged due to the presence of an inversion layer which may not break up until 11am.

Figure 6 shows comparative PM₁₀ values in Wanaka and Arrowtown for the same sampling period. (NB: Wanaka's 10-minute data have been converted to hourly averages to match the timescale of the Arrowtown data.)

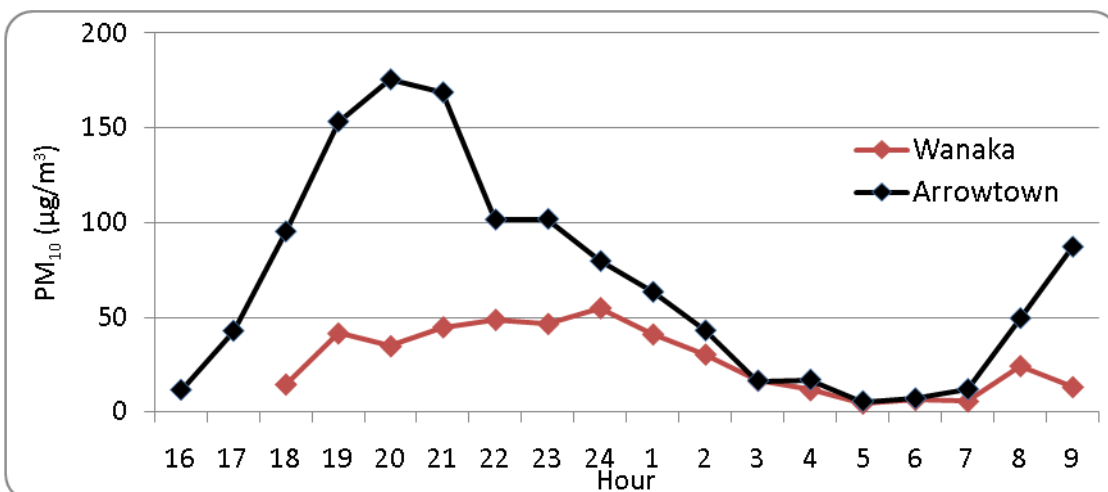


Figure 6. Hourly PM₁₀ for Wanaka and Arrowtown overnight on Wednesday evening into Thursday morning (10th to 11th of July 2013). This is a typical PM₁₀ pattern, regardless of the day of week, in areas where solid fuel is used to heat houses.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Arrowtown

1. Arrowtown's highest PM₁₀ levels are consistently seen in the eastern part of the town. Burner age, fuel use and topography all contribute to these high figures.

2. The permanent air monitor's new location will reflect these highest numbers, satisfying the requirement of the NESAQ to monitor in the 'worst' location.

4.2 *Wanaka*

1. There are times and places within the Wanaka airshed when PM₁₀ is elevated; however, due to the location and layout of the area it is considered unlikely that the NESAQ limit of 50µg/m³ is exceeded under normal winter conditions.
2. If the number of burners were to remain steady, it is expected that over time PM₁₀ emissions and concentrations would reduce as older burners are replaced. However, since population growth is expected to continue in the Wanaka airshed, it is likely that emissions will increase accordingly.
3. Wanaka is currently in Air Zone 2 and the results from this study indicate that this is the correct zone designation.

5. Trends in domestic fuel use

The recent Census⁶ provides information on domestic fuel usage at several scales (meshblock, census area, district area, regional, and national) as well as providing trend information when compared against previous Census results. Since the majority of emissions come from domestic heating in Otago towns, this information is presented to provide some context to the air quality issues in Arrowtown and Wanaka.

A higher percentage of residents in both Arrowtown (59%) and Wanaka (67%) report using wood for domestic heating as compared to the national average (37% of all New Zealand households use wood). In terms of coal usage, about the same percentage of residents in Arrowtown and Wanaka report using coal as do residents nationally (4%).

Further details of wood and coal use at the town and district area levels are discussed in the following sections.

5.1 *Wood Use*

There is a strong reliance on wood as a fuel source for domestic heating in both Arrowtown and Wanaka. Figures indicate that over half of all households use wood as a primary form of heating. Table 1 lists the trends in wood use from 1996 to 2013.

Table 1. Percentage of total households that use wood for domestic heating (%).

Census Year	Queenstown Lakes District	Arrowtown	Wanaka
1996	67	70	77
2001	65	71	74
2006	58	62	67
2013	58%	59%	67%

⁶ NZ Statistics, Census, 2013.

As a comparison to the region as a whole, approximately 54% of all Otago households use wood for domestic heating.

While the *percentage* of total households using wood for heating purposes is slowly decreasing, the *actual numbers* of households using wood is increasing due to the increases in population and housing in the Queenstown Lakes District. Table 2 provides the actual number of households using wood as fuel for heating.

Table 2. Number of households that use wood for domestic heating.

Census Year	Queenstown Lakes District	Arrowtown	Wanaka
1996	5,610	405	843
2001	6,789	483	1,026
2006	9,087	549	1,413
2013	10,566	558	1,764

With the introduction of strict emission limits on new wood burners in 2005, even though the total amount of emissions is increasing with housing growth, the *rate* of increase has slowed. A more detailed analysis at the meshblock level is required to understand the potential impact of newer houses on overall air quality in both towns.

5.2 Coal use

Regionally, West Coast has the highest percentage of coal usage in the country (56%), followed by Southland (36%). Otago ranks as third-highest in terms of the percentage of households using coal for domestic heating with 14%; the remaining regions all report less than 4% household coal usage.

Within the Otago region, the Queenstown Lakes District reported the lowest coal usage (7%) and Clutha District the highest (40%). Figure 7 shows that all district areas rank above New Zealand's average percentage of coal use which is about 4%.

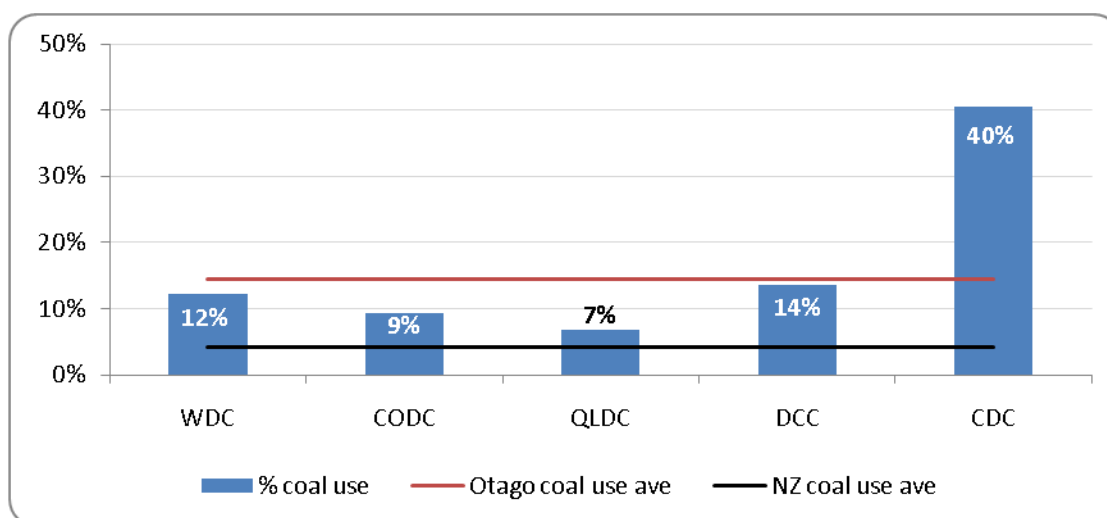


Figure 7. Percentage of coal usage by district area, region, and nationwide averages.

According to the Census results, coal use in Arrowtown and Wanaka is well below the regional average of 14%. Table 3 shows the downward trend in both percentage and number of households using coal.

Table 3. Percentages and numbers of households using coal for domestic heating.

Census Year	Queenstown Lakes District		Arrowtown		Wanaka	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
2001	23	1509	34	234	10	144
2006	15	1299	21	180	7	150
2013	7	723	3	27	4	96

When a coal-using multi-fuel burner is removed from a house and replaced with a no-emission heating appliance (e.g. heat pump or gas), approximately 300g of PM₁₀ a day is removed from the atmosphere, a significant reduction.

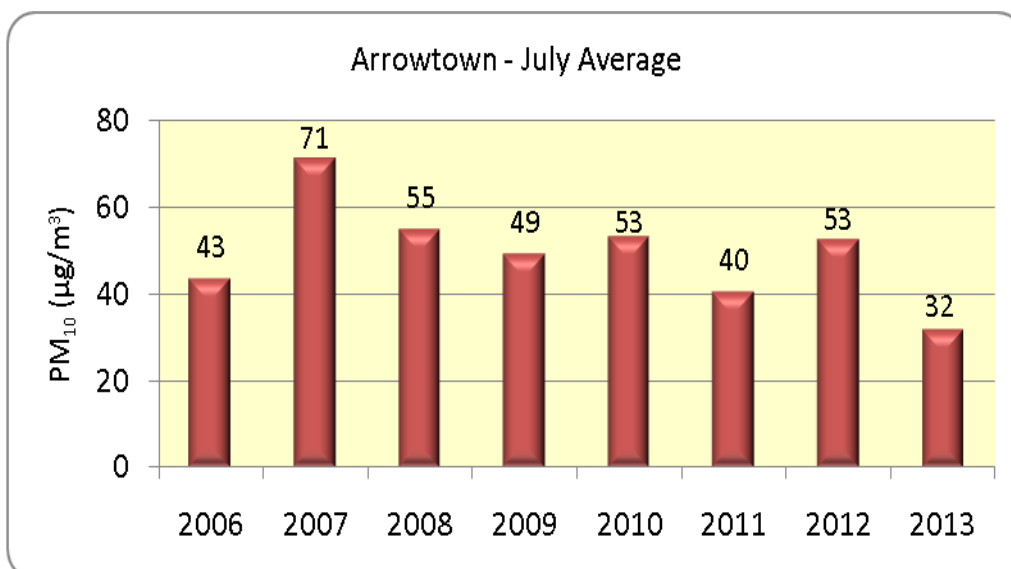
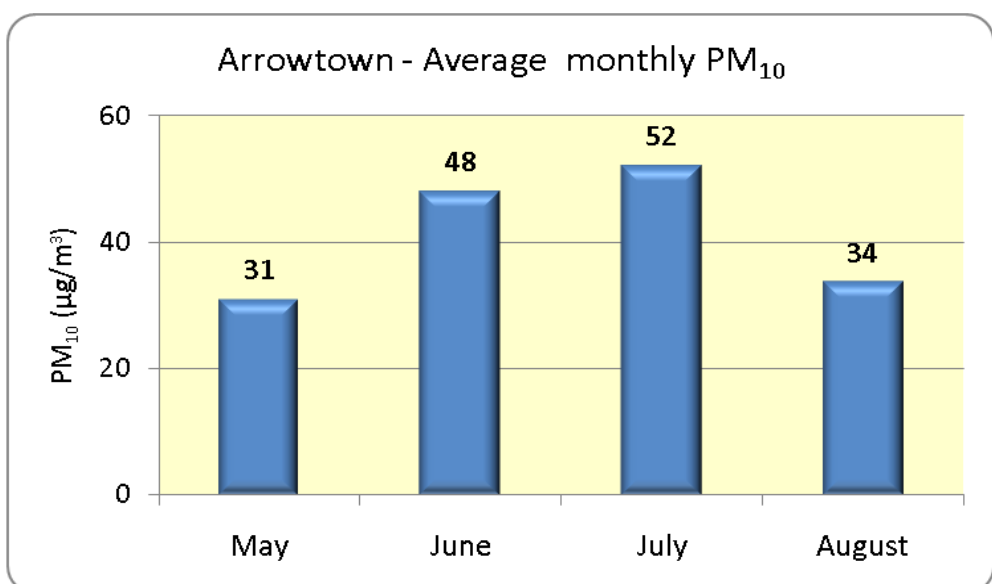
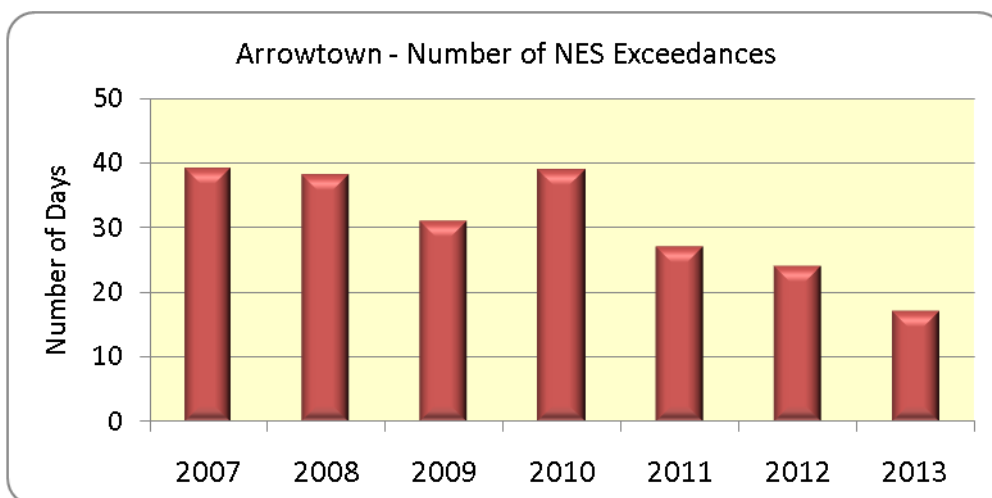
When a coal-using multi-fuel burner is replaced with an Air Zone 1 ORC-compliant wood burner (0.7g/kg), it is reasonable to assume that anywhere from 120g to 200g of PM₁₀ is removed from the atmosphere.

