Our Ref A610586

Committee meetings Wednesday 8 June 2016

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Wednesday 8 June commencing at 9:00am. The venue is the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Any full detailed reports referred to in the agendas are available on the Council website, or by contacting the Committee Secretary – see contact details below.

Committee agendas

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OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Technical Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016 commencing at 9:00am

Membership:

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 Gretchen Robertson
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Leave of Absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 6 June 2016

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, for adoption.

Matters arising from minutes

Otago Regional Council

PART A RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1
2016/0796 **Pomahaka River and Taieri River Morphology and Riparian Management Strategy**. DEHS 20/5/16

The report describes the morphology and riparian management strategies developed to help protect and enhance the recreational, cultural and ecological values associated with the Pomahaka riverbed and Taieri riverbed and their margins. The development of each strategy is part of the 2015/16 Annual Plan target RW1 - 3:

The full reports 'Pomahaka River Morphology and Riparian Management Strategy' and the 'Taieri River Morphology and Riparian Management Strategy' are circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 2 **Cardrona River Channel Morphology.** DEHS, 20/5/16

2016/0793 The report describes the changes in morphology that have occurred since the last comprehensive survey was undertaken in 2007, and places these more recent changes within the context of longer term trends. It fulfils the 2015/16 Annual Plan target. This report is intended to inform decisions relating to the Cardrona River and will help to inform the development of the Cardrona River morphology and riparian management strategy as per the draft 2016/17 Annual Plan.

The full report 'Cardrona River Channel Morphology' is circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 3
2016/0698 **Technology-based solutions for air quality management: A Discussion Document.** DEHS, 20/5/16

The report summarises the factors behind the improvement in New Zealand's air quality over the last 10 years and discusses the various options available to assist with the reduction in particulate emissions from solid-fuel burners. This fulfils two targets in the 2015/16 Annual Plan.

The 'Environet Ltd Report– 'Domestic home heating technologies – review of existing and emerging technologies promoting low emissions' and the Bodeker Scientific Report 'Investigating Meteorological interventions for improving air quality in Airshed 1 towns' are circulated separately.

Item 4
2016/0803 **Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta, Otago** DEHS, 25/5/16

The intention of the report is to inform decisions relating to the Clutha Delta between Balclutha and the coast, including how to manage infrastructure that is part of ORC's Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme. This report includes the 2015/16 Annual Plan target 12: Assess effects and implications of shoreline retreat and sea level rise.

The full report 'Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta, Otago' is circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 5
2016/0847 **Update on Glendhu Forestry (Plan Change 6A) Water Quality Monitoring Project.** DEHS 24/6/16

The objective of the Glendhu catchment study is to measure the effects of a multi-year pine harvesting operation on water clarity, suspended sediment yield, stream sedimentation and potential effects on instream biota. This report meets the 2015/16 annual plan target to provide an update report to 'summarise the results thus far of forest harvesting in the Glendhu Forest on stream health and water quality'.

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6
2016/0809 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 27/5/16

Topics covered in the report are: Leith Flood Protection Scheme, Water of the Leith flood forecasting, Green Island sea level, Flood schemes Piping risk investigstions, Seismic hazard information, and Modelling to inform minimum flow setting processes.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 April 2016 commencing at 10:45am

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 Gretchen Robertson
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Gavin Palmer
Fraser McRae
Nick Donnelly
Caroline Rowe
Scott MacLean
Lauren McDonald
Adam Uytendaal
Frederika Mourot

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Shepherd with the correction to Item 2 of the minutes, being “Cr Woodhead” instead of "Cr Wood".

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Otago Regional Council

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/0726 **Water Resources of the Obelisk and Old Man Ranges**. DEHS, 23/3/16

The report presented the naturalised flow statistics and consented water takes for streams flowing from the Old Man and Obelisk Ranges.

The Technical Report ("Water Resources of the Obelisk and Old Man Ranges, An overview of the 2014/15 irrigation season") was circulated separately from the tabled covering report.

Dr Palmer advised that the report was part of the 2014/15 Annual Plan and would be used to assist in the establishing of RMA consents for the future.

A question was raised as to the level of community, farming or irrigator involvement. Dr Palmer advised he would check and report back.

Dr Palmer was asked to explain the methodology used to arrive at the naturalised flows and the reason why the Pomahaka catchment work had been used in this work.

Dr Palmer responded that the explanation to the methodology used was included in the report. Use of a representative catchment was an accepted method to use where long term records in the study catchment were not held. Dr Palmer confirmed that the technical data recorded was peer reviewed internally.

Crs Kelliher and Bell spoke and voted against the motion.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Woodhead

1. *That this report and the technical report 'Water Resources of the Obelisk and Old Man Ranges' are received and noted.*
2. *These reports are provided to the holders of deemed permits in these catchments.*

Motion carried

Item 2

2016/0734 **Nitrogen and Phosphorus Leaching Losses from Pasture, Winter Forage Crop and Native Bush Sites in the West Matukituki Valley.** DEHS, 24/3/16

The AgResearch report (Nitrogen and phosphorus leaching losses from pasture, winter forage crop and native bush sites in the West Matukituki Valley") was circulated separately.

Cr Scott summarised the report.

Dr Palmer advised that the study came about from mediation on Plan Change 6A and the report tabled is an interim report so strong conclusions could not be drawn at this stage. The report advised progress on this piece of work and foreshadowed the need to extend the measurements for the coming growing season.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Brown

1. *This report and the technical report 'Nitrogen and phosphorus leaching losses from pasture, winter forage crop and native bush sites in the West Matukituki Valley', produced by AgResearch, are received and noted.*
2. *Progress with the leaching monitoring and modelling is noted.*
3. *The interim findings are shared with stakeholders and landholders.*

Motion carried

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3
2016/0717 **Cardrona Water Quality Study**. DEHS, 24/3/16

The report ("Water Quality Study: Cardona River Catchment") was circulated separately.

Cr Shepherd left the meeting at 11:23am.

Staff were thanked for a very comprehensive report, covering a wide range of factors, including very good quality data.

Cr Shepherd returned to the meeting at 11:25am

Moved Cr Neill
Seconded Cr Woodhead

That this report and the technical report "Water Quality Study: Cardrona River Catchment" are received and noted.

