

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 24 July 2014 commencing at 9.40 am

**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 David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

**Apologies:**

**Cr Gretchen Robertson**  
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Scott and Deaker.

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Jane Leahy**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Matt Dale**
- Deborah Mills**
- Sarah Ibbotson**
- Janet Favel**

#### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Shepherd.

#### **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0983 **Air quality in Otago – Issues and Considerations.** DEHS, 10/7/14

The report examined the issue of wood burner use in Otago, reviewed the current air quality management strategy, and re-framed air quality issues in light of what had been learned over the past 10 years. Councillors commended the report.

Concern was expressed that solutions were seen as being restricted to what was put into the air, whereas the core issues were the climate and the inversion layer. It was suggested that other potential solutions such as the principles of frost fighting be investigated.

It was noted that Otago towns had some of the highest heating demands in the country, and improvements to the housing stock such as insulation and double glazing were noted. There was concern around the resilience in relying on one source of power (electricity), and comment was made that communities should be able to utilise woodburners. Councillors supported the eight elements of a reasoned approach to future air quality management, as listed in Item 8 of the report.

It was noted that the national targets for Airshed 1 were not going to be met, and Ms Mills commented that there were health issues in not meeting the minimum standards. She pointed out that there were restrictions on industries in Airshed 1 towns, and emissions that reached ground level were not allowed to exceed 2.5 micrograms per cubic metre. If the effect was greater than that, they had to take out of the airshed the total emissions they put in.

Comment was made that it was important to consolidate and build on what had been achieved over the last 10 years. There had to be a balance between clean air and being compassionate.

It was suggested that the PC6A approach could be applied to air emissions – measure the discharge from chimneys rather than looking at the type of fuel used. The importance of central government commitment was noted, and the option of different electricity prices in different areas was suggested.

In response to a reference to behavioural change, Mr Donaldson noted the establishment of the Cosy Homes Group in Dunedin. The Group was investigating becoming a trust, and would provide fires, insulation, double glazing, and drapes at subsidised rates. In Central Otago people with community services cards could receive 100% funding for insulation, and a \$2,000 subsidy on a heating appliance.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 10.28 am, and reconvened at 10.46 am.

Item 2

2014/0993

**Lindis River Catchment Residual Flows.** DEHS, 9/7/14

The report discussed a study carried out to monitor flows at six sites in tributaries of the Lindis River to gain an understanding of hydrological characteristics at the sub-catchment level and to calculate a naturalised flow for the entire Lindis Catchment. A summary of the study was circulated with the report.

It was noted the study had found that the tributaries contributed more water to the Lindis than originally thought. The water was taken out by a combination of deemed permits and RMA consents, and there had been no way of measuring it because it was taken out before the tributary reached the river. Through the consenting process those takes would remain because they were being used, but once deemed permits expired they would be required to apply the minimum flow.

In response to a question Mr Dale explained that the rate of take might not change, but the surety of supply would change, and consent holders might not be able to take their full allocation during low flow periods.

Cr Shepherd moved  
Cr Brown seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3

2014/0992

**Pisa Range Residual Flows.** DEHS, 9/7/14

The report discussed a study carried out to better understand the spatial and temporal distribution of water within the Pisa Range tributaries. A summary of the study was circulated with the report.

Mr Dale advised that there was currently no minimum flow process on the tributaries; the purpose of this study was to inform future decisions.

Cr Brown moved  
Cr Kempton seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4  
2014/0981

**Coastal Morphology of South Otago: Nugget Point to Chrystalls Beach. DEHS, 10/7/14**

The report explained that an analysis of recent and historic changes in the onshore and offshore coastal environment had been undertaken to help inform one of the conditions of Contact Energy Ltd's consent for Roxburgh Dam. The work was fully described in the report 'Coastal morphology of South Otago: Nugget Point to Chrystalls Beach' which was circulated separately with the agenda.

In response to a question Dr Palmer stated that implications of the 3.3m/year dune retreat on the flood protection and drainage scheme asset would have to be taken into account in preparation of the Long Term Plan.

A question was raised about the effect of sediment from the Roxburgh dam. Dr Palmer explained that the purpose of the investigation was to establish a base line, to which further information would be added as it became available. There was information available on the shoreline position, but not on the offshore position.

Dr Palmer further explained that both ORC and Contact Energy had now carried out the work required by Contact Energy's consent conditions. The overall investigation would be repeated in 10 to 15 years, with work on the shoreline possibly every 10 years.

He further noted that this had been communicated to Contact Energy and to Clutha District Council, and the issues had been covered at the annual Lower Clutha Drainage Liaison Group meeting at the beginning of the year.

In response to a query Dr Palmer explained that Contact Energy was required by a consent condition to survey the bed of Lake Roxburgh every two years. The company had sought to change this to every five years. Several surveys had been carried out to determine changes in lake bed.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Kelliher seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

Item 5  
2014/0957

**Update on South Dunedin Groundwater monitoring and sea level rise. DEHS, 8/7/14**

The report presented an update on ORC's groundwater monitoring, incorporating observations made subsequent to that reporting. Dr Palmer explained that the report was requested by the Committee to update monitoring undertaken in 2009, and included an update on existing bores and the new bore.

Comment was made that DCC and ORC needed to work collaboratively to project climate change and sea level rise effects for the next 50 to 100 years.

Cr Woodhead proposed an additional recommendation 'That Council work collaboratively with DCC on the climate change adaption work programme with respect to the South Dunedin harbourside area.' Cr Kelliher seconded the motion.

Cr Woodhead noted that DCC was considering a report on this issue at their meeting today, and their report had a similar recommendation. Dr Palmer commented that all information that the ORC held on South Dunedin natural hazards had been provided to the DCC.

In response to a question, Cr Woodhead explained that the purpose of the additional recommendation was to publicly formalise the ORC's desire to work collaboratively with the DCC on the issue. He commented that the ORC was required by the RMA to supply hazards information to the DCC, but would not tell the DCC how to use that information. Dr Palmer pointed out that ORC and DCC had joint responsibility for hazard management and any pre-existing risk around land management, and noted that ECan had been criticised after the Canterbury earthquakes for not having provided this information.

The two recommendations were taken separately:

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Kelliher seconded

*That Council work collaboratively with DCC on the climate change adaption work programme with respect to the South Dunedin harbourside area.*

**Motion carried**

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 6  
2014/0941

**Director's Report on Progress. DEHS, 9/7/14**

The report described work on proposed changes to the natural hazards provisions of the Dunedin District Plan, and progress on Leith Flood Protection Scheme works and Kakanui/Kauru River management.

Cr Brown advised that Mr Ray Lawrence, a member of the Kakanui flood warning group, had given notice of his intention to retire from the group, and suggested that he be formally thanked for his services to the management of the Kakanui River. Mr Bodeker was to write to Mr Lawrence, and an article was to be included in the next issue of 'Otagowide'.

Note was made of the well attended DCC District Plan and natural hazards meeting held in Mosgiel the previous night. A lot of interest was shown in the presentations, which provided better defined information about the hazards of the area.

Councillors commended work on the clocktower reach of the Leith, and in response to a question Mr Bodeker advised that the project was progressing on time and within the revised budget.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.

**Chairperson**