6. Recommendations

1. That the results from this report be used to inform the monitoring component of the air quality management strategy being developed this year.
2. That the results be shared with the communities.
3. That this report be noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

APPENDIX 1. Arrowtown PM₁₀ summary (monitoring began 1 July 2006)



REPORT

Document Id: A630581

Report Number: 2014/0832

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Michael Goldsmith, Manager Natural Hazards

Date: 26 May 2014

Subject: **Assessment of liquefaction hazards in the Dunedin City District**

1. Précis

The susceptibility of land to earthquake-induced liquefaction in the Dunedin City District has been assessed for ORC by GNS Science. GNS have completed a report which describes the susceptibility of different areas to liquefaction, and this is accompanied by a set of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) maps of those areas. The report and maps have been provided to the Dunedin City Council, and will also be uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database.

The work supersedes, in part, previous assessments of liquefaction,¹ and is intended to help inform the current review of the natural hazard provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan.

2. Method

The attached report (GNS, 2014 Assessment of liquefaction hazards in the Dunedin City District) is an office-based assessment of liquefaction susceptibility, using existing information. It draws upon methodologies developed for liquefaction hazard evaluation in Canterbury following the 2010-11 earthquake sequence. A three-fold classification of liquefaction susceptibility has been developed. The assessment is intended to provide a general indication of which areas are potentially subject to liquefaction hazard – it does not ‘zone’ land based on its liquefaction potential.

3. Key findings

By area, more than 90% of the district is classified as having little or no likelihood of liquefaction occurring (Domain A). The remaining area is classified as either:

- Poorly consolidated river or stream sediments with a low to moderate likelihood of liquefaction-susceptible materials being present (Domain B)
- Poorly consolidated marine or estuarine sediments with a moderate to high likelihood of liquefaction-susceptible materials being present (Domain C)

However, the permanent population of land classified as Domains B or C is approximately 55,856 (27% of Dunedin’s total), with important commercial, industrial and infrastructural assets also located in these areas.

The largest urban area located on land with a moderate – high susceptibility to liquefaction (Domain C) is South Dunedin and the upper harbour, as this area has a very shallow water table and is underlain by extensive fine grained sediment. Other smaller communities with similar characteristics include Outram and Momona on the Taieri Plain, and the coastal townships of Ocean Grove, Aramoana, Harwood, Waitati and Long Beach, and parts of Brighton, Port Chalmers, Karitane and Waikouaiti.

¹ Opus, 2005. Seismic Risk of the Otago Region. Prepared for the Otago Regional Council.

Mosgiel is identified as having a low - moderate susceptibility to liquefaction, as it is more elevated, and is located on alluvial (river), rather than marine sediments. It is noted that a previous assessment of liquefaction hazard (Opus, 2005), which was carried out prior to the Canterbury earthquake sequence, identified almost the entire Taieri Plain as being 'possibly susceptible' to liquefaction.

The need for further, targeted assessment of susceptibility within the Dunedin City District will be assessed during preparation of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan and in consultation with the Dunedin City Council.

4. Recommendations

That:

1. The report is noted.
2. The report "Assessment of liquefaction hazards in the Dunedin City District" and its associated GIS dataset is uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database, and provided to the Dunedin City Council.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A629900

Report Number: 2014/0826

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Michael Goldsmith, Manager Natural Hazards

Date: 26 May 2014

Subject: **Natural Hazards technical reports to inform the Dunedin City District Plan**

1. Précis

A series of 6 technical reports have been created to help inform the review of the natural hazard provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan. The information relates to flood, coastal and land based (geological) hazards. The work highlights the vulnerability of some low-lying areas to multiple hazards, including coastal communities vulnerable to all three hazard types; and areas which have a high flood risk.

The reports identify the characteristics and likely geographical extent of a range of natural hazards, using the best information currently available which is held by the ORC. The effects of climate change, including predicted sea level rise over the next 100 years, have been considered as part of this process.

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) proposes developing a set of District Plan hazard overlays, and rules and standards which will apply within those areas. The planning response to natural hazards will be based upon a set of principles and planning considerations which have been developed by a joint ORC / DCC working group.¹ Preferred approaches to managing development in hazard-prone areas will be presented by ORC and DCC staff at a series of 11 community consultation sessions in June – July 2014.

2. Background

The 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 approach.² This is consistent with the 2013/14 Annual Plan target to “assist Otago’s territorial authorities to integrate natural hazards information into District Plans”. A series of principles and planning considerations to help develop rules to manage land use activities, so as to avoid the potential adverse effects of natural hazards have been developed and reported previously (ORC, 2014a).

3. Content

A joint DCC/ORC project to identify the characteristics and likely geographical extent of natural hazards within the Dunedin City boundary has been undertaken. The project has made use of existing information where available (eg, LiDAR, hydraulic flood models, alluvial fan mapping, storm surge and tsunami modelling) and additional work has been commissioned where necessary. The new work includes an assessment of the significance of landslide

¹ ORC, 2014a. Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan, Report 2014/0765, Prepared for Policy Committee, Otago Regional Council, 16 April 2014.

² ORC, 2013a. Natural Hazards and the Dunedin City District Plan, Report 2013/0777, Prepared for Engineering and Hazards Committee, Otago Regional Council, 11 April 2013.

hazard, an assessment of liquefaction susceptibility, and mapping of the flood plains of the Water of Leith, Lindsay Creek and Kaikorai Stream.

The project has described the full range of effects associated with natural hazards, including events which occur fairly regularly, through to credible high magnitude events which can have the most devastating effects on communities.

The natural hazard information has been summarised in a series of 6 technical reports. Four of these were prepared by ORC, and two were prepared by the Dunedin office of GNS Science:

<i>Report Title</i>	<i>Agency</i>
1. Project Overview	ORC
2. Coastal Hazards of the Dunedin City District	ORC
3. Flood Hazard of the Taieri Plain and Strath Taieri	ORC
4. Flood Hazard of Dunedin's urban streams	ORC
5. The hazard significance of landslides in and around Dunedin City.	GNS
6. Assessment of liquefaction hazards in the Dunedin City District	GNS

These reports describe the effects of natural hazards, and where possible, identify the areas likely to be affected. Hazards not mapped include climatic extremes such as drought, snow and wind, which can affect the entire district. Although the six reports listed above address the natural hazards of the wider Dunedin City District, the focus is on communities where the risk associated with natural hazards is particularly high, and these are described in the following section.

4. Main findings

The work undertaken for this project highlights the general vulnerability of Dunedin's lower lying areas to a number of different natural hazards. There are three main groupings of low-lying land; coastal terraces, the floodplains and valley floors of Dunedin's urban catchments, and the Taieri Plain.

The first group comprises coastal communities which are located on terraces and plains formed by the accumulation of sand and other unconsolidated sediments, with a shallow groundwater table. These characteristics make the land vulnerable to inundation from a number of sources: directly from the sea, ponding of surface runoff, or flooding from larger streams and rivers. Sea-level rise and coastal erosion would, in general, increase the likelihood and adverse effects of inundation on these communities and these processes are discussed within the Coastal Hazards report. The likelihood of these areas being affected by seismic hazards (liquefaction, lateral spread, ground shaking) is also relatively high (GNS, 2014b). South Dunedin and the upper harbour is the largest area which is potentially exposed to these hazards, and this area has a large population of approximately 10,000 people. Other, smaller coastal communities with a similar exposure include:

- Brighton – Westwood
- Harwood - Te Rauone
- Aramoana - Long Beach
- Waitati - Evansdale
- Karitane - Waikouaiti

Further inland, the lower reaches of the Water of Leith, Lindsay, Kaikorai, Waitati and Waikouaiti catchments comprise floodplain areas which have a level of exposure to river flooding. Although they have not been modelled, historical evidence and observations from

recent events and topographical (LiDAR) data has been used to highlight the flood risk associated with the Waitati and Waikouaiti rivers.

The third category of low-lying land is the Taieri Plain, and the flood risk of this area is reasonably well understood.³ Additional work has been undertaken for this project to map 'swale' areas in the North Taieri area (Tirohanga Road – Wyllies Crossing) which carry overland flow during heavy rainfall events; and to identify land on the West Taieri plain which is below the current high tide level. The work undertaken by GNS (2014b) shows that there is a moderate to high likelihood of liquefaction-susceptible materials being present on the Taieri Plain to the west of Mosgiel. This is a refinement of earlier work which identified almost the entire Taieri Plain as being 'possibly susceptible' to liquefaction.⁴

Other work completed to enable a comprehensive overview of natural hazards in the Dunedin City District includes an assessment of the hazard significance of landslides (GNS, 2014a), which has been reported separately.⁵

5. Process

Proposed management of natural hazard risk under the District Plan

The review of the District Plan's approach to the management of natural hazards aims to:

- Introduce better rules and standards to protect people and property from the risks posed by hazards in these areas;
- Provide better information to land owners and investors about constraints on land development as well as the most suitable land for development; and
- Limit the exacerbation of risks from natural hazards.

The understanding of natural hazards within Dunedin has improved considerably since the current District Plan was prepared, as has mapping technology. The DCC propose using the best available information to create a series of overlay zones, to be included in the District Plan:

- Flood Hazard Overlay Zone – includes areas at risk from the effects of flooding including overland flow, ponding areas and alluvial fans.
- Coastal Hazard Overlay Zone – includes areas at risk from the effects of tsunamis, storm surge, erosion and sea-level rise.
- Land Based Hazard Overlay Zone – includes areas where the land is unstable, such as landslides and areas prone to liquefaction.