Motion carried

Item 4

2016/0697 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 12/4/16

Topics covered in the report were: Modelling to inform Minimum Flow setting process; Clutha Shoreline Retreat; Debris Flow Event in Pipson Creek, Makarora; Dunedin District Plan Natural Hazards; Leith Flood Protection Scheme and the Smith Road Pump Station Upgrade

Councillors requested a visit to the Leith Flood Protection Scheme. Dr Palmer confirmed he would arrange a site visit to correspond with the next Council meeting day.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Kempton

That the report is noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11:32am.

Chairperson

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A899630

Report Number: 2016/0796
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Jacob Williams, Natural Hazards Analyst
Date: 20/05/2016

Subject: **Pomahaka River and Taieri River Morphology and Riparian Management Strategy**

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1. Précis

The Pomahaka River morphology and riparian management strategy and the Taieri River morphology and riparian management strategy have been prepared for the Pomahaka River (between Leithen Glen and Conical Hill) and the Taieri River (between Hyde and Matarae) respectively. The strategies were developed to help protect and enhance the recreational, cultural and ecological values associated with the Pomahaka riverbed and Taieri riverbed and their margins. The development of each strategy is part of the 2015/16 Annual Plan target RW1 - 3:

Develop a River Morphology and Riparian Management Plan (RMRMP) for the Pomahaka and Strath Taieri, setting out river values, management objectives, methods and the respective roles of ORC, land-holders and other stakeholders.

The intention is that this work will result in incremental enhancements to the natural character and enjoyment of the riverbeds, and enable long-term, sustainable use of the land which borders the rivers.

The strategies have been developed to guide work programs, decision-making and activities for the community, the Otago Regional Council (ORC), and other stakeholders. The strategies have been prepared by ORC, with input from the local community and other interested parties using an approach similar to that used for the Kakanui River.[1] The principles, objectives and actions outlined in the strategies reflect the values and concerns which have been identified by local residents and stakeholders through an extensive consultation process. It is therefore recommended that people who live, work or play within the Pomahaka River and Taieri River catchments consider, and give effect to the critical components of these strategies.

2. Community consultation and strategy development

The process of developing the strategies commenced in February 2016 (Pomahaka River) and in March 2016 (Taieri River) when, at public meetings and drop-in sessions, held in Tapanui and Middlemarch, the community was invited to share their values and issues associated with the two rivers. Following this there was an opportunity for the public to consider the strategies in March – April 2016 (Pomahaka River) and April – May 2016 (Taieri River), including a public submission process.

[1] ORC.2015: *Kakanui River morphology and riparian management strategy*, Dunedin, New Zealand, 978-0-908324-20-0

The values and desires that the community attributed to the morphology of the Pomahaka River and Taieri River environments are summarised below. The strategies are a means of encapsulating these values and desires, and using them to inform decision-making and work programs within the Pomahaka River and Taieri River catchments.

- Both rivers should support recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and picnicing.
- Both rivers are regionally important brown trout fisheries
- Both rivers are an important habitat for native fish such as longfin eel and galaxiids
- That the habitat provided for existing wildlife must be maintained and enhanced.
- Access must be able to continue.
- That the rivers channels are able to shift laterally within an identified riparian margin, but:
  - farmland beyond that margin is not eroded, and
  - main flood flows are kept in the channel.
- That infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges and water takes) is resilient and able to be quickly reinstated following flood events.
- That the function of the rivers continues to support social, cultural, spiritual, recreational, and farming activities – as well as continuing to provide for the taking of gravel as a resource

The communities of both the Pomahaka River and Taieri River have similar values as shown in the list above, indicating that a similar approach can be taken to managing these two rivers. Differences between the two communities include different uses of the rivers; the Taieri River has community value in that it can be used for gold mining, whereas this was not raised by the Pomahaka River community.

3. Legislative context

The strategies are not statutory documents; rather they are intended to present the aspirations of the community and the various stakeholder agencies. However, the statutory processes which do influence river management activities[2] are more likely to be used effectively and efficiently if there is a general consensus on what is valued about the rivers, and commonly understood objectives. The strategies set out the values identified by the community, and the outcomes they seek from managing river form and function, and will be used to inform resource consent decision-making.

4. Critical components

4.1. Principles:

The strategies provide a framework to guide activities and decision-making, based on the following set of principles:

- *Ensure sustainable river management.* Appropriate use of land, which will limit exposure to natural river and catchment processes.

[2] Including the Local Government Act (in regards to funding considerations), and the RMA (in regards to managing environmental effects)

- *Plan ahead.* An adaptive approach to river management that will allow for the dynamic nature of the Pomahaka River and Taieri River
- *Maintain and enhance the natural environment.* Activities are managed in a way that results in a more visually appealing river system, and habitat that supports wildlife, fish and suitable plant species.

4.2. Objectives

These are areas where the community, ORC and other stakeholders can achieve positive outcomes within the Pomahaka and Taieri riverbeds and along their riparian margins. They are derived from the principles listed above.

- *Recognise and characterise natural river processes.*
- *Equip the community to live with the effects of changes in river morphology.*
- *Enable sustainable gravel extraction.*
- *Promote activities that enhance the natural character and enjoyment of the river.*

4.3. Information

ORC has undertaken work to understand and quantify the natural river processes that occur in the Pomahaka River and Taieri River, as well as the community values associated with the riverbeds and their riparian margins. This information can be used to inform decisions and activities, such as gravel extraction and river maintenance work.

- *River form and function values.* Elements of the river system which are valued by the community.
- *River corridor design.* The location and width of the active river fairway, as well as appropriate buffer zones, which together form a corridor within which the river would naturally lie.
- *Gravel extraction.* Discussing the potential for the ORC to hold a gravel extraction consent to be utilised by the community.
- *River maintenance work areas.* Priority sites where work will be undertaken by ORC operations staff to assist in maintaining the shape and location of both rivers fairways.

5. Implementation

The strategies are concerned with the form and function of the Pomahaka River and Taieri River. It is intended to deliver appropriate guidance and assist with active engagement. It will help guide activities which affect the morphology of the rivers and their riparian environments, including those elements of the river system which are highly valued by the community. The strategies will help to ensure that these activities are undertaken in a sustainable and appropriate manner.

The strategies are relevant to all who those who live, work or play within the Pomahaka River and Taieri River catchments; decision-makers (including landowners, ORC, and other stakeholders) should therefore consider and give effect to the critical components contained with the two strategies.

