

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 8.30 am**

Present:

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

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jane Leahy**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Martin King**
- Dale Meredith** (for Item 1)
- Sarah Valk** (for Item 1)
- Ralph Henderson** (for Item 1)
- Sylvie Leduc** (for Item 1)
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was noted that Item 1 Notification of proposed Regional Policy Statement had been omitted from the cover page of the agenda but the report was included in the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2015/0858 **Notification of Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago.**
DPPRM, 14/4/15

The report presented the proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago (RPS) and recommended public notification of the document.

Councillors congratulated staff on the timely delivery of a well presented, readable document. The process, including organisation of regional workshops and participation by ORC Councillors and TLAs, was commended. Cr Woodhead noted that the RPS was a high level policy document which gave significant policy-setting direction from a regional perspective. He considered that it “felt like Otago”.

It was noted that the document had been checked by Council’s legal counsel Alastair Logan, who had raised no concerns about the matters covered nor how they were covered. However, drafting changes were made on his recommendation.

Mr McRae commented that as part of the Triennial Agreement, ORC did not have a land plan, and the RPS explained that policy, objectives and rules related to land use were contained in district plans. In response to a question he explained that Council was required to prepare a Section 32 report to explain the decision for matters included. Mr McRae also noted that originally the RMA required that district plans not be inconsistent with the RPS. Changes to the RMA now required district plans to implement the Statement, therefore its status was now a lot stronger.

Comment was made that at the beginning of the process ‘enabling’ was seen as an overall theme but that was not now so clear. Mr McRae explained that the enabling structure of the document had not changed, and he pointed out that each of the chapters took an enabling approach.

In response to a question relating to interpretation of policy, Mr McRae explained that any court considerations would be concerned with the wording of the RPS itself, they would not normally refer to council records (eg minutes).

The Chief Executive congratulated Mr McRae and his staff on their work, and passed on positive feedback from Otago district council chief executives about the work of ORC staff. He also congratulated staff for meeting the restricted timeframe.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

- a) *That the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement and its accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report be approved for notification in accordance with clause 5, Schedule 1 of the RMA.*
- b) *That Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement be publicly notified on Saturday 23 May 2015.*

Motion carried

PART B – FOR NOTING

Item 2
2015/0848 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 2/4/15

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section.

It was noted that a discussion document on water legislation reform had been received from WaterNZ. In response to a question Cr Woodhead explained that this was a lobby group of commercial entities with an interest in commercialising wastewater and freshwater.

Cr Woodhead spoke about the Lindis Minimum Flow meeting held on 1 April. Crs Woodhead, Eckhoff, Bell and Kelliher, and staff Mr Bodeker, Mr McRae, Dr Palmer and Tom de Pelsemaecker attended, and there was a good representation of members of the public. The community raised concerns about the transition from mining privileges, and about adapting to the proposed minimum flow change from 450 l/s to 750 l/s. Mr Bodeker advised that he, Mr McRae, and Dr Palmer met with some representatives of the group the next day, along with Niall Watson, Fish and Game. The group requested an extension of time to discuss the transitional aspects of the Plan and possible changes to the distribution of water, and this request was granted but the group was advised there would be no further extensions. Mr Bodeker had also met recently with Graeme Martin, Chair of the Lindis Catchment Group Committee. Mr Bodeker had been invited to attend future meetings of the community group, and would take up this invitation.

Dunstan Ward Councillors agreed with the decision to grant the group more time to consider the proposed minimum flow, but expressed concern that they were not advised earlier of this decision.

A question was raised about the submission in opposition to the Glenorchy camping ground application. Mr McRae explained that the Council was concerned about large underground tanks being installed in an area of high water table, and the applicant needed to recognise the associated risk.


ORC's appeal on CDC's decision on their proposed Plan Change 28 was noted. Mr McRae explained that CDC was concerned that the flood hazard area covered by the Milton 2060 project was too great, and the two Councils were working together to identify high risk areas more specifically.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 9.19 am.



Chairperson