Next steps

The series of ORC technical reports, DCC hazard overlays, and preferred approaches for managing development in hazard-prone areas will be presented at a series of 11 community consultation sessions in late June – mid July. Feedback from these sessions will be used to refine the proposed District Plan hazard overlays and the rules and standards which apply within those areas.

How this project links with the RPS review

The Otago Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is currently under review. The purpose of the RPS is to achieve sustainable management of resources by providing an overview of the

³ ORC, 2013b. Natural Hazards of the Taieri Plains, Otago.

⁴ Opus, 2005. Seismic Risk of the Otago Region. Report prepared for the Otago Regional Council.

⁵ ORC, 2014b. Assessment of hazard significance of landslides in Dunedin City, Report 2014/0767. Prepared for Technical Committee, 16 April 2014.

region's resource management issues, and achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region.

The RPS sets up the framework for future planning and assists in making decisions and creates opportunities for resource use whilst protecting environmental bottom lines, provides an overview of resource interactions, and gives effect to higher level documents. In general the high level objectives of the RPS include:

- Identify the significant resource management issues for the Otago Region
- Promote prosperity (not just in the economic sense)
- Ensure a good natural environment
- Enable healthy, happy, safe and resilient communities

The review of the RPS, in regards to managing natural hazards, will consider the following matters:

- Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Enabling more integrated management
- Focusing on reducing the current risk associated with natural hazards, and avoiding additional risk
- Protecting people and property
- Increasing awareness and understanding of natural hazards
- Taking a more holistic approach to natural hazards management (e.g. consideration of cumulative effects, residual risk)

Regional and district plans must give effect to the RPS. It is therefore important that the ORC and Territorial Local Authorities (TLA) continue to work together to ensure that the RPS and regional and district plans work effectively and efficiently together to address Otago's key resource management issues. The work described in this report shows this process in action – with the ORC collating and presenting natural hazards information to help inform the review of the DCC District Plan, so that the effects of natural hazards can be avoided, or adequately mitigated.

6. Recommendations

That:

1. This report is received, and
2. The series of six technical reports outlined above are noted, endorsed, and provided to the Dunedin City Council to inform the review of the natural hazards provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A629154

Report Number: 2014/0822

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Dean Olsen, Water Resource Scientist

Date: 9 May 2014

Subject: **Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study**

1. Précis

The Shag River/Waihemo is a small river in North Otago that supports high values including a high diversity of native fish, habitat for waterfowl, and regionally significant trout and whitebait fisheries. The Shag/Waihemo catchment is dominated by agriculture and forestry with some short-rotation cropping in the lower catchment. There is currently no dairy farming in the Shag/Waihemo catchment, although some farms are used for dairy support.

A water quality report (“Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study”) has been prepared presenting the results of long-term (State of the Environment or SOE) monitoring at two sites in the Shag River/Waihemo, intensive water quality monitoring in 2012-2013 as well as ecological surveys carried out in 2012-2013.

Water quality in the Shag/Waihemo catchment is generally good. The results of SoE monitoring between 2000 and 2013 show that nitrate-nitrite nitrogen (NNN) increased significantly while ammoniacal nitrogen ($\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$) and *E. coli* declined. In addition, the concentration of dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) increased at the Goodwood Pump site in the lower catchment, but not the Craig Road site (downstream of Dunback). Results from the SoE sites and the 2012-2013 survey were compared to the receiving water limits in plan change 6A (PC6A). This showed that all sites were likely to comply with limits for $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, DRP and turbidity, although Goodwood Pump approached the DRP limit and given the increasing trend in DRP observed at this site, it is possible that this site will not comply with the DRP limit in the future. Collins Bridge and The Grange were the only sites sampled that are likely to comply with NNN limits and Craig Road, Goodwood Pump and Deepdell Creek complied with the *E. coli* limit, while most other sites were close to the limit.

The Shag Alluvium Aquifer is identified in PC6A as a Nitrogen Sensitive Zone, with a leaching rate for permitted activities set at 20 kg N/ha/y as calculated using OVERSEER[®] version 6.0 effective from 1 April 2020 (Rule 12.C.1.3(a)(ii)). This rule is likely to be the most effective means of halting the observed increase in NNN when it comes into effect.

Concentrations of *E. coli* were generally below or close to the PC6A limit. The concentrations observed are consistent with low densities of stock with access to waterways and adjacent areas.

Habitat quality was good at most sites, with some sedimentation evident at Goodwood Pump and McCormicks Creek. Macroinvertebrate monitoring suggested that water and habitat quality have been relatively consistent since 2001, but suggested that water and/or habitat quality declined at downstream sites.

The results of this study will be used to guide future policy decisions and to promote good practice among the community and other stakeholders to maintain and enhance water quality in the Shag/Waihemo catchment.

2. Recommendation

That this report and the technical report “Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study” are received and noted.

Gavin Palmer

Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A621631

Report Number: 2014/0788

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Rachel Ozanne, Water Quality Scientist

Date: 26 May 2014

Subject: **Water quality and ecosystem health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment**

1. Précis

Lake Tuakitoto wetland is a large, shallow, lowland lake and adjoining swamp situated in South Otago, 5km east of Balclutha.

The wetland is listed in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Schedule 9, No.77, map F39). It's values include being a habitat for threatened species; being of high diversity of wetland habitat types; being scarce in terms of ecological and physical character; being highly valued by Kai Tahu for cultural and spiritual beliefs, values and uses, including mahika kai and waahi taoka; having a high diversity of indigenous flora and fauna and having significant hydrological values being a flood ponding area and an integral part of the Lower Clutha Flood Control and Drainage Scheme.

Drainage work carried out in the past has allowed farming to establish around Lake Tuakitoto, on what was once part of the wetland complex. To protect the regionally significant wetland the Local Water Conservation (Lake Tuakitoto) Notice 1991 set a minimum lake level of 100.77 m above datum, applying during the period beginning 30 September in any year and ending 16 May in any following year. A complex arrangement of pumps and floodgates (managed by ORC) help control water levels in the wetland.

State of the Environment (SOE) water quality monitoring has been undertaken at the Lake Tuakitoto outlet since July 1995. Trend analysis (1995 to 2013) shows that there has been no statistically significant change in water quality other than a reduction in ammoniacal nitrogen. However the state of Lake Tuakitoto when compared to Plan Change 6A (PC6A) limits (SOE report card¹, ORC, 2013²) shows that *E.coli*, total nitrogen, total phosphorus and turbidity exceed PC6A limits and the lake is classified as having 'poor' water quality.

¹ <http://www.orc.govt.nz/Publications-and-Reports/Research-and--Technical-Reports/Surface-Water-Quality/Annual-water-quality-and-bio-monitoring-summaries/201213/State-of-the-Environment-report-card-Water-quality-and-ecosystem-health-in-Otago-2008-2013/>

² Of the 67 sites monitored, 12 were classified as poor, 9 as 'fair', 20 as 'good' and 26 as 'excellent'

A report (“water quality and ecosystem health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment”) has been prepared with four main aims:

- To provide a baseline of water quality in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment;
- To compare water quality in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment to water quality limits set out in Plan Change 6A (PC6A);
- to provide a baseline of ecological health in the Tuakitoto catchment;
- To investigate the density of freshwater mussels (kakahī) in the lake.

The main findings were that:

- All sites in the catchment satisfied the PC6A Schedule 15 water quality limits for NH₄-N (0.1 mg/l). and DRP (0.026 mg/l)
- The receiving water quality limit for NNN (0.444 mg/l) was exceeded at all sites in Stony Creek and at the upper sites in Lovells Creek.
- The receiving water quality limit for *E. coli* (260 cfu/100ml) was met at the upper Frasers Stream site, Lovells Creek east branch and Lake Tuakitoto at the outlet.
- Lake Tuakitoto at the outlet exceeded the receiving water quality limit for turbidity, TN and TP.
- The macroinvertebrate community indicated that water quality was generally ‘good to fair’, periphyton was very limited but did include *Phormidium*. The fish community was diverse.
- the 2013 freshwater mussel survey indicated a decline in the mussel population, when compared to the 1991 study (Ogilvie 1993), the time taken to filter a volume of water equal to that of the lake increased from 32 hours in 1991, to 102 hours in 2013.
- In recent years (since 2006) the lake has spent longer below the minimum lake level of 100.77m (30 September to 16 May). As the lake is so shallow a sustained low lake level will adversely affect ecosystem values.

It should be noted that ORC is making improvements to the regulation of flows through the lake, with the aim of balancing drainage and ecosystem requirements.

The results from the technical report should be used to guide future policy decisions and to promote good practice in the community and with other stakeholders to maintain and enhance water quality in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment, in particular to ensure the ongoing protection of the regionally significant wetland.

2. Recommendation

That this report and the technical report ‘Water quality and ecological health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment’ are received and noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A632478

Report Number: 2014/0854

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Xiaofeng Lu, Hydrologist

Date: 20 May 2014

Subject: **Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River**

1. Précis

The Tuapeka River is a tributary of the Clutha River/Mata-Au, located approximately 70 km west of Dunedin. It has high ecological values including several threatened native fish species in addition to a locally significant trout fishery.

At present the Regional Plan: Water does not set a minimum flow for the river. It is desirable to have technical information on aquatic ecosystems available to the public to support further discussions on the setting of a minimum flow in the future. A management flow report (“Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River”) has therefore been prepared presenting hydrological information and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Tuapeka River. 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 Tuapeka catchment in 2005.

Using habitat suitability curves derived from habitat modelling, recommended flows to retain suitable levels of habitat during the irrigation season have been suggested for existing fish species in the lower reach of the Tuapeka River. Trout spawning only occurs in winter, making it a significant value during the winter months. Therefore, the optimum flow for trout spawning habitat of 420 l/s has been recommended for winter.

Compared to the long-term 7-day Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF) of 379 l/s at Tuapeka Mouth, the single existing surface water allocation of 19 l/s (Tuapeka Rural Water Supply Scheme) is small. A flow duration analysis shows that the suggested management flows would not reduce the security of supply for the existing water user.

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 Tuapeka River.

2. Recommendation

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

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A629779

Report No: 2014/0825

Prepared For: Technical Committee

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

Date: 21 May 2014

Subject: Director's Report

1 Air, Surface water and Groundwater

The Ministry for the Environment, in conjunction with Statistics New Zealand, has released its *2014 Air domain report*. It is the first of a new series of national environmental reporting which will include further reports on atmosphere/climate, fresh water, land, and the marine environment. Issues and results are presented at a national level with input from all councils, including ORC. The report includes data from 2006-2012 over all major pollutants, including PM₁₀. Overall, results show that average annual PM₁₀ has decreased by 11% in cities (includes Dunedin) and by 19% in small towns (all the rest of Otago sites). It is acknowledged that South Island PM₁₀ levels are higher than in the North Island due to the greater use of wood and coal for home heating coupled with challenging winter weather conditions. The report notes that the major pressure on air quality nationally is home heating. A 25% decrease in the number of households using wood and coal for home heating is tipped as the likely reason for the improvement in air quality from 2006 to 2012.

Staff attended the 3rd Forestry Ecosystem Services Forum in Wellington and presented a talk on Plan Change 6A and the research ORC is doing to support the forestry sector understand the effects of their operations. The forum was attended by approximately 30 delegates from a range of forestry companies, professional associations, government departments (MPI, MfE), regional councils and research organisations (especially Scion). The approach taken by ORC to manage water quality was positively received. On a related matter, the measurement of baseline turbidity data has commenced in the two catchments near Lawrence that are part of the Glendhu forestry study. Harvesting of the first of three blocks starts in October.