It is noted that the strategies provide a comprehensive list of actions which can be used to achieve, or implement the key principles and objectives. However, due to the

dynamic nature of these rivers, parts of the strategies are likely to change as the rivers themselves change. As such; the strategies should be treated as a live document, with regular review and revision required.

The program of river management work to be undertaken by ORC (as guided by the strategies and provided for in the annual plan process) will always be a balance between what is desired by the community, and what is affordable. Irrespective of the level of work undertaken, there will always be a remaining residual risk associated with the effects of large flood events on river morphology.

6. Financial considerations

Historically, the permanent removal of gravel from the river system has been used as a cost-neutral tool in an attempt to address bank erosion and sedimentation issues. The strategies identify gravel extraction should still be considered for river management purposes, where that is appropriate for river management. Both the Pomahaka River and Taieri River communities requested that ORC take a more active role in river management as well as the ORC holding a gravel extraction consent which can be utilised by the community.

An increased program of work in the Pomahaka River and Taieri River by ORC will result in increased costs for the Clutha Special Rating District (SRD) and the Dunedin SRD (Table 1, Table 2).

The dynamic nature of the Pomahaka River and Taieri River and the inability to predict the timing or consequences of future flood events in the Clutha District and Dunedin District means there is a risk that this additional funding for river management work may still be insufficient.

It is noted that all ratepayers within the Clutha District contribute funding towards the Clutha SRD and likewise all ratepayers within the Dunedin District contribute towards the Dunedin SRD. If significant additional river management activity is to be undertaken, focusing on a small number of the two district's rivers, then re-consideration of this funding policy may be appropriate.

Table 1. Revenue, expenditure and reserve balance for the Clutha SRD

Year	Revenue (rates) ($)	Expenditure (operations) ($)	Projected reserves (balance) ($)
2013/14	185,000	168,875	385,000
2014/15	185,000	167,068	407,000
2015/16	225,000	218,081	251,000
2016/17	265,000	230,337	284,000
2017/18	275,000	229,120	309,000
2018/19	290,000	234,965	307,000
2019/20	310,000	241,242	302,000

Table 2. Revenue, expenditure and reserve balance for the Dunedin SRD

Year	Revenue (rates) ($)	Expenditure (operations) ($)	Projected reserves (balance) ($)
2013/14	150,000	169,846	2,115,000
2014/15	150,000	174,220	2,154,000
2015/16	150,000	254,890	2,145,000
2016/17	150,000	225,899	1,952,000
2017/18	150,000	267,792	1,928,000
2018/19	150,000	274,623	1,803,000
2019/20	150,000	281,960	1,663,000

7. Recommendations

That;

1. these reports are received;
2. the Pomahaka River and Taieri River morphology and riparian management strategies are endorsed; and
3. the financial considerations associated with the strategies are noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A899604

Report Number: 2016/0793
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Jacob Williams, Natural Hazards Analyst
Date: 20/05/2016

Subject: **Cardrona River Channel Morphology**

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1. Précis

Changes in river channel morphology are driven by physical processes such as river hydrology, and by human activities such as gravel extraction and channel modification. To help understand recent changes in channel morphology, and how those changes sit within longer-term trends, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) completed a repeat survey of 42 cross-sections in the Cardrona River in October 2015. A report 'Cardrona River channel morphology' (attached) has been prepared by ORC to summarise the results of the latest survey as per the 2015/16 Annual Plan target RW1 - 8:

Report on trends and changes in river morphology of the Cardrona River.

The report describes the changes in morphology that have occurred since the last comprehensive survey was undertaken in 2007, and places these more recent changes within the context of longer term trends. This report is intended to inform decisions relating to the Cardrona River and will help to inform the development of the Cardrona River morphology and riparian management strategy as per the draft 2016/17 Annual Plan. It will be augmented by the LiDAR data being collected at present as part of a separate 2015/16 Annual Plan Target.

2. Discussion

Changes in the channel morphology of the Cardrona River have been assessed using cross-section data collected in 2003, 2007 and 2015 (as well as older cross-section data collected in 1988), aerial and ground photography, and visual inspections. This assessment provides an update on the changes in channel morphology which have occurred since the last catchment-wide analyses of long-term trends were completed in 2010.

The analysis contained in this report shows that the Cardrona River between the headwaters and the confluence with the Clutha River/Mata-Au experienced an increase in mean bed level (MBL) at 20 of the 42 survey locations and a decrease in MBL at 19 survey locations, one site experienced no change between 2007 and 2015.[1] The greatest change in MBL occurred at cross-section CR54-2 which showed a decrease in MBL of 0.88 m between 2007 and 2015. The cross-sections in the lower reaches displayed more aggradation, variation (in channel aggradation and degradation) was recorded in the mid reaches, and minimal degradation or aggradation was recorded in the upper reaches.

[1] MBL could not be calculated at an additional two survey locations.

Between 1988 (when the cross-sections were first surveyed) and 2015 the Cardrona River channel at the cross-section locations has (in general) become deeper and wider.

Changes in the morphology of the Cardrona River channel are in part driven by the hydrological characteristics of the river, including the magnitude and frequency of flood events and human activities such as gravel extraction and physical works.

3. Recommendations

That;

1. this report be received and noted; and
2. this report is used to inform the Cardrona River morphology and riparian management strategy.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A888150

Report Number: 2016/0698
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Deborah Mills, Environmental Scientist
Date: 20/05/2016

Subject: **Technology-based solutions for air quality management: A Discussion Document**

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1. Précis

Improvements in New Zealand's air quality over the last 10 years are mainly the result of technological advancement in the design standard for domestic solid-fuel burners in New Zealand. The introduction of mandatory emission limits for wood burners by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) in 2004 drove the marketplace to reduce wood burner particulate emissions from around 4g/kg to 1.5g/kg and lower[1].

Currently, it is estimated that upgrades to solid-fuel burners in Alexandra over the last 10 years should have resulted in a reduction in PM_{10}[2] emissions of approximately 50%. As PM_{10} levels in Alexandra (and other Otago towns) still regularly exceed the standards set in the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ), additional reductions are required.

