

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 14 October 2015 commencing at 3.28pm.**

**Present:**

- Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson)**
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson)**
- Cr Graeme Bell**
- Cr Michael Deaker**
- Cr Gary Kelliher**
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**
- Cr Bryan Scott**
- Cr David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

**Apologies:**

- Cr Doug Brown**

**Leave of Absence:**

- Cr Louise Croot MNZM**
- Cr Trevor Kempton**

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott Maclean**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Sarah Ibbotson**
- Charlotte Stickings**
- Lauren McDonald**

### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Eckhoff and Bell.

### **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2015/1177 **Summary of Dairy Farm Inspections for 2014/2015. DEMO, 19/08/15**

The report described the findings of the 2014/2015 annual inspection of dairy farms in the Otago Region.

Of the 450 farms inspected it was noted that 48 had breaches and serious non compliance with 150 properties identified as high risk. This reflected the need for good training and management systems on farm to be in place, which was currently not the normal standard.

Mr MacLean advised that environmental outcomes were not necessarily diversion only and that rate of voluntary change is slow.

A question was raised asking if compliance staff contacted farmers before making site visits. Mr MacLean confirmed that warranted officers are legally entitled to undertake inspections without prior notification and are covered under the Council's Health & Safety policy while on site.

Discussion was held on the risk matrix developed so that high risk properties were visited more often than low risk. A ratio had been suggested of four visits per year for high risk properties/catchments but this ratio had not been supported due to the funding cost to do so.

It was commented that increased education and awareness to support farmers in meeting requirements of Schedule 16 needed to happen with the compliance process. This would also involve some industry support in emphasising environmental management to landowners.

Council was advised that the Ministry for the Environment is to table amendments to the RMA by the end of 2015. The amendment will allow the ability for chargeable monitoring of permitted activities

A review of the multiple visit approach for dairy inspections and effects based monitoring was suggested to be included in the Annual Review process.

Cr Shepherd moved

Cr Bell seconded

*That:*

- 1. The report be noted*
- 2. That Council discuss the merits of any changes to the Compliance Monitoring of the dairy effluent program.*

**Motion carried**

## PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 2

2015/1169 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 02/10/15**

Report on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 24 July to 4 September 2015.

With reference to QLDC sewage discharge upgrades on the Shotover, it was noted that they were within consent conditions with this work likely to take 2-3 years. A series of short consents had been issued to carry out the upgrade.

Water metering focus is on those consents greater than 20 litres per second, noting a lack of installers in Otago being an issue. If these consent holders are found to have no equipment in place after 1 October 2015, abatement notices would be issued.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Robertson seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 3

2015/1180 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 30/9/15**

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 17 August to 25 September 2015.

Cr Scott moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4  
2015/1167

**RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**  
DPPRM, 25/9/15

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 13 August to 25 September 2015.

Cr Shepherd moved  
Cr Woodhead seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 5  
2015/1178

**Rabbit Serum Results 2015. DEMO, 15/07/15**

The report detailed rabbit serum results collected across 10 sites in Otago during February and March 2015.

A question was raised as to whether ORC would consider using the Korean strain of the RHD virus for rabbit control. The Korean strain has had a trial release in Tasmania.

It was noted that ORC is part of the National Rabbit Coordination group together with other regional councils, DoC, MPI, Landcare Research and Lincoln University who are looking at strategic rabbit control New Zealand wide. Janine Duckworth (Lincoln University) is doing significant work in this area.

Increased immunity reflected in increased rabbit numbers was noted in the Albert Town area as well as Molyneux Park in Alexandra. Both sites could be possible trial sites for the Korean strain of the RHD virus if the outcome from the Tasmania release is positive.

Cr Kelliher moved  
Cr Bell seconded

*That the report be received.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 4.14pm.

**Chairperson**