The Alum trial in North Otago has been discontinued after water quality monitoring showed that dosing the effluent pond with alum was not causing substantial long-term reductions in phosphorus concentrations in the effluent. It is thought that this was a result of the method of application of alum to the pond (spray application to the pond surface). A different method of application that involves more physical mixing (such as dosing alum within the inlet pipe to the pond or deploying a mechanical mixer) is likely to be more effective. Consideration is being given to conducting a trial involving such mixing.

Staff participated at the request of KTKO and Te Ao Marama in a technical meeting around minimum flow for the Lindis, Cardrona, Waiwera and Pomahaka Rivers. The purpose of the meeting was to provide technical advice around hydrology, ecology and effects to allow them to make informed submission on behalf of their Runanga. Staff also participated in minimum flow and allocation workshops at Clinton for the Waiwera River and Tapanui for the Pomahaka River providing technical information on natural values and allocation limits.

2. Natural Hazards, Civil Defence and Emergency Management

A series of technical reports have been prepared help inform the review of natural hazards provisions in the Dunedin City District Plan. These are reported separately to committee.

The findings of the recently completed report by GNS Science on ‘The hazard significance of landslides in and around Dunedin City’ were presented to members of the Saddle Hill Community Board on 1 May.

Staff participated in a debriefing arranged by Waitaki District Council on 2 May, following high flow events on April 18 and 28. Information was presented regarding the intensity and duration of rainfall and the magnitude of the two flood peaks in North Otago catchments, how these compared to previous events, including floods in May 2010 and June 2013. The improved ability of ORC to accurately measure flows during floods, using helicopter gauging technology was explained. The main concerns of the group related to the effect of multiple road closures, including motorists ignoring signs, and attempting to find alternative routes. On a related matter, staff met with NZTA on 20 May and agreed to participate in a meeting with stakeholders, convened by NZTA, to determine a process for assessing the flood risk for SH1 at Hilderthorpe and the options for managing that risk.

Staff have been liaising with Lincoln University over developing a predictive model for flood forecasting in the Pomahaka catchment. Consideration is also being given to adapting the numerical model developed for the Shotover River training line investigations so that it can be used during times of high lake level to estimate the amount of time it will take for Lake Wakatipu to recede to normal levels.

A meeting was held with planning, emergency management, asset management, and building control staff of the Clutha District Council (CDC) on 19 May, to inform them of the work to date documenting natural hazards of the Clutha delta. The report on this work will be completed later this year.

Information and support is continuing to be provided to the lifelines study being undertaken by the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group. Following on from the identification of “pinch-points” (where the assets of a single sector intersect hazard areas), ORC identified a number of the region’s “hot-spots” (where assets from multiple lifelines intersect hazard areas). These hot-spots were refined and expanded on at a workshop comprising representatives from all sectors on 13 May. The workshop also focused on emergency response priorities and principles - completed at a regional

level, this assessment identified the utilities/lifelines which will be most important following an event in Otago. A final workshop is scheduled for mid-July where all information will be checked and work on future actions for the lifelines group (arising from this project) discussed.

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 modifications to the St David footbridge well underway. The works sustained some damage as a result of the Easter Friday flood, mainly affecting the temporary in-channel works required to construct the new lower wall along the true right bank. The University of Otago continue to be updated on the construction work and the programme, including recent formal notification of a likely mid-August completion. Contractor Downer is continuing to actively manage the construction programme and identify any scope for bringing the expected completion date forward.

The flood hazard mitigation works to the Water of Leith between Leith Street and Forth Street also sustained some minor damage during the Easter Friday flood event. The estimated peak flow of the event was $68\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ equating to a Return Period of 10 years. The peak flow experienced in 2006 was $95\text{m}^3/\text{s}$. Completing the grassed right bank area will be delayed until late winter to enable a grass strike; minor modifications to the left bank will commence shortly.

Design work associated with the next stage of the Leith works (the Dundas Street to St David Street reach) has commenced. The scope of work will involve channel widening and retaining wall construction, and includes removing much of Montgomery Avenue. Consultation with both the University of Otago and the Dunedin City Council is underway. Construction tenders are expected to be invited in September with the works expected to commence in November.

Tenders have been invited for undertaking modifications to the Paretai Pump Station on the Clutha Delta, specifically widening the screen cleaning platform.

Arrangements are being made to engage a person to lead the development of the Kakanui/Kauru river management plan. In the meantime staff are assessing the need for minor realignment of channels at selected locations so as to mitigate the risk of large-scale realignment occurring.

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 4 June 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:

Leave of absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 2 June.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0851 **Report on Community Liaison and Education.** CE, 16/5/14

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

Item 2

2014/0844 **Report on Communications and Media Activity.** CE, 20/5/14

Providing an update on Council communications and media activity carried out during the period 1 April to 16 May 2014.

Item 3

2014/0840 **Report on Customer Services Activity.** CE, 19/5/14

Providing an update on Customer Services Activity for May 2014.

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

REPORT

Document Id: A632469

Report No: 2014/0851

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Community Liaison and Education Team

Date: 16 May 2014

Subject: Report on community liaison and education May 2014

1. Water Quality: Plan Change 6A

6A became operative on 1 May 2014. The 6A rules and median flows for reference sites were available on the website for the 1st May.

A range of publicity material is currently being developed to assist landholders with understanding the rules, how to monitor and what they might need to do to be compliant with the new rules. These have all required input and discussion with units across Council to ensure the fact sheets are clear and concise. Staff are currently completing the guide to 6A which will be soon available to all members of the public. Roadshows explaining 6A are planned for early July.

Multi unit meetings have been needed to determine a consistent message for two specific topics, sediment discharge and forest harvesting and clearance of watercourse.

Council needs to encourage the inclusion of innovative measures for minimising the impact of sediment discharge during forestry harvesting so that permitted activity conditions can be met.

Mechanical clearance of rivers can only be carried out with a resource consent. There is need to provide land owners clear directives as to whether a water course is a river or not. A list of indicators is being prepared to assist both Council staff and landowners in this decision making process.

An external technical advisory group is being formed to work with stakeholders to collaborate on implementation of 6A with landholders. In recent weeks, staff have met with staff from Dairy NZ and Clutha Development Trust to begin these discussions.

2. Catchment programmes: Water quality*a) South Otago*

CLE and EMO staff attended a Trees on Farm workshop at Paretai, hosted by the South Otago Farm Forestry Association, on the 14th May. 50 people were in attendance. Council clarified the use of Overseer in the Water plan with respect to dairy properties as well as sheep and beef farms. There was considerable interest amongst the group about water quality and the upcoming "6A Roadshows".

b) Tuakitoto

On the 30th April, CLE staff, along with staff from engineering and science, met with local farmers at Tuakitoto, who were the affected parties to the Lake Tuakitoto diversion channel, guillotine gate, resource consent application. This meeting was held to discuss the alternative structure, receive feedback and answer any concerns that may be associated with these.

Staff from CLE, Engineering and Science met with Fish and Game and DoC on site at Tuakitoto on the 7th May to discuss the resource consent application and investigate concerns raised in the previous meeting with the farmers.

c) North Otago

Following an enquiry from a landowner north of Hampden, CLE staff visited the site on the 9th April to discuss the site and plans for a water take, while also covering a number of other topics on a biodiversity rich property, relatively unique in this geography.

CLE and EMO staff attended a Trees on Farm workshop in Dunback, hosted by the North Otago branch of the Farm Forestry Association on the 29th April. More than 50 people attended. Staff provided additional comments around the inclusion of Overseer in the Water Plan and what this meant to sheep and beef farmers, while also fielding a number of individual enquiries around the Water Plan, harvesting, funding and the use of native trees.

On the 8th May, CLE staff met with the directors of a farming business who are looking at expanding in the Lower Waitaki. Steps were discussed which would enable the farmers to be able to meet new Water Plan rules while still developing this business.

3. Catchment programmes: Water Quantity

During this period reduced staffing and the extent of preparation required for the launch of 6A has prevented the normal proactive liaison with catchment groups. Work effort has been specifically confined to reactive response to enquiries relating to 2020 resource consent preparations and water measuring. Enquiries have been received from all catchment programme areas.

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.

On 9th April, CLE staff completed a dairy conversion assessment for a property near Hampden. This property is the first near the township of Hampden, and the owners are being very proactive at identifying practices that will minimise effects on water quality, including low stocking rates.

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

Staff met with Lauder discussion group on 23rd April to discuss farm management practices that may impact on water quality and clarification of a range of water quantity issues. There were 20 farmers present. Councillor Eckhoff was also in attendance.

Topics included river definition and periodic clearing, stock exclusion expectations in relation to 6A, flood bank protection, installation of pivots and disturbances to rivers, race water and discharge to rivers, stock water provisions in extreme winters, bores and renewal of consents.

B4 Assist with community groups projects such as Sustainable Farming Fund and Beef and Lamb Monitor Farms

CLE staff attended the Pomahaka stakeholders meeting near Clydevale on 15th April. The meeting looked over two properties, one which was undergoing a dairy conversion, and the second was an established dairy unit. 20 people were present. CLE staff were able to provide information around the dairy conversion assessment process, and what environmental considerations are needed to be factored in when undertaking a conversion.

As both properties will be a high input/output operation, particular attention focused on how this can be done in an environmentally sustainable manner with the use of new technology and management practices. Future plans including the use of irrigation were discussed, while an electric fishing demonstration concluded the day.

On 17 April, staff met with a consultant who is working with stakeholders in the Dunedin – East Otago community, to discuss where 6A could be relevant to this area.

Specific topics discussed comprised schedule 15 water quality limits, schedule 16 thresholds for discharges, nitrogen loading limits and specified prohibited activities.

Landcare Trust is facilitating a ‘Pathways for the Pomahaka’ project which is a farmer based initiative to improve water quality in the Pomahaka through adoption of best practices along with ongoing monitoring. Feedback has been sought from farmers at several recent field days run by the Trust. Council and Landcare Trust are also presently identifying the mix of key activities that should be carried out to ensure the principles and outcomes of 6A are met.

CLE staff met and attended a presentation from Beef and Lamb’s newly created national Environmental Extension Manager on the 28th April. This meeting was hosted by AbacusBio, who also undertake environmental programmes within their overall work load. The meeting was also attended by AgResearch. The meeting jointly explored opportunities for developing and achieving positive environmental changes on the ground.

Staff met AgResearch and Environment Southland on 14 May to explore developing a joint wintering impact project in the south. Wintering stock on crop or grass in Otago and Southland is a high risk activity for discharge of contaminants to waterways.

5. Other non water activities

CLE staff spoke to 100 children at Weston Primary on 8th April about ways and reasons for retaining and improving stream health with reference to SHMAK kits.

6. Staff changes

CLE staff member Alice Webster finished at the Council on 16 May. James White joined the CLE team on 28 April and is based in North Otago, working with landowners and all stakeholders in the area from Mt Cargill to the Waitaki River. This brings the team back up to four staff. Two staff positions in the CLE team still remain to be filled.

7. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A632196

Report No: 2014/0844

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Peter Taylor, Manager Communications

Date: 20/05/2014

Subject: Report on Communications and Media Activity April 2014

This report records communications and media activity between 1 April and 16 May.