Complementary educational efforts at reducing emissions have included raising awareness in our communities through regular reporting of air quality monitoring data, providing information to households regarding the efficient use of their wood burners, and promoting burning of dry and seasoned wood. While it is assumed that these initiatives have helped improve air quality by reducing burner emissions by some unquantifiable degree, it is reasonable to assume that significant continued improvements will be the result of further development and use of new technologies.

This year ORC surveyed new, emerging and potential technology-based solutions to improving air quality. These involved schemes and/or technology to reduce emissions and/or concentrations of particulates. These technologies include:

1. the introduction of "ultra-low emission burners", known as ULEBs, to the marketplace;
2. the use of secondary emission controls for individual burners;
3. the operation of community-heating systems using various fuel sources; and
4. the potential of using technology to reduce particulate concentrations (as opposed to emissions) by modifying the receiving environment.

[1] The emission rate set in the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ) is regulated using the Australia/New Zealand Standards 4012 and 4013 for laboratory testing.
[2] Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometres

This paper describes the various options and discusses their feasibility in the landscape of air quality management in New Zealand. Detailed technical reports were commissioned (Wilton, Conway) and are circulated separately, fulfilling 2015/2016 Annual Plan targets to:

1. investigate geo-engineering options for improving air quality in Airshed 1 towns; and
2. perform an international stocktake of existing and emerging heating technologies, including community heating.

This information will be used to inform the current work being done on ORC's development of a new air quality management strategy.

2. Reducing particulate emissions

2.1. Solid-fuel burners

In 2004, Ministry for the Environment introduced legislation requiring all new wood burners installed on properties smaller than 2 hectares to have a particulate emissions rate of no greater than 1.5g/kg (grams for every kilogram of wood burnt). This move prompted an improvement in home heating burner design so that within a relatively short time, manufacturers were able to produce what are considered MfE-compliant wood burners.

NES design criteria have relied on the use of AS/NZS 4012 and 4013 for testing standards. These test conditions are, by necessity, very prescriptive since they are meant to test and compare only the physical burner design regardless of the external parameters that may affect emissions, i.e. wood size, moisture content, etc.

Several studies done in more "real-life" environments[3] have shown that emissions from these laboratory-compliant burners can vary widely, emitting an average of 5-6g/kg, and as much as 12g/kg, depending on fuel moisture, operator behaviour and other variables. These results have meant that in many cases Councils' original forecasts of expected improvements to air quality have not been fully met.

Environment Canterbury developed the Canterbury Method 1 (CM1) testing regime to address this imbalance between laboratory and real-life testing. CM1 attempts to simulate more a real-life testing environment and sets an emission cap of 0.5g/kg. This testing regime has been authorised by MfE, and burners that comply with the emission limits are authorised and referred to as ULEBs, ultra-low emission burners.

To achieve their low emission rates, ULEBs rely on downdraught technology. This type of system utilises a secondary combustion chamber where combustion gases created from the burning of wood in the primary chamber are burned off, eliminating

[3] NIWA, *Wood Burner Testing Christchurch 2009: Diurnal variation in emissions, wood use, indoor temperature and factors influencing start-up*, 2012
Wilton, et al., *Real life testing of wood burner emissions*, Clean Air and Environmental Quality V40, No. 4, 2006
NIWA, *In-home testing of particulate emissions from NES-authorised woodburners: Nelson, Rotorua and Taumarunui 2007*, 2008

particulate formation. During the start-up phase, only the primary chamber is working; once temperatures reach a certain point, the secondary chamber is engaged.

To date, burners from four manufacturers have been approved as ULEBs. Of these, only one (TropicAir Duo) is manufactured in New Zealand; the rest are manufactured overseas in the European market. Heat outputs vary from about 4 to 15kW; burner prices (excluding flue and installation) range from about $5500 to $11,000. As a comparison, common models of wood burners currently sold in Otago range from $2000-$3000 (excluding installation).

Key parameters of the ULEBs are shown in Table 1 for comparison and images of a European and the New Zealand ULEBs are shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. Comparison of ULEBs authorised using CM1 test method.

	Jayline Waltherm	Rais Bionic	XEOOS	TropicAir Duo
Heat Output (kW)	14.9	4.1	4 - 7.5	15
Emissions (g/kg)	0.47	0.5	0.45	0.35
Efficiency (%)	67	76	69	74
Cost (NZD - excl flue and installation)	11,000	7,870	6,950 - 11,000	5,490
Switch to down draught mode	Manual	Automated	Manual	Manual
Requires electricity	Yes	No	No	No
Manufacturer	European	European	European	New Zealand

Figure 1. Two down-draught ULEBs: an Italian-made Jayline (on left) and a NZ-made TropicAir Duo.

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Although accurate data regarding the number of ULEBs installed in the country are lacking, it is estimated that at the end of 2015 approximately 300 ULEBs were in use in New Zealand, 65 of which are located in Canterbury. New regional rules in Canterbury and proposed new rules in Nelson requiring the installation of ULEBs will likely increase their market share in the coming years.

The role of ULEBs in New Zealand air quality management looks to be promising in that their low emission rates should, theoretically, be more realistic. However, there are still limitations to be considered, mainly centred on the operator. In fact, it is the opinion of international burner technology experts that the greatest improvements in burner technology will come through restricting the amount of operator intervention.

Considerations - ULEBs

The issue with the current state of ULEBs is that the operator is still able and required to intervene in the operation of the burner. The most obvious area of intervention is the need to manually switch most of these burners into downdraught mode in order to achieve the ultra-low (0.5g/kg or less) emissions. Other manual interventions include the operator re-fuelling the primary chamber with wood of unknown moisture content and setting of the burn rate.

It is well-accepted now that the way the householder operates a burner can greatly affect the emissions outcome. While it is thought that the effect will be smaller with ULEBs because of their superior combustion design, it is still to be proven conclusively.

CM1, the new emissions test designed to measure particulates in a more real-life condition still does not – and cannot – replicate true real life and all the variability involved in operating a domestic burner. The test is an improvement on the older AS/NZ 4012/4013 tests but not necessarily completely representative of the actual environmental affect.

The drivers for research and development in wood burner technology

Research into burner technology and testing methodology continues to improve burner efficiencies, emission rates and their reliability. Emerging advances in burner technology include:

- using computational fluid dynamics to understand more about the combustion process and burner design;
- automating the primary air control to reduce operator intervention; and
- burners using both wood and pellets to reduce the variability of fuel moisture.

