

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in
the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 4 June 2014 commencing at 12.05 pm**

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 Gretchen Robertson**
- Cr Bryan Scott**
- Cr David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Bell and Deaker.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

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

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

The question of the legal definition of a watercourse was raised. Mr McRae advised that the RMA defined a river as a permanently or intermittently flowing body of water, and did not refer to beds and banks. He noted that Plan Change 6A controlled water quality discharge to a river, which could be via a race or drain.

The Plan Change 6A launch was confirmed for 27 June, and Mr Taylor advised that key stakeholders had been invited. The purpose of the event was to launch the 6A implementation programme and to clarify rules and compliance. Establishment of a stakeholders' advisory group would reinforce the importance of people taking ownership of water. The roadshows planned for early July would provide a review of the water quality in each area, and clarification of the rules.

Cr Scott moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 2

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

The report provided an update on Customer Services Activity for May 2014.

Cr Bell moved
Cr Robertson seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 3

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

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

Councillors were pleased to note:

- good public feedback on the RPS brochure;
- rating of the ORC website at 9th out of 78 sites assessed recently by the Local Government Information Managers group;
- inclusion of ORC science education capabilities in a database being created for use in schools by the Royal Society of NZ; and
- ORC involvement in the Dunedin International Science Festival and the Foreign Policy School.

Concern was raised about access to information on outdoor burning. Mr Taylor pointed out that there were a number of entries on the ORC website, and brochures and press releases were available. It was suggested that an information pack be provided to people moving into an area.

Councillors acknowledged the work done by staff at recent RPS public meetings and drop-in sessions, but were disappointed by the low public attendance. Alternative methods of encouraging public involvement were discussed, including attending existing local events, and the use of kiosks and drop-in sessions. The DCC's People's Panel was mentioned, where people could sign up for regular emails from the DCC and provide feedback, and electronic media could be used more.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.36 pm.



Chairperson