

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 9 March 2016 commencing at 11.43 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**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott McLean**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Neill.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/0670 **Minimum flow and aquifer allocation work programme.**

DPPRP, 25/2/16

The report noted that the Long Term Plan set out ORC's work programme for setting minimum flow and aquifer allocation regimes, and summarised progress being made within the Water Plan work programme.

Mr McRae explained that senior staff had met to review the quantum of work to be done to set minimum flows and allocation regimes, and the report scheduled first, second and third priority work programmes. He noted that primarily biophysical, not cultural, characteristics of waterways were the basis for priority 2 and 3 catchment works, and work would progress more quickly. It would be necessary to go through a plan change process to bring this information into the Plan, and the work could be processed as a single plan change. The application of individual numbers would be used as consents were applied for.

Concern was expressed about the demand on staff to carry out this work. Mr McRae explained that the full statutory process for each waterway could take six months, and this report proposed a method to proceed with work more quickly than that. He noted the need to replace mining privileges as soon as possible, and hence the schedule for first, second and third priority work.

Cr Eckhoff entered the meeting at 11.54 am.

Mr McRae explained that rather than go through the community liaison value/minimum flow setting process, a more simplified residual flow process was proposed which would take effect at the same time as the replacement of mining privileges process. It would still be necessary to meet with the community at some point.

In response to a question Mr McRae explained that the fundamental driver was the expiry of mining privileges. He also noted that a minimum flow did not need to be established for rivers which had only one consent.

Mr McRae further explained that where a minimum flow had not been completed, a holder of a mining privilege could convert to a resource consent and the consent would have a condition that there would be a review of the consent when the minimum flow was imposed.

Concern with the priority detail was expressed, and the point was made that the key areas should be the over-allocated, water short rivers that needed the most work. It was proposed that the Clutha tributaries should be considered before a minimum flow was set for the main stem. The

outcome of minimum flow work on the tributaries could be that the Clutha was the only option left to irrigators.

Cr Kelliher moved an amendment
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the Clutha main stem item be moved to priority 3.

It was suggested that another workshop be held to clarify to Councillors the detail of how this work might fit from a science perspective, which could help understand Cr Kelliher's concerns. An understanding of the difference between minimum and residual flows would also be helpful. The suggestion was made that the report be received, and reviewed when more detail was available.

Mr McRae explained that the full ecological values of the Clutha needed to be understood, which was the reason for putting the river into Priority 1. That work needed to be done before the minimum flow could be determined. He did not see a reason to stop that work.

A comment was made that a situation where a consent would be approved with a condition that a minimum flow was to be applied was not acceptable from an economic development point of view, and the minimum flow should be applied before the consent was approved. Mr McRae explained that the consent before minimum flow process was the driver behind the Lindis situation so that landholders could make investment decisions.

Comment was made that the scale of the Clutha was such that there was no threat to the river in terms of over extraction unless a major take application was lodged. The fishery was unchanged over many years. The buffer was significant and starting work on the minimum flow prior to completing work on the other tributaries was better knowing the fallback position of the Clutha.

Cr Deaker suggested that the motion and the amendment lie on the table and be presented to a subsequent meeting after the issues had been workshopped. Cr Shepherd supported this motion.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the motion and amendment lie on the table until after a workshop.

The motion was put by division:

For: Crs Bell, Croot, Deaker, Kelliher, Kempton, Scott, Shepherd,
Woodhead

Against: Crs Brown, Eckhoff, Neill, Robertson

The motion was carried

Item 2

2016/0689 **Further submission on DCC 2nd Generation District Plan.**
DPPRP, 4/3/16

The report noted that further submissions were lodged, on Council's behalf, on submissions made on the Dunedin City Council's Proposed 2nd Generation District Plan. The submissions were appended to the report for Council's endorsement

Cr Scott moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That Council endorse the appended further submissions on Dunedin City Council's Proposed 2nd Generation District Plan.

Motion carried

Item 3

2016/0659 **Director's Report.** DPPRP, 26/2/16

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee. A submission on the LGNZ Blue Skies Resource Management Submission was circulated with the agenda. Comment was made that the document was insightful and interesting to read.

Cr Scott moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.32 pm.



Chairperson