Much of the advance in burner efficiency and technology is due to extensive research being done overseas. These efforts sit within a much larger framework of governments, along with other groups, pursuing goals related to sustainable energy. Emphasis on renewable energy has prompted a significant increase in wood use for heating in both Europe and North America over the last 10 years. Coupled with the extensive research done overseas on the association of fine particulates and adverse health effects, a strong incentive for clean heat is created.

This is demonstrated through the extensive and well-established networks of research and development incentives apparent in several countries. For example, the IEA Bioenergy Group (a consortium of 22 EU countries) was set up almost 30 years by the International Energy Agency to advance the development of bioenergy research. As one very small component of their overall brief, they sponsored the 2015 Bioenergy conference in Berlin where the advancement of technical issues concerning wood burner design and testing was discussed.

In another example, in the United States the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a public benefit corporation established over 30 years ago to advance energy solutions and protect the environment. They sponsored the recent Wood Stove (as they're called in the United States) Decathlon held in Washington, D.C. where international manufacturers had a chance to compete for the cleanest and most efficient wood burner. As part of the effort to improve wood burners, they are working with the Alliance for Green Heat to ask the government to take a leadership role in developing strategies for cleaner heat. Newer, prototype burners combining secondary combustion with catalytic conversion are now being tested.

Legislation plays a role in stimulating improvements in the marketplace as well. Across the European Union there is a range of emission limits applied to wood burners with recommendations calling for the standardisation of burner efficiency and emissions. Individual countries are also regulating wood burners; e.g. Germany has put into place strict emission limits and fuel moisture requirements.

In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency is phasing in new emission limits over a five year period (until 2020) which is allowing time to adapt new technologies to wood burners.

In New Zealand, most of the improvements to efficiency and emission rates resulted from the manufacturers responding to the 2005 National Environmental Standards for Air Quality's requirements for lower-emission burners. Individual councils' requirements for ULEBs will likely drive the NZ market to produce improved burners, as evidenced by the first ULEB made in New Zealand recently being introduced into the market.

Currently in New Zealand, the main markets for ULEBs at this time are Christchurch, Kaiapoi and Rangiora where they are required for new dwellings and in dwellings using other heating methods. In Nelson, the proposed rules[4] allow the use of ULEBs.

Environment Bay of Plenty is planning on buying 40 ULEBs this winter, and a further 360 over the following four years, to use in their incentives programme for new heating appliances. Their programme involves initiating a low income grants scheme for the installation of the ULEBs. As part of their programme, in situ emissions testing is proposed for some of the households. This will add to the test data already available for ULEBs and help provide more meaningful information on the effectiveness of ULEBs.

[4] Notified January 2016, but not yet operative

The advancement of burners that emit extremely low emissions in a real-life setting will likely prove to be an important component in reducing particulate emissions and improving air quality.

2.2. Secondary emission controls for domestic burners

Other efforts to reduce emissions from domestic solid-fuel burners focus on filtering particulates from the airstream before they exit the chimney. This type of technology is referred to as a "secondary control" since the fundamental combustion process is not affected.

Industry has long employed secondary controls to reduce emissions and now that technology is being advanced to work on domestic-sized burners and boilers. Much of this research work is being done in Germany where several devices have been approved for use. Various techniques are being used to lower emissions: these include filtration, catalytic conversion, and electro-static precipitation.

One such Swiss-made device, the Oeko Tube (pronounced EEK-oh-tube), is currently being imported into the New Zealand market for use on domestic (up to 40kW) burners (Figure 2). The device uses the principle of electro-static precipitation (ESP) to remove particulates from the airstream before they leave the chimney flue. To do this, the device produces an electronic charge into the middle of the chimney space; this charge is transferred to particulates. The charge particulates are then attracted to the side walls of the grounded flue where they attach and remain.[5] The charge does not work on the volatiles that are in gaseous forms in the chimney and this will likely affect the effectiveness of the device, depending on the fuel source being used.

Results from preliminary, limited testing in New Zealand indicate an average PM_{10}-reduction efficiency of approximately 60%. Tests were undertaken in 2014 on coal burners in Reefton[6], looking at reductions over low- and high-burn phases; results showed emission reductions of approximately 58% and were greatest when burners were operated on low. Further testing was commissioned by Environment Canterbury in 2015 on wood burners[7]. Due to testing limitations, it was not possible to determine an overall emission-reduction percentage; however, qualitative results indicate that the Oekotube is effective on wood burners as well.

One observed consequence of removing the very smallest particulates from the airstream is that, it will be the larger-sized particles that leave the chimney. Since larger particles are heavier, it is observed that they "fall out" of the atmosphere within a couple of metres from the chimney in calm conditions. This may have positive implications for ambient air quality.

[5] An industrial application of this technology can be found at the Wakari Hospital where the first Otago ESP unit was installed with a new wood chip boiler; particulate emission levels there are extremely low.

[6] Wilton, E (2014), *Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Oekotube ESP in the management of PM10 in Reefton*, West Coast Regional Council

[7] Spectrum Laboratories, 2015, *Draft Report 0407 Oekotube Testing,* Auckland

Considerations – secondary controls

There are several considerations related to the Oeko Tube. They include:

1. Regular chimney sweeping and other maintenance is required to remove the build-up of particulates on the flue.
2. These devices currently cost about $2800 plus GST and installation.
3. There may be 'tuning' issues associated with the optimal performance of the device.
4. About 30W of electricity is needed to operate the device and 1W while it's in standby mode.
5. The differences in test design and reporting between Europe and New Zealand make it difficult to quantify the amount of emission reductions that can be achieved.

The future – secondary controls

Advances into the Oeko Tube technology continues with self-cleaning mechanisms being included in new designs. This could make them more appealing to householders.

It seems reasonable to expect that secondary controls could play an important role In terms of air quality management strategies, particularly as future advances make them easier to incorporate into a household. For now, it seems more real-life testing to understand the emissions reductions and the adaptability to the NZ marketplace is required.

Figure 2. An Oeko Tube installed on a chimney uses the principles of electro-static precipitation to "filter" particulates out of the airstream before they are released into the atmosphere.