1. Media activity

- Seventeen media releases were prepared and distributed.
- ORC activity has received 174 mentions in print media and 16 broadcast mentions.
- Five letters to the Editor (ODT) requiring responses were received. The director engineering, hazards, and science responded to four of these letters, three of which related to water quality (a single response was produced to two of these letters) and the fourth concerned the performance of the Taieri flood protection and drainage scheme. The manager support services replied to the fifth letter, which related to the Mosgiel bus service.

2. Social media

- Sixteen items were posted on the ORC Facebook page and, as at May 18, the page had attracted 41 likes
- Forty-eight messages were sent out on Twitter, and as at 16 May, 117 people or organisations were following the ORC Twitter feed.
- Subject examples of items posted on Facebook and sent out on Twitter included: Gypsy Week stock transfers; RPS submission process; Central Otago air quality; flood condition updates, and ORC participation in oil and gas regulatory information session.

3. Corporate communications

- Communications staff oversaw the production and design of the Regional Policy Statement tabloid consultation brochure which was delivered to households throughout Otago. At the time of writing, policy staff were about to begin a round of five RPS consultation meetings. The consultation brochure has received some positive feedback. Extensive print and radio advertising during May promoted the RPS and invited submissions.
- Staff have provided material and support for the policy team organising the following consultations:
 - Pomahaka and Waiwera minimum flow meetings
 - Notification of Plan Change 4B

- The 6A implementation programme will be launched with a stakeholders' forum at the Southern Cross Hotel on 24 June, 10am-4pm. A series of 15 roadshow meetings is being planned between 1 July and 10 July.
- The Lake Waipori community was advised that the weekly communications reporting the cyanobacteria (toxic algae) monitoring results would cease on 9 May following several weeks of clear results.
- A meeting with the Tomahawk community to present the findings of an ORC report on cyanobacteria levels in the lagoon is being planned for June.
- Staff have held discussions with the Dunedin BusGo group on the format of a new bus timetable. Following their initial suggestions a draft design was presented to them and discussed. This was well received and supported.
- Communications staff are working with transport staff to develop consultation activity and materials for the new draft Regional Public Transport Plan due for release in July.
- Print media and radio advertising have been running throughout May to promote best practice by dairy farmers and truck drivers to keep roads clear of effluent during the annual gypsy week stock transfers.
- The Communications team provided information packs for the 14 visitors from the Taranaki Regional Council.
- Communications staff have been working with finance staff to redesign the rates accounts.

4. Publications

- Otagowide April edition produced and distributed
- Alluvial fans information sheet
- Recreational guide to E.coli in waterways
- April Leaders Brief e-newsletter
- Revised guide to rules and methods for rabbit control in Otago
- 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. A near final draft of the Guide to 6A is with policy staff for checking.
- New warning signage was produced for the Leith floodworks construction site.

5. Community education activity

- Liaison continues with the Dunedin International Science Festival to manage ORC activities included in the July festival programme.
- Science staff gave a presentation to Arthur St School students on freshwater ecology and how ORC uses biomonitoring to assess the health of our waterways.
- Science staff assisted on a coastal monitoring workshop at Warrington School.
- Natural hazards staff gave a seminar about planning the Leith Flood Protection Scheme to University of Otago planning students.
- The communications manager met with staff from the Royal Society of New Zealand, who are promoting science education in schools. ORC science education capabilities have been recorded in a database being created for use in schools by the RSNZ.

6. Website developments

- Each year the Association of Local Government Information Managers sets criteria for assessing local and regional council websites. These include compliance with NZ Government website standards and other IT systems standards, as well as a range of functionality and user experience standards.

The ORC website was rated 9th out of 78 sites assessed in the 2014 review.

Our website is continually evolving. This excellent result reflects a number of improvements made during the year. Further work is planned to make the website easier to use, particularly through the use of online forms.

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

- The bus journey planner was implemented in this period. This is the culmination of much work by transport staff. Feedback has been excellent. Initial promotions of this tool through a media release and social media will be followed up with print media promotion.
- A Regional Policy Statement online submission form was set up to allow people to easily submit feedback via our website, and enable us to view the feedback as soon as it has been submitted.
- An online application form for remission of rates penalties is being created along with an online request for emailing rates accounts to ratepayers who sign up.
- Optimization is continuing of all PDF's on website to conform to accessibility standards.

7. Website statistics

Website statistics for the period 31 March to 30 April.

- 29,327 visits
- 11,759 new visitors – 40.1% (stats below)
- 17,568 returning visitors – 59.9%

Country origins for visitors

- New Zealand – 27,540
- Australia – 485
- United States – 418

Visits from around NZ

- Dunedin – 13,489
- Auckland – 5,536
- Wellington – 4,134
- Christchurch – 1,291

- Queenstown - 538

Averages for visits in NZ

- 3.34 pages viewed per visit

Analysis of pages viewed on the ORC website

- **Buses**
 - Main bus page – 29,905 page views
 - Bus Info page – 3,615 page views
 - Route numbers – 2,099 page views
 - Route – City to Mosgiel – 1,486 page views
 - Route – Mosgiel to City – 1,413 page views
 - Route – Port Chalmers to City – 1,071 page views
 - Route – City to Port Chalmers – 963 page views
- **Information and Services**
 - Water pages – 2,926 page views
 - Resource Consents pages – 999 page views
 - Natural Hazards pages – 990 page views
 - Wetlands Inventory pages – 759 page views
 - Rates pages – 751 page views
- **Publications and Reports**
 - Regional Policies and Plans – 2,684 page views
 - Research and Technical Reports – 847 page views
 - Corporate Planning and Reporting – 506 page views
 - Farming and Land management – 358 page views
- **About us and the Region**
 - Job vacancies – 1,605 page views
 - Contact us – 1,585 page views
 - About the ORC – 721 page views
 - About Us and Region Home page – 556 page views
 - About the region – 386 page views
- **Other areas viewed**
 - News and Notices – 3,102 page views
 - Council Meetings and Agendas – 397 page views
 - Events Calendar – 201 page views
 - Have your say – 90 page views

Top three PDF downloads

- Bus timetable – 1,908
- Regional Plan: Water – 533
- Proposed Plan Change 6A - 242

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A631673

Report Number: 2012/1014

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Cher Da-Rin, Team Leader Customer Services

Date: 19 May 2014

Subject: **Customer Services Activity May 2014**

1. Subject Pods

Customer Services refer to the various subjects we take-over the care of as subject pods.

Subject Pod current status:

In Use		Dams Pollution-Compliance Calls Total Mobility Trap Hire
	New	GoBus GoCard Extra Rates/Pathway Receiving Consent Application Rosters
Under development		Domestic Heating Land Information Report Outdoor Burning

2. Rates/Pathway

Rates and Pathway have really been the main focus of the Customer Services team for this month. Getting the team comfortable with the new software and ironing out the usual teething problems. The CS team now take more in-depth enquiries with Ratepayers and Legal people. We are also now responding to emailed rates enquiries. This workload has had a significant impact on the workload of the CS team but must have made a great difference to the Rates team.

3. "Who Does What" document

The Customer Services team have always had a reference document for who looks after what within Council. It was identified that this document would be very handy for a number of staff and especially for new staff starting. This document has been extensively upgraded and is now available on the intranet on the front page "yellow section".

4. Templates

Upon request to do so, I have updated the New Staff Notification template for the Corporate Services team. The main benefit of the updated form is that it clarifies the order in which actions must be undertaken to set up accounts, reference documents or office equipment for a new staff member.

5. 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 4 June 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:

Leave of absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 2 June.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0842 **2014/15 Annual Plan – Recommendations from Hearing Committee.**
DCS, 21/5/14

Presenting the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the Draft Annual Plan.

Item 2

2014/0861 **Passenger Transport Operations Update May 2014.** DCS, 25/5/14

Providing an update on transport operational matters.

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2014/0863 **Executive Report on Progress.** DCS, 26/5/14

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

PART C - 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

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.

**In Committee Agenda
Finance and Corporate Committee 4 June 2014**

Item

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

REPORT

Document Id: A632074

Report Number: 2014/0842
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Corporate Analyst
Date: 21 May 2014

Subject: **2014/15 Annual Plan - Recommendations from Hearing Committee**

1. Précis

Submissions on the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan closed on 2 May 2014. Council received 56 submissions, and of those, 30 submitters presented their submissions to the Hearing Committee. Hearings were held in Cromwell on 12 May and in Dunedin on 15 May.

The purpose of this report is to present the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the Draft Annual Plan.

2. Submissions

Submissions covered a range of issues including the following:

- Regional Plan: Water - Plan Change 6A
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Public passenger transport
- Stock truck effluent disposal sites
- Harbour safety
- Hazardous waste
- Funding and / or support requests

A summary of submissions received, along with recommendations on each submission has been distributed separately with the agenda. Note is made that submissions received were made available to all Councillors.

3. Consideration of the Issues Raised

The Hearing Committee has considered the submissions received on the draft plan, and makes the following recommendations and comments on each:

3.1 *Regional Plan: Water – Plan Change 6A*

Approximately ten submitters commented on Plan Change 6A. A number of submitters supported the commitment provided for in the draft annual plan to implementing the plan change. Some questioned the level of resource allocated, feeling that more funding should be dedicated to this task. A number of submitters noted that the draft annual plan did not reflect the mediation version of Plan Change 6A, in terms of some terminology, and the lack of reference to the development of a Stakeholder Reference Group and the development of a protocol for the implementation of Rules 12.C and associated Schedule 16.

The Hearing Committee is of the view that sufficient funding has been allocated to the implementation programme for the 2014/15 year. The draft annual plan was prepared before the completion of mediation, hence the terminology differences. The annual plan will be amended appropriately. With respect to the development of a Stakeholder Reference Group,

this is already underway, and it is anticipated that a recommendation will go to Council on the formation of this group by the end of June 2014. Draft protocols for the implementation of Rules 12.C and associated Schedule 16 have been completed, and will be consulted on with the mediation group.

3.2 Biodiversity Strategy

Council received 11 submissions on the proposed Biodiversity Strategy. All were supportive of Council undertaking this initiative. Many submitters requested that Council consult those organisations and groups seeking to maintain and enhance biodiversity values, in the development of the strategy.

The Hearing Committee notes that the purpose of the strategy is to draw together all of the biodiversity work currently being undertaken by Council, and to assist with planning its own role in biodiversity in the future. The Hearing Committee recommends that no specific consultation be undertaken in the strategy's development, but notes that activities arising from the strategy will be included in the 2015-25 Draft Long Term Plan, and can be consulted as part of that process.

3.3 Public Passenger Transport

Twelve submissions were received discussing public passenger transport matters. Matters raised included retention of the student discount, the possible transfer of the bus activity to the Dunedin City Council, and other issues such as lowering fares and improving the bus timetable.

Three submitters asked that the current trial of the student discount be made permanent. Four submitters supported the proposed transfer of function to the Dunedin City Council, and one submitter was opposed. One submitter was concerned that if the buses did transfer to the Dunedin City Council, the Palmerston service may not be retained.

Note is made that as part of its annual plan consultation, the Dunedin City Council received nine submissions on public passenger transport that were forwarded to us, of which six supported the transfer of buses, and one asked to keep the student discount.

The Hearing Committee notes that with respect to the student discount, operators are currently assessing the commercial viability of retaining the discount. Other transport matters are being referred to our transport staff for their information and consideration.

3.4 Stock truck effluent disposal sites

Council received four submissions about stock truck effluent disposal sites. The draft annual plan provides for the proposed upgrade of the Raes Junction site, a new site at Springvale Road, Alexandra and a new site at either Cromwell or Victoria Flats. One submitter opposed Council funding the construction of these sites, stating that farmers should take responsibility for the wider effects of their operations. The remaining submitters were supportive of the proposal.