2.3. Community-heating schemes

A third method of reducing emissions is to centralise the heating source and control the emissions thereby eliminating hundreds of individually-owned and operated solid-fuel burners. Schemes of this nature are referred to community-, or district-heating schemes. In these systems, heat is generated at a central point (boiler or heat pump station) and distributed via a network of pipes to a community, or district. At the dwelling level, this provides a "whole of home" heating solution, i.e. central heating.

The heat itself, whether conveyed by hot water or steam, can be fuelled by wood, coal, geothermal, solar, or water sources. The main consideration in reducing emissions for systems using fossil fuel is that emissions are controlled as a point source with strict emission controls. This one, controlled discharge-to-air will have significantly less effect on the receiving environment than will hundreds of domestic burners. Such systems are already common in several European countries where wood chip, waste, geothermal heat and even water provide fuel for heating.

Typically, district-heating schemes are incorporated into new, high-density housing since they require extensive networks of piping for the distribution of hot water or steam (Figure 3). However, many cities are including retrofits so as to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2012, GNS[8] investigated the use of geothermal heat as a source for a district-heating system in Rotorua and found that central home heating using a geothermal source is technically feasible; however, the capital cost of retro-fitting individual houses with the necessary pipes and radiators may range from $16,000 to $18,000, making this an unlikely solution in Rotorua.

There are no residential district-heating schemes operating in New Zealand. Currently, Bodeker Scientific, an atmospheric research company in Alexandra, is investigating the technical feasibility of using the Clutha River as a potential source of energy for such a system. The project is based on the idea of using water-sourced heat pump technology to generate enough heat to supply a small town such as Alexandra.

For example, a water-source district-heat pump scheme operates in Norway, using seawater to provide 14MW to over 200 large buildings, and in the UK a water-source heat pump scheme is using water from the Thames River to heat homes and a hotel[9]. Basically, water is pumped into a processing plant and low-grade heat is transferred to a gas; then, a compressor increases the pressure of the gas causing the temperature to rise to about 45 degrees.

Although the technology is well-understood, costs, applicability, acceptability, and operation/ownership issues in the New Zealand context will require further extensive investigation if such schemes are to develop here. In future, this may be more applicable to new development as opposed to existing housing areas.

[8] GNS Science, *Rotorua Geothermal Home Heat Investigation*, Report 2012/120, 2012

[9] http://www.constructionmanagermagazine.com/news/kinston-project-uses-river-thames-heating/

Figure 3. Schematic of a district-heating scheme.

3. Reducing particulate concentrations

As an alternative to reducing particulate emissions, the idea that we may be able to manipulate the receiving environment to facilitate PM_{10} dispersion was raised by Council in discussions held at the Technical Committee meeting on 24 July 2014 (Report Number 2014/0983: "Air quality in Otago – Issues and Considerations".

The concept of modifying or manipulating the natural atmosphere for a desired outcome is known as "geo-engineering". The term is often used in reference to ameliorating the effects of climate change but can relate to any scheme where a resource or energy is introduced into the climate system. The most common example is cloud-seeding which involves injecting chemicals into clouds in order to either induce or suppress rainfall, depending on the desired result. Today, 40 to 50 countries use some form of cloud-seeding in efforts to control the weather. Famously, China, with the world's largest weather-engineering programme, tried to control the weather during the Beijing Olympics opening ceremonies. They employed 1500 weather professionals using 30 aircraft to blast approaching storm clouds with anti-aircraft guns and rocket launchers to supress rainfall over the roofless Bird's Nest stadium. Was it successful?

"*We fired a total of 1,104 rain dispersal rockets from 21 sites in the city between 4 p.m. and 11:39 p.m. on Friday, which successfully intercepted a stretch of rain belt from moving towards the stadium*" – Guo Hu, Beijing Municipal Meteorological Bureau (BMB).

Spectators did, indeed, remain dry although areas outside of Beijing recorded heavy rainfall.

Extensive international literature searches indicate that no such climate-modification projects for the purpose of improving air quality currently exist. As such, a study was commissioned to address the concept and its general feasibility to Central Otago towns.

Conway (Bodeker Scientific) examined the nature of Alexandra air pollution climatology and identified three scenarios which might result in significant concentration reductions. The scenarios included:

1. using wind machine technology (like that used in frost fighting) at ground level in an effort to assist mixing and dispersal in the lowest layer of air near the ground;
2. introducing a low-level jet stream in the vertical vicinity of 50-130m to provide clean air above, invoking some mixing and dispersal; and
3. exporting Alexandra's air down the Roxburgh gorge.

The basis for all of these interventions is to promote mixing in the atmosphere by either increasing wind speeds or introducing clean air into the atmosphere in order to facilitate more vertical mixing.

Conway developed a climate dispersion model to analyse the effect of each of these scenarios on PM_{10} reduction. While each scheme could potentially offer moderate reductions in PM_{10}, it would likely take two or more of the schemes operating simultaneously to achieve significant enough reduction to meet the NESAQ. As well, even if the engineering of these projects was feasible, the energy requirements for each were on the order of at least 10MW. This is not surprising given that the energy involved in the creation of an inversion across Alexandra's air zone was calculated at about 415 megawatts, about the capacity of the Clyde Dam.

3.1. Wind Machines

A wind machine such as that used in frost fighting operates by increasing turbulence in the atmosphere close to the ground. They can operate either horizontally or vertically, but all experience a fast decay in wind speeds due to friction and shear. For a horizontal wind machine concept to be effective over the whole of the Alexandra air zone, it is estimated that approximately 58 fans would be needed throughout the area.

Further complications of the fans include the required power consumption, noise, and limitation of working in supercooled fog. Additionally, frost fighting fans are normally used over agricultural land and it is unclear how effective they would be at modifying the inversion in an urban land cover.

The use of helicopters was examined as a type of vertical wind machine. To be effective, overpasses every 30 to 60 minutes at about 25m above ground would be required. Since the Civil Aviation Authority prohibits visual flights below 300m over populated areas, this is not a viable alternative.

3.2. Creating a low-level jet stream

From the air quality monitoring that has been done in Alexandra, it can be seen that there are nights when PM_{10} is expected to be high, but isn't. There has been some evidence collected showing that on those nights, there is a stream of air blowing at higher levels (between 50 and 130m above the surface). It is thought that this 'jet stream' brings in cleaner air and changes the vertical particulate gradient, encouraging dispersal of ground-level PM_{10}.

Conway modelled inducing a low-level jet stream over Alexandra via a very large blower. Results show that the energy requirement to produce enough air movement to achieve even a moderate reduction of PM_{10} would be on the order of tens of megawatts. As reference, the largest boilers in Dunedin (e.g. University, Polytechnic) are rated at about six-to-seven megawatts.

3.3. Enhancing airflow down the Roxburgh gorge

Similar to the creation of a low-level jet stream, this effect would export polluted air down the gorge. Wind speeds on the order of 40km/hr (about 20 knots) would be required in order for such a scheme to be effective[10]. Similar to the other geo-engineering schemes, the power requirements would be extraordinarily large.

3.4. Feasibility of geo-engineering

The development of a temperature inversion involves extremely large amounts of energy transfer in the environment. Conway et al considered that, for the Alexandra air zone, about 415 megawatts is exchanged through radiative losses to the atmosphere, the process most associated with inversion formation. Consequently, enormous amounts of energy would be required to counteract that effect enough to cause a significant reduction in PM_{10} concentrations.

While in terms of engineering, projects such as these may be possible, in terms of the cost of the energy requirements for success, they appear unreasonable. In fact, the authors conclude that *"no scheme is likely to succeed in reducing PM_{10} concentrations to consistently meet required NESAQ levels within reasonable energy input limits"*.

4. Summary and Conclusions

A wide range of technological solutions has been discussed in this paper and examined in more detail in the accompanying technical reports. These solutions can be categorised as either reducing emissions (down-draught solid-fuel burners, secondary emissions controls, community-heating schemes) or reducing concentrations (climate-modification schemes).

All of the innovation and progress to date has focused on reducing emissions. In New Zealand the introduction of down-draught ULEBs is the step forward that some councils are taking. Research into design and testing on the development of very low-emission and efficient burners continues; it seems the well-known wood burner is experiencing a complete "makeover" with promising outcomes likely.

Secondary control technology is also showing some promise in reducing emissions. As these devices are still relatively new in the New Zealand marketplace, they will still require further investigation and testing. However, it is feasible that these types of devices have an application in air quality management in New Zealand.

[10] According to the Metservice, this is the speed at which larger tree branches shake and umbrellas are difficult to use.

Residential community-heating schemes, although un-tested in New Zealand, may have a place in the future of air quality management. These schemes are technically feasible, but they would require a very different model of utility owner/operation than currently exists. It may be that a small demonstration project involving new development is the best way to prove its applicability in Otago.

Using climate-modification techniques to reduce air pollution do not seem feasible as the energy requirements are extraordinarily large. The resources needed for these schemes to be successful would be much better spent in improving housing and heating options for households in communities.

In the near term, improvements in air quality will continue as newly-available technology – both burner and secondary control - becomes embedded in communities.

5. Recommendations

That;

1. this report be received; and
2. this report be used to inform the Otago Air Strategy.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A900360

Report Number: 2016/0803
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Sharon Hornblow, Natural Hazards Analyst
Chris Valentine, Manager Engineering
Date: 25/05/2016

Subject: **Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta, Otago**

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1. Précis

In order to summarise the diverse hazardscape of the Clutha Delta, and publish data detailing prominent and worsening hazards the Otago Regional Council (ORC) has prepared a report, titled Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta. It describes the social, environmental and geomorphic setting of the Clutha Delta, and has chapters dedicated to flood hazard, seismic hazard, and coastal erosion. This report includes the 2015/16 Annual Plan target 12: Assess effects and implications of shoreline retreat and sea level rise. This report is intended to inform decisions relating to the Clutha district between Balclutha and the coast. These include how to manage infrastructure that is part of ORC's Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme.

The Clutha Delta presents a complex natural hazard setting, influenced by the combination of the natural processes that have helped form the delta and the land uses that have developed since the late 19th century. The natural setting of the delta exposes the area to flooding, alluvial fan hazard, seismic activity, and coastal processes such as elevated sea levels, tsunami and coastal erosion. The level of risk that each of these hazards presents varies greatly across the plain, depending on the scale and type of hazard and the nature and vulnerability of the features exposed to that hazard.

The report "Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta" has been prepared, drawing on information from earlier technical investigations and identifies each hazard, implications and exposure for the community based on current knowledge. This information aims to facilitate and inform decision-making and the management of the community's exposure to natural hazards.

2. Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta

This report has been prepared by ORC as there is an identified need for a consolidated set of natural hazards information for the populated area of the Clutha district between Balclutha and the coast. Past assessments of the flood hazard on the Clutha Delta have generally focused on mitigating flood risk through the engineering works that constitute the Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme. This report takes an approach of combining information about residual flood risks and other natural hazard information (principally seismic and coastal hazard), together with a description of the social and environmental settings in order to establish a *hazardscape* of the Clutha Delta.

The issue of coastal erosion in Molyneux Bay is investigated in detail in this report, and a 2016 survey of foredune position compared with previous datasets. This is a refinement and extension of data presented in a 2012 ORC report (Coastal Morphology of South Otago: Nugget Point to Chrystalls Beach). This aspect of the report is of particular importance as updated rates of coastal retreat indicate that infrastructure of the Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme will be under threat in <30 years, if the present rate of shoreline retreat continues (see Figure 1).

The report also provides a detailed description (Chapter 4) of how the flood hazard varies across the Clutha Delta and the risk associated with the interactions between different types of hazards. In particular it investigates the effect coastal processes (including elevated sea levels, tsunami and coastal erosion) have on flood risk, including information about the possible effects of climate change and higher sea levels. Other natural hazards that can affect the Clutha Delta community include seismic hazards; in the form of ground shaking, liquefaction and lateral spreading of sediments. Tsunami and storm surge hazard are also considered in detail and inundation maps for potential events of differing magnitude presented.

3. Projected impacts of coastal retreat on flood protection and drainage infrastructure

A brief section of the report considers the complex relationship of sea level rise on the level of groundwater and associated issues with drainage of floodwater in the coming decades. Projections provided by the IPCC are that global mean sea level will increase by between 0.26 and 0.82m by the end of the 21st century, compared with mean sea level of 1986-2005. Figure 1 shows projected coastline if current rates of foredune retreat continue over the coming decades.