The Hearing Committee recommends that the stock truck effluent site initiatives be retained, and that these submissions be forwarded to the STED Committee for its information.

3.5 Harbour safety

Four submissions were received about the Dunedin Harbour and the need for maintenance through dredging for both safety reasons and access in and to the channel and the beach by maritime users. One submitter noted that there is now the opportunity to provide access by boat from the Otago Peninsula to Aramoana and Port Chalmers to allow cyclists and walkers to complete a round trip of the Otago Harbour.

The Hearing Committee is cautious about entering any commitment for ongoing inner harbour dredging, noting that dredging would be a costly task. It recommends that further investigation be undertaken to determine what roles the ORC, Dunedin City Council and other harbour users have in respect of harbour issues, and to consider what the priorities are around harbour maintenance.

3.6 Hazardous waste

A submission received by Central Otago Wastebusters raised concerns about there being no solution to the disposal of residential hazardous and chemical waste. Hazardous waste is dropped off at the Central Otago Wastebusters, free of charge, and quantities are building up. The submitter has asked for ORC to find a workable solution for the disposal of these wastes.

The Hearing Committee considers that this is an issue for the territorial authorities. It notes that the Ministry for the Environment has the Waste Minimisation Fund which is a contestable fund, and can be used for the disposal of hazardous waste.

3.7 Funding and/or support requests

Council received 12 submissions requesting funding and / or support. These are discussed below.

3.7.1 Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group

This group, established in 2008, has been working towards eradicate possums from the Otago Peninsula, and has removed over 6,000 possums to date. The group has received in kind support from ORC through staff resources, data and expertise in the past. It is planning on undertaking a “mop up” operation this winter, and requires an independent monitor to determine the success of the operation. The group has asked if ORC could undertake the monitoring programme, at no cost to the group. The programme would cover Taiaroa Head to Portobello, an area of 4,500 hectares, and estimates the monitoring would cost around \$12,000 plus GST, to complete.

The Hearing Committee notes that Council staff have the experience to undertake such monitoring, and recommends that staff resources be made available to undertake the work.

3.7.2 Deep Water Lakes Management

Three submissions were received concerning the management of deep water lakes, from Friends of Lake Hayes, Wanaka Residents Association and Guardians of Lake Wanaka. The Friends of Lake Hayes formed seven years ago, due to concern about the water quality of the lake being affected by algae. The group has asked for support from ORC to apply to the Central Lakes Trust for funding a deep water monitoring buoy. They have suggested that this could be a joint funding application with the Guardians of Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea

The group believes that to resolve the level of algae blooms, more study is needed. It has asked ORC to provide some funding for a masters student to undertake this.

Wanaka Residents Association and the Guardians of Lake Wanaka have asked ORC to support in principle these organisations seeking alternative funding sources to improve monitoring of the southern lakes, for ORC to take ownership of capital equipment such as monitoring buoys, and to be responsible for their maintenance. They have also asked for funding to be made available for further research.

The Hearing Committee recommends agreeing to give support to a funding application for purchasing monitoring buoys. It recommends seeking clarification on why ownership of the buoys would need to sit with the ORC, but it does not support the ORC being responsible for their maintenance.

With respect to providing funding for a masters student, the Hearing Committee notes the work undertaken to date and further notes that there has been a change in policy on providing for PhD funding. It therefore recommends declining the request for funding further study.

3.7.3 Clutha River Parkway Group

This group wishes to create a riverside park on land currently for sale by Contact Energy, on riverside land adjoining the Luggate Red Bridge. The park would function as a resource and education centre for activities such as freshwater management and research, outdoor education such as kayaking and water safety, and historical education such as gold mining. The group has asked ORC to support in principle the project.

The Hearing Committee recommends declining the request. It does not consider this to be an ORC activity, noting there is no strong relevance or link to ORC activities. Further, ORC has its own educational programmes.

3.7.4 Heritage New Zealand

A submission from Heritage NZ has asked for Council to provide \$5,000 towards the development of a regional coastal heritage inventory project, in partnership with DoC, Dunedin City Council, Clutha District Council and Waitaki District Council. This request has been made previously.

The Hearing Committee does not support the request made.

3.7.5 Pathways for the Pomahaka Group

This group has requested \$20,000 from Council to be used towards the management of gorse, broom, willow and silver birch in the Pomahaka catchment, particularly where these plants are adjacent to regionally significant wetlands, and to waive resource consent fees associated with controlling these pest plants.

The Hearing Committee notes that Council has a policy that it does not waive resource consent fees. It recommends declining the request for funding. As part of the development of the Biodiversity Strategy, an approach to regionally significant wetlands will be determined.

3.7.6 Enviroschools

A submission received from the Dunedin City Council has asked that Council include funding of \$60,000 in the annual plan to reimburse the Dunedin City Council for the regional co-ordination role it undertakes for Enviroschools. Currently the regional co-ordination role, consisting of two part time regional co-ordinators (0.6 FTE), and their operational costs are funded by waste levy funding from MfE. MfE has signalled that in the near future, only the

waste related portion of Enviroschools will be able to be funded from this levy. The Dunedin City Council does not believe it to be fair or appropriate that Dunedin ratepayers fund the regional co-ordination role, when the benefit is regional.

The Hearing Committee recommends declining the request for funding on the basis that the submission did not provide sufficient information about the regional co-ordinator role, and what the funding would be used for. Before considering whether it can support in some way the regional co-ordinator role in the future, Council would require a full proposal supporting the request made.

3.7.7 Cargill's Castle Trust

The Trust has been promoting a cliff top walkway to link Cargill's Castle with Tunnel Beach from the Highgrove subdivision. The Trust has requested that it work in partnership with ORC to develop the walkway.

The Hearing Committee has suggested that further investigative work needs to be undertaken before Council could consider making a commitment to this project. It recommends that Council request from the Trust business plans, costings, and maintenance plans before further considering the request received. The Hearing Committee notes that if Council did decide to participate in this project, funding would be available from reserves.

3.7.8 Wilding Control

A submission was received from the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG). It has asked for an ORC Councillor or representative to become a member of the WCG executive, and has asked ORC for a budget partnership by investing 10% of the finance WCG raises for wilding control.

The Hearing Committee recognises the commitment of the WCG, the work it has undertaken to date, and its plans for the future control of wildings. It also acknowledges the establishment of the Otago Wilding Tree Trust. The Hearing Committee recommends declining the request for funding and for a representative to be on the Executive of the WCG, but notes that staff are available to provide technical advice. Further, the annual plan provides for the preparation of a discussion paper on wilding trees, which will be presented to Council in 2014/15. The paper will include discussion on responsibilities and possible involvement by Council, for its consideration, and will inform the review of the Pest Management Strategy.

3.7.9 Toitu Otago Settlers Museum Appeal

A submission received from the Otago Settlers Association, noting the redevelopment costs of the museum have exceeded \$35 million, but the Trust still needs approximately \$200,000 to complete. The Trust has requested a \$50,000 sponsorship by ORC of the Special Exhibition Space, which would be offered as a 'naming right', and available for a period of years.

The Hearing Committee recommends declining the request, noting that this Council does not fund operational costs.

3.7.10 New Zealand Transport Agency

An email was received from New Zealand Transport Agency after the close off of submissions, asking if ORC could fund a project manager for a three year period, for a Visitor Driver programme. The life of the project would be between three and five years. It noted that Council may wish to set aside money for ORC's share of any implementation work, suggesting an amount of \$20,000.

Given the nature of the request, the Hearing Committee determined that it is to be treated as a late submission. The Hearing Committee recommends declining the request on the basis that it is not the role of the ORC to manage or fund a Visitor Driver programme. It would more appropriately be a project that New Zealand Transport Agency undertook itself.

3.8 Other Matters

The Annual Plan document requires some minor amendments such as reviewing the allocation of time to projects for some staff. All of the amendments are minor, and do not change the intended content of the document, or have any impact on rates.

4. Impacts on the Draft Annual Plan Estimates

The recommendations from the Hearing Committee have resulted in no change to the estimates presented in the Draft Annual Plan. Recommended additional activity is able to be met from within existing budgets. The 2014/15 estimated expenditure is \$40.1 million, and the general rate is \$5.03 million.

5. Rating Implications

Set out below are tables showing the 2014/15 rating levels compared to the 2013/14 year. All figures are exclusive of GST, unless otherwise stated.

5.1 General Rates

	2014/15 \$000s	2013/14 \$000s
General rates		4,904
Uniform annual general charge (incl. GST)		\$13.50

5.2 Targeted Clean Air Rates

The targeted clean air rates focus on Air Zone 1 and Milton. The rates are applied to targeted areas of Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell within the Central Otago District, Arrowtown within the Queenstown Lakes District, and Milton within the Clutha District. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
Part Central Otago District	61	156
Part Clutha District	6	15
Part Queenstown Lakes District	22	57

5.3 Targeted Forsyth Barr Stadium Rates

Recommended rating levels (excluding GST) for the Forsyth Barr Stadium are as follows:

	2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
Central Otago District	46	235
Clutha District	46	229
Dunedin City	320	1,657
Queenstown Lakes District	94	483
Waitaki District	44	223

5.4 Targeted River Management Rates

These special rating districts are for river and stream management. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
Central Otago District	155	150
Clutha District	185	185
Dunedin City	150	150
Lower Waitaki River	164	158
Wakatipu	250	250
Wanaka	167	167
Waitaki District	138	130

5.5 Targeted Flood and Drainage Scheme Rates

These special rating districts are for river and stream management. The recommended rating levels (excluding GST) are as follows:

	2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
East Taieri	363	363
Leith	1,114	1,041
Lower Clutha	532	497
Lower Taieri	613	573
Shotover Delta	250	250
Tokomairiro	45	45
West Taieri	475	444

Targeted Transport Rates

The targeted passenger transport rates (excluding GST) are made up as follows:

	2014/15 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
Dunedin		
Dunedin Class A - non residential	1,038	1,050
Dunedin Class B – Dunedin others	2,178	2,140
Dunedin Class B – Waitaki others	15	15
Queenstown		
Queenstown Class A - non residential	12	16
Queenstown Class B - others	32	49

6. Adoption of the 2014/15 Annual Plan and Rates Resolution

The final Annual Plan and the Rates Resolution will be presented for adoption at the June Council meeting.

7. Recommendations

1. That this report be received.
2. That the recommendations of the Hearing Committee be endorsed.
3. That the 2014/15 Annual Plan incorporating the recommendations from the Hearing Committee be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.
4. That the 2014/15 Rates Resolution be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A633549

Report No: 2014/0861

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee

Prepared By: Director Corporate Services

Date: 25/05/2014

Subject: Passenger Transport Operations Update May 2014

1. Précis

This report provides an update on transport operational matters.

Go Bus Transport Limited acquired Invercargill Passenger Transport Limited's passenger transport services in March 2014. The operation of Go Bus Transport Limited in Otago creates potential for confusion between Go Bus Transport Limited and Council's GoBus network brand. Staff recommend an agreement be entered into with Go Bus Transport Limited for the surrender of Council's GoBus trademark.

Go Bus Transport are still considering the commerciality of the student concession trial. At this stage they are concerned the figures merely represent a shift from adult travel without sufficient uplift to offset the additional discount. Some further analysis will be undertaken before they make a decision.

Contract extension negotiations for the services expiring 30 June are continuing. Preparations for the Lookout Point loop reversal required as a result of the NZTA's State Highway Caversham Valley roading improvements are in hand. DCC are about to advise adjacent owners of proposed shelter locations for the bus shelter programme, and staff are working with the operator on loading and timing issues on the Palmertson/Waikouaiti service as a result of increased patronage.

A new timetable design is being produced taking into consideration comment received from interested members of the community about the current timetable design and format. In addition to the new timetable, Council's journey planner is now live on Council's website.

2. GoBus Network Brand

On 1 April Go Bus Transport Limited commenced operating all bus services acquired from Invercargill Passenger transport (IPT operating as DPT/Citibus). Go Bus have continued to operate under the IPT banner in Otago primarily because of the agreement reached at the time ORC registered the GoBus trademark in Otago. At the time the trademark was registered, Go Bus Transport Limited were operating in the North Island under the Go Bus name. It is noted the restriction on GoBus only restricts their use of the brand on contracted and deemed exempt (previously known as commercial) services.

With Go Bus now operating in Otago there is potential for confusion to be created with the general public between Go Bus Transport Limited and Council's own GoBus network brand. Furthermore, we have discussed the issue with the other operators and they have expressed a desire to have Council's GoBus brand removed from their fleet again to avoid any confusion with the general public.

Go Bus have expressed a desire to extend their brand into the public transport fleet and associated operations in Dunedin. They have offered to bring their urban fleet into their livery over a 12 month period, which will effectively result in all their vehicles being painted over the next 12 months.

Go Bus have as a courtesy to Council, held off re-branding their school and charter fleet to allow Council time to consider the issue. They have also advised that if Council do allow them to use their brand that they will make the urban fleet a priority.

The upcoming timetable reprint is an opportune time to withdraw the brand, and it is therefore recommended that Council withdraw from the use of the GoBus brand and that a suitable agreement be entered into with Go Bus Transport Limited for Council's surrender of the trademark.

There is no affect on Council's GoCard trademark or brand.

3. Student Concession Trial

The operators have been reviewing the viability of continuing the student concession trial on a permanent basis. Ritchies have indicated they wish to continue with the concession as they believe on their services there has been a lift in patronage as a result of the trial. GoBus however have reviewed their data and at the time of this report believe there has been a corresponding shift from cash fare to card use and as such are not keen to continue with the incentive. Staff have met with representatives from GoBus to discuss their concerns and have agreed to undertake some further analysis with them as we believe that there has been some lift which has probably offset some patronage decline. Whether or not there is enough change will dictate whether or not it is viable for the operators to continue. We expect to be able to confirm if the concession will continue with both operators by the committee meeting.

4. Contract Extensions

NZTA approval for the necessary extensions to the contracts expiring 30 June has been received. Negotiations are continuing with the operator, and a new timetable is being prepared for distribution.

5. Lookout Point Route Change

Due to the State Highway improvement works at the top of Lookout Point, there is a need to reverse the direction of the Lookout Point loop section of the service.

The required variation has been agreed with the operator.

A mail drop has been made to those residents in the immediate area of the change. Staff have been working with DCC to ensure bus stops are in place in time for the change to the service. NZTA are working to ensure their roading improvements are complete to allow the service to commence with the other proposed changes.

6. Bus Shelters

With the advancement of the Network planning work, staff have been able to confirm sites for the bus shelter programme. DCC and their consultants are commencing the process of notifying and seeking comment from adjacent owners. Once that process is complete, installation will commence, and this is likely to be early in the next financial year.

7. Palmerston/Waikouaiti Service

The Palmerston/Waikouaiti Service has been experiencing significant increase in demand since the Ministry of Education withdrew one of its buses due to the lack of students eligible for their funding assistance and the availability of Council's service.

This has created a loading issue on some services and compounded an issue with the last service being unable to keep to time. As a result, staff are in discussion with the operator about vehicle size and an adjustment to the timetable.

8. Timetable

In preparation for this year's timetable, staff met with a number of interested parties including BusGo to discuss issues with the current timetable including format and ease of use. Staff and the booklet designers considered the feedback and have incorporated many of the suggestions in the new timetable design which is currently being completed. The timetable will be printed and distributed once the contract extension negotiations are complete.

9. Journey Planner

Council's journey planner for the Dunedin Network is now live on Council's website. Work will commence on the Queenstown version of the planner early in the next financial year.

10. Recommendation

- (1) This report be received.
- (2) That;
 - i. Council Withdraw from the use of GoBus as its network brand, and
 - ii. An agreement be entered into with Go Bus Transport Limited for the surrender of Council's GoBus trademark.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A633795

Report Number: 2014/0863

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate

Prepared By: Director Corporate Services

Date: 26 May 2014

Subject: **Executive Report on Progress - May 2014**

1. 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan

Submissions on the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan closed on 2 May, with hearings being held in Cromwell on 12 May, and in Dunedin on 15 May.

The report and recommendation of the Hearings Subcommittee are included as a separate item on this agenda.

2. Valuation Equalisation

Each year the Council commissions a report on projected values of constituent districts to use for apportioning those rates which transcend district boundaries, primarily the general rate. As the constituent territorial authorities are on different valuation cycles, the principle is to use best information to assess a valuation of the whole region as at a common date.

The effective date of the projected valuation is 1 September 2013.

The projected values, compared with last year's projected values, are as follows:

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Net Capital Value at 1/9/13</i>	<i>Proportion %</i>	<i>Net Capital Value at 1/9/12</i>	<i>Proportion %</i>	<i>% Changes</i>
Central Otago	6,961,055,000	12.54	6,327,333,000	12.01	10.02
Dunedin	19,559,421,000	35.24	18,890,117,000	35.87	3.54
Waitaki (part)	4,914,184,000	8.85	4,589,347,000	8.71	7.08
Queenstown Lakes	17,401,629,000	31.35	16,564,112,000	31.45	5.06
Clutha	6,672,391,000	12.02	6,298,803,000	11.96	5.93
Total Region	55,508,680,000	100.00	52,669,712,000	100.00	5.39

3. Stadium Loan

The \$10 million loan borrowed by the Council to fund part of the Council's \$37.5 million donation to other costs of the stadium, is due for repayment on 30 June 2014.

The Committee is advised of this repayment transaction.

4. 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.

<i>Payment Categories</i>	<i>April 2014</i>
Trade and general payments	2,570,470.37
Payroll	862,486.89
Total	\$3,432,957.26

5. 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 \$3,432,957.26.

Wayne Scott
Director Corporate Services

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 4 June 2014 following the Finance and Corporate
Committee meeting**

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:

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 2 June.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0760 **Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer – Consultation.** DPPRM, 25/5/14

Presenting for consultation a draft proposed plan change for the management of the Cromwell Terrace aquifer. The draft Section 32 report is circulated separately.

Item 2

2014/0838 **Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka minimum flow).** DPPRM, 16/5/14

The purpose of the proposed plan change is to establish a primary allocation limit, minimum flow, and supplementary allocation regime for the catchment. The report presents a draft plan change, and a draft evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with the proposed changes.

Item 3

2014/0836 **Local Government New Zealand Hazard Management Review.** DPPRM, 22/5/14

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has initiated a discussion with local and central government and other stake holders in respect to taking a holistic review of how New Zealand manages natural hazard risks. The report suggests that ORC provide a written response to the LGNZ review of Natural Hazards Management in New Zealand.

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/0831 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 22/5/14

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 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

REPORT

Document Id: A617265

Report No: 2014/0760
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Tom De Pelsemaeker, Policy Analyst
Date: 25 May 2014

Subject: Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) - Consultation

1. Précis

This report presents a draft proposed plan change for the management of the Cromwell Terrace Aquifer 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

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 (NPSFM) requires the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to prevent the over-allocation of groundwater resources, by establishing environmental levels for all aquifers in the region and making sure the freshwater objectives within the Water Plan give effect to the NPSFM objectives.

The Water Plan Objectives give effect to the NPSFM by recognising the need to provide for the water needs of Otago's communities and industries, while maintaining long term groundwater levels and water storage in the region's aquifers. The Water Plan achieves this by setting maximum allocation volumes for aquifers and, where appropriate, setting restriction levels that control the taking of groundwater during periods of low recharge.

The maximum allocation volume limits the volume of water that can be taken annually from an aquifer by consents and is set to maintain long term groundwater levels and avoid aquifer compaction. When the combined yearly volume of consented takes equals the maximum allocation volume, the aquifer is considered fully allocated and consents for new groundwater takes can no longer be granted.

No maximum allocation volumes in Schedule 4A has been set for the Cromwell Terrace Aquifer. Therefore, the maximum allocation volume for this aquifer is currently determined as 50% of mean annual recharge or 1.2 Mm³/yr. The combined annual volume of groundwater allocated in existing resource consents is currently estimated to be 1.7 Mm³/yr and no further groundwater can be allocated from the aquifer.

In 2012 ORC carried out a review of the area's geology, hydrology and monitoring data. The *Cromwell Terrace Aquifer Study report* (ORC, 2012) recommended setting a tailored maximum allocation volume of 4 Mm³/yr in Schedule 4A of the Water Plan.

On 18 March 2014 ORC organised a community workshop in Cromwell. This workshop identified important values and uses supported by the water resources of the Cromwell Terrace and gauged the community's aspirations for managing the aquifer.

Feedback received during the workshop indicates that there is broad support for allowing more groundwater to be allocated from the aquifer, as long as there is no adverse impact on existing uses or known values. The recommendation of the *Cromwell Terrace Aquifer Study report* was widely endorsed by participants present.

3. The suggested proposal

The proposed Consultation Draft of the plan change, including minor and consequential amendments, is attached as Appendix 1. It proposes to adopt the recommendation of the *Cromwell Terrace Aquifer Study report* by setting a maximum allocation volume of 4 Mm³/yr for the Cromwell Terrace Aquifer in Schedule 4A of the Water Plan.

A draft Section 32 report outlining the rationale for all of the proposed changes is attached as Appendix 2. 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.

4. 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);
- Central Otago District Council;
- Kai Tahu ki Otago and Te Ao Marama Inc;
- The groundwater take consent holders on the Cromwell Terrace; and
- Aquifer workshop participants.

5. Next steps

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

Action	Date
Consult with affected parties	June 2013
Consultation comments closed	23 June 2014
Amend proposal and present for notification	July 2014

6. Recommendations:

That the attached Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) 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: A631407

Report Number: 2014/0838
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Richard Pettinger, Senior Policy Analyst
Date: 16 May 2014

Subject: **Consultation Draft Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka minimum flow)**

1. Précis

The Consultation Draft for Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago has now been prepared and it is proposed to release the draft for consultation in accordance with clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The purpose of the proposed plan change is to establish a primary allocation limit and minimum flow, and a supplementary allocation regime for the catchment. It is also intended to include connected groundwater in a ribbon aquifer as surface water.

This report presents a draft plan change, and a draft evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with the proposed changes.

2. Background

Over the past decade, the Otago Regional Council has been undertaking a programme of adding minimum flows to Schedule 2A of the Regional Plan: Water (Water Plan). Proposed Plan Change 3B will manage the Pomahaka catchment by protecting instream values while providing for taking water.

A technical report has been produced providing flow requirement information for aquatic ecosystem habitat, *Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Pomahaka River (August 2006)*. Background information papers were also prepared for two of the workshops held, in 2010 and 2014, summarising what is known about the catchment. Recent committee report 2014/0749: *South Otago basin aquifers* identifies the area where groundwater takes would be appropriately managed as surface water takes.

Changing land use within the catchment has resulted in increasing demand for water for out-of-stream uses, principally irrigation. When water takes increase, pressure is put on aquatic ecosystems and other instream values, and the river flow may be reduced more quickly and frequently to any minimum flow that is in effect.

Several of the existing takes have had a minimum flow applied to them, on a case-by-case basis. These have been set at the mean annual low flow (MALF, 4300 l/s).

Schedule 2D of the Water Plan identifies those matters which are considered in setting a minimum flow and allocation regime for a catchment. These matters have been considered in preparing the suggested minimum flow at the most recent workshop.

A number of public workshops were held in Tapanui over the past four years. Iwi, consent holders, Federated Farmers, Fish and Game Otago, Department of Conservation, NZ Landcare

Trust, as well as other members of the community with an interest in the river have been involved. Participants initially identified values within the catchment before considering the impacts of different regimes on those values.

The following values of the Pomahaka catchment are important to the community:

- The regionally significant brown trout fishery,
- Habitat for native fish including lamprey and longfin eels,
- Out of stream uses for horticulture and agriculture,
- Recreational use, and
- Amenity.

3. The suggested proposal

The proposed Consultation Draft of the plan change is attached as Appendix 1. It proposes minimum flow and allocation regimes which best meet the values identified by the community for the catchment. A draft assessment of the options considered is attached as Appendix 2, the Section 32 Evaluation Report.

The proposed primary regime for the Pomahaka River is a 3,600 litre/second (l/s) minimum flow in summer. This will provide a 99% surety of supply to consent holders and safeguard the instream values from takes in a dry year. The primary allocation limit proposed is 1,000 l/s, which is 23% of the Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF). This will have minimal adverse effects on instream values and provide a reasonable reliability of supply to consent holders.

The winter minimum flow of 7,000 l/s provides for adult trout spawning habitat and recognises the higher flows needed to sustain the current trout fishery.

The supplementary regime proposes a minimum flow of 13,000 l/s and allocation of 500 l/s, protects primary allocation consent holders and provides for flow variability.

This is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Recommended allocation and minimum flow regime for Pomahaka catchment

Primary minimum flow	3,600 l/s [October to April] 7,000 l/s [May to September]
Primary allocation limit	1, 000 l/s
Supplementary allocation (Block 1)	500 l/s
Supplementary minimum flow (Block 1)	13, 000 l/s

The plan change will identify the extent of the proposed ribbon aquifer.

4. Clause 3, Schedule 1 consultation

The following entities must be consulted during the preparation of the proposed plan change:

- Minister for the Environment
- Other ministers of the Crown who may be affected
- Local authorities who may be affected
- Tangata whenua of the area who may be affected.

Kai Tahu ki Otago, Te Ao Marama and local runanga have been kept informed on progress of the public workshops. Iwi will continue to be consulted with. The Department of Conservation, Fish and Game Otago, Federated Farmers, the affected consent holders, and other members of

the community have been actively involved in the community workshops and will continue to be engaged.

The proposed options have been presented to the community, and feedback has been received on potential impacts. There is no need to hold any further public meetings.

Comments will be received on the Consultation Draft until 23 June 2014, and will inform preparation of the proposed plan change.

5. Timeline

The following timetable is proposed:

Action	Anticipated Date
Consult statutory agencies and stakeholders	By 23 June 2014
Prepare proposed plan change for public notification	July 2014
Publicly notify proposed plan change	August 2014
Public notification of submissions, request for further submissions	September 2014
Hold hearing	November 2014

6. Recommendation

That the attached Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago and the accompanying draft Section 32 Evaluation Report are released for consultation in accordance with clause 3, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy and Resource Planning

REPORT

Document Id: A630810

Report Number: 2014/0836

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Warren Hanley, Resource Planner - Liaison

Date: 22 May 2014

Subject: **Local Government New Zealand Hazard Management Review**

1. Précis

In response to recent local and international natural hazard events and the growing body of related scientific knowledge, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has initiated a discussion with local and central government and other stake holders in respect to taking a holistic review of how New Zealand manages natural hazard risks

This paper is designed to stimulate discussion and engender debate on how all agencies can best manage natural hazards, with a view to building more resilient communities.

2. Focus of Review

Emphasised in the reviews is that managing natural hazards requires collaboration between all levels of government agencies and with the private sector. It highlights the importance of developing horizontal relationships rather than the traditional hierarchical or “top down” relationships to ensure effective collaboration.

The review discusses risks to communities and identifies two core ideas that dominate natural hazards management:

- a) the need for issue and place-specific responses; and
- b) the need for integration and collaboration between the many players with a role to play to develop and deliver effective responses to the community.

It is not designed as the end product of a process, rather it marks the beginning of a dialogue between different parts of local and central government and other players with a stake in managing natural hazards.

Written feedback on the review is due by the end of June 2014.

3. Otago Regional Council response

Council has undertaken natural hazard related work with Clutha District Council (Milton 2060), Queenstown Lakes District Council (flood management), and currently as part of the Dunedin City district plan review and the Regional Policy Statement review. Therefore, it is appropriate Council contribute to this discussion and advocate options that draw from Otago’s experience.

Council staff are currently preparing a risk reduction strategy for Otago. Council staff will also draft a response on this paper. Staff will discuss with other Otago councils their views to determine if a joint council submission might also be appropriate.

4. Recommendation

That Council provide a written response to the LGNZ review of Natural Hazards Management in New Zealand.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A630455

Report Number: 2014/0831

Prepared For: Policy

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 22 May 2014

Subject: **Director's Report on Progress**

1. Policy

1.1 Responses – National Policies, Strategies and Plans

In the six weeks ending 16 May 2014, the following were received:

Agency	Number Received	Details
Ministry for the Environment	1	Direct Referral Consenting Threshold
Local Government New Zealand	1	Managing Natural Hazards in New Zealand discussion document. Please refer to committee report 2014/0836

Direct Referral Consenting Threshold

In 2013, the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) was amended to enable regulations to be made that will change the direct referral consenting pathway, allowing an applicant, with a consent authority's approval, to have their application heard directly by the Environment Court instead of a hearing.

A threshold value or amount is to be set in the regulations to give certainty as to when the direct referral option is available. Further feedback is now being request as to the nature of how this threshold mechanism may be set and structured. Submissions close at the end of June 2014.

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Document	Response Type	Details
Environmental Reporting Bill	Submission – Support	A submission is being made to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment in support of the bill's intent. Council's concerns were raised in respect to the scope and notice of information requirements under the bill.
Buildings (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Act Amendment Bill	Submission – Support	A submission was made to the Ministry for the Environment in support of this bill acknowledging the largely administrative nature of the changes.

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

In the six weeks ending 16 May 2014, the following were received:

Document	Number Received	Details
Consent Applications	5	Queenstown Lakes District Council

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
DCC – Otago Racing Incorporated [Subdivision and building platforms establishment]	Submission – Oppose	Requested the application provide more information to the consent authority on natural hazards, particularly assessing seismic and flooding risk.

1.3 Risk reduction strategy for Otago

Staff have commenced work on developing the risk reduction strategy requested by the Otago CDEM group. Broadly, the risks concern natural and technological hazards.

2. Resource Management Act: Policy Plans and Strategies

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement for Otago

As part of the first round of community consultation on the review, a discussion paper, Otago's Future, was distributed to all Otago households in early May. Over the two weeks 19-29 May 2014, a series of public meetings and drop-in sessions is also being held in Queenstown, Alexandra, Dunedin, Balclutha and Oamaru.

The public are able to provide feedback on the form provided in the brochure, online or at any of these consultation meetings until 20 June 2014. This feedback will help inform the development of the consultation draft. At the time of writing, 48 responses had been received.

Key stakeholder consultation is ongoing and a manawhenua group meeting is being held on 16 June 2014.

2.2 Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Plan Change 6A (Water Quality)

Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) was made operative on Thursday 1 May 2014. The online version of the Water Plan has already been updated and hard copies of the updated plan material are being prepared.

The Policy team will continue to have representation on the 6A Implementation Project.

Proposed Plan Change 4B (Groundwater Allocation)

The proposed plan change was notified on Saturday 17 May 2014. Submissions close on Tuesday 17 June 2014.

Minimum flow and aquifer allocation proposals

Minimum flow and allocation regimes are being developed for a number of catchments and aquifers.

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

Catchment/Aquifer	Action
Benger Burn and Ettrick Basin aquifer	Staff are considering how much further work is required on the nature of the water resource, as requested at the March 2014 workshop.
Cromwell Terrace Aquifer	Consultation Draft prepared for release under clause 3, Schedule 1 RMA, see report 2014/0760.
Earnsclough Aquifer	Staff are considering how much further work is required on the nature of the water resource, as requested at the March 2014 workshop.
Pomahaka River and connected ribbon aquifer areas	Community workshop at Tapanui: Tues 6 May This workshop was attended by about 30 people. A preferred option was presented and discussed. The Consultation Draft has been prepared for release under clause 3, Schedule 1 RMA, see report 2014/0838.
Waiwera River	Community workshop at Clinton: Tues 6 May This workshop was attended by about 20 people. A preferred option was presented and discussed. A Consultation Draft is being prepared, and will be presented, after considering a request from the workshop for a slightly higher primary summer minimum flow.
Lindis River and connected aquifers	The Consultation Draft was released for comments in terms of clause 3, Schedule 1 RMA. At the time of writing, comments had been received from 12 people. Comments are due by Friday 23 May.
Waikouaiti River	Community workshop at Waikouaiti: Wed 16 April This workshop was attended by 29 people. A preferred option was presented and discussed. The Consultation Draft will be finalised when the appeal by the only consent holder that would be subject to the primary allocation minimum flow is resolved.

Hawea Basin Aquifer	No action has been taken over the past 6 weeks. Community workshop to be arranged in June
Cardrona River and Wanaka Basin Cardrona Aquifer	No action has been taken over the past 6 weeks. A community workshop will be arranged later in 2014.
Manuherikia River and connected aquifers	No action has been taken over the past 6 weeks. 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

Following the internal review of the Air Strategy and its implementation programme on 15 April 2014, the proposed plan change to bring Milton into Air Zone 1 and Lawrence into Air Zone 2 will proceed this year.

3. Transport Planning

3.1 Preparation of a Regional Road Safety Strategy for Otago -Southland

The Manager Transport Policy and Planning, and our contract statistician participated in a workshop looking at road safety for tourist drivers. NZTA convened this workshop as part of its delivery of this national signature project (one of four signature projects arising from the national Safer Journeys action plan).

The national tourist drivers signature project has an Otago-Southland focus. At the workshop, ORC presented a summary of a report prepared on causes of crashes involving driving on overseas drivers licenses. Useful insights derived from statistical analysis of 2010-2013 crash data include:

- Foreign drivers are **not** disproportionately involved in serious crashes: the record of fatal and serious crashes involving tourist drivers is no worse than for all other drivers in key tourist areas (Queenstown Lakes/ Southland).
- Tourists involved in injury crashes tend to be **quite young** (25-34)
- Injury crashes involving tourists tend to be associated with failing to keep left (**cutting corners & swinging wide**) – but NOT failing to keep left on a straight road.

3.2 Regional Land Transport Plan

Preparatory work on a new Otago-Southland regional land transport plan continues, focusing on preparing a strategic front end for the document. In deriving this, staff are working from existing documents (the Otago Regional Land Transport Strategy 2011 and Southland Regional Land Transport Plan 2013) as well as from the regional policy statements being developed by ORC and Environment Southland. We are also taking into consideration investment logic maps prepared in Otago - Southland recently to guide the strategic component of business cases for transport projects.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management