The combination of coastline retreat and sea-level rise factors mean that the viability of parts of the Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme will likely be under threat by the 2030s. Currently the area of the delta between Paretai and the Koau relies on pumping into the Paretai River and drainage through the Paretai Estuary. As the coast retreats and the foredune moved inland the estuary will become increasingly sediment-choked and not drain freely into the sea. Continued drainage and efficient working of the Paretai pumping station could require mechanical opening of the estuary as the coastal dune morphology changes. The Paretai gravity outfall would be under threat from high tide waves bringing sand into the estuary as well. Continued monitoring of sea-level, coastal retreat and accretion is suggested, and the possibility of gravity outfall or pumping into the Koau if major works are undertaken in future. Coastal retreat is expected to require the reconstruction of approximately 3km of floodbank by the 2030s (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Shoreline change for Molyneux Bay from Kaka Point (southern end of map) to Koau Mouth of the Clutha River with projected shoreline if current retreat rates continue. The Paretai Estuary will likely be engulfed by sand dunes moving inland as the coast retreats, making drainage via the Paretai River less efficient and possibly requiring mechanical input to keep drainage to the sea clear.

4. Projected Impacts of sea-level rise on flood protection and drainage infrastructure

An example of how rising sea levels will impact the efficiency of pumped drainage in Paretai has been considered in Table 1, with associated river levels shown illustrated in Figure 2. The Puerua River in the location of the pump station is subject to significant tidal variation and river levels are heavily influenced by the state of the channel within the Puerua Estuary. Currently the Puerua River is reliant on an engineered linkage with the Koau branch as it has insufficient flow to maintain its own mouth. In future as the estuary becomes increasingly sediment-choked as the coastal dune morphology changes the Puerua River will experience higher levels due to backwatering effects.

Future loss of pumping capacity has been estimated giving consideration to the combined effect of moderate flows in the Puerua River, sea level rise of 0.3 metres, and the simultaneous partial blockage of the Puerua Estuary. The future increase in average river level has not been quantified in this investigation. For the purpose of informing an estimate of the reduction to pump capacity at Paretai, the future river level has been conservatively estimated as a 1.108 m increase over the long term average levels (Figure 2). This level increase is justified by a combination of sea level rise and historic backwatering observed when the estuary outfall has blocked (a scenario predicted to occur under coastline retreat in future decades, see Figure 1).

Table 1. Estimate of decrease in Paretai Pumping station capacity following sea level rise to 0.3 m below existing floodbank.

	McEwan 30/ 30 (both pumps)	ABS VUP 0501	Total Station Capacity	Drain Moduli
	[m3/s]	[m3/s]	[m3/s]	
Existing Situation Average River Levels	3	0.95	3.95	>10
Existing Situation High River Levels	2.55	0.9	3.45	9.2
Estimated future Puerua River levels (300mm freeboard to floodbank)	2.4	0.7*	3.1	8.5

*To achieve head requirement, frequency of ABS 0501 pump shall be reduced with VSD.

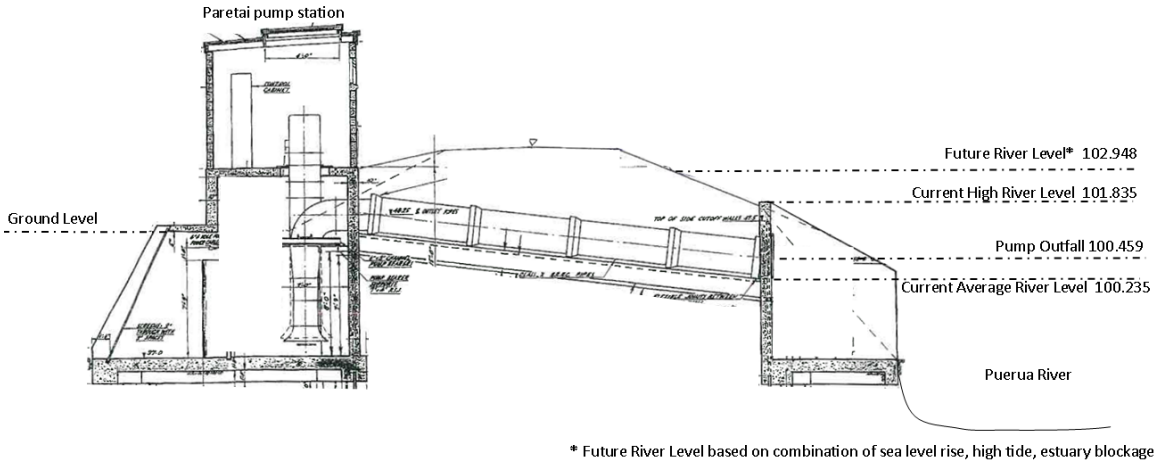

Figure 2. Puerua River showing current and predicted levels at the location of the Paretai pump station.

The drainage modulus (pumped capacity) for the Paretai area is 10 mm/day, equating to a flow of 3.7 m^3/s. Station capacity under the predicted future flooded river level is reduced to 3.1 m^3/s, equating to a drainage modulus of 8.5 mm, or a loss of 15%. The drainage moduli represent the depth of water that can be removed from the Scheme area by all the pumps running at full capacity. This is to some extent theoretical, with the conveyance within the drainage network remaining the limiting factor.

Figure 3 shows a map of the Lower Clutha Delta with areas of ground below 0.25 m indicated in dark blue, and ground below 0.5 m in light blue. Much of this area may require continuous pumping in order to stay drained dry by approximately the 2050s, even in low-river conditions since gravity outfalls will only drain the areas well during very low tides. This is due to the hydraulic fall of the water table from groundwater to sea- and river-level.

The decrease in pumping capacity expected for the Paretai area under a scenario of 0.30 m sea-level rise (expected by approximately 2060, Figure 4) combined with backwatering due to sedimentation within the estuary is not significant when the unknown factors of increased seepage due to similarly raised groundwater levels, and decreased efficiency of gravity outfall structures are considered. Drainage to the Paretai catchment is achieved using a combination of pumping and gravity outfalls. There are five gravity outfalls; adjacent to the Paretai pump station, into the Puerua off the end of Settlement Road, into the Puerua beside Kaka Point Road, into the Puerua estuary, and into the Koau at the end of Factory Road. Predicted increase in mean water levels will significantly reduce the viability of gravity drainage for the Paretai catchment. This along with increased seepage will result in increased pumping and longer duration to dewater after a rain event. This effect is noted but not quantified in this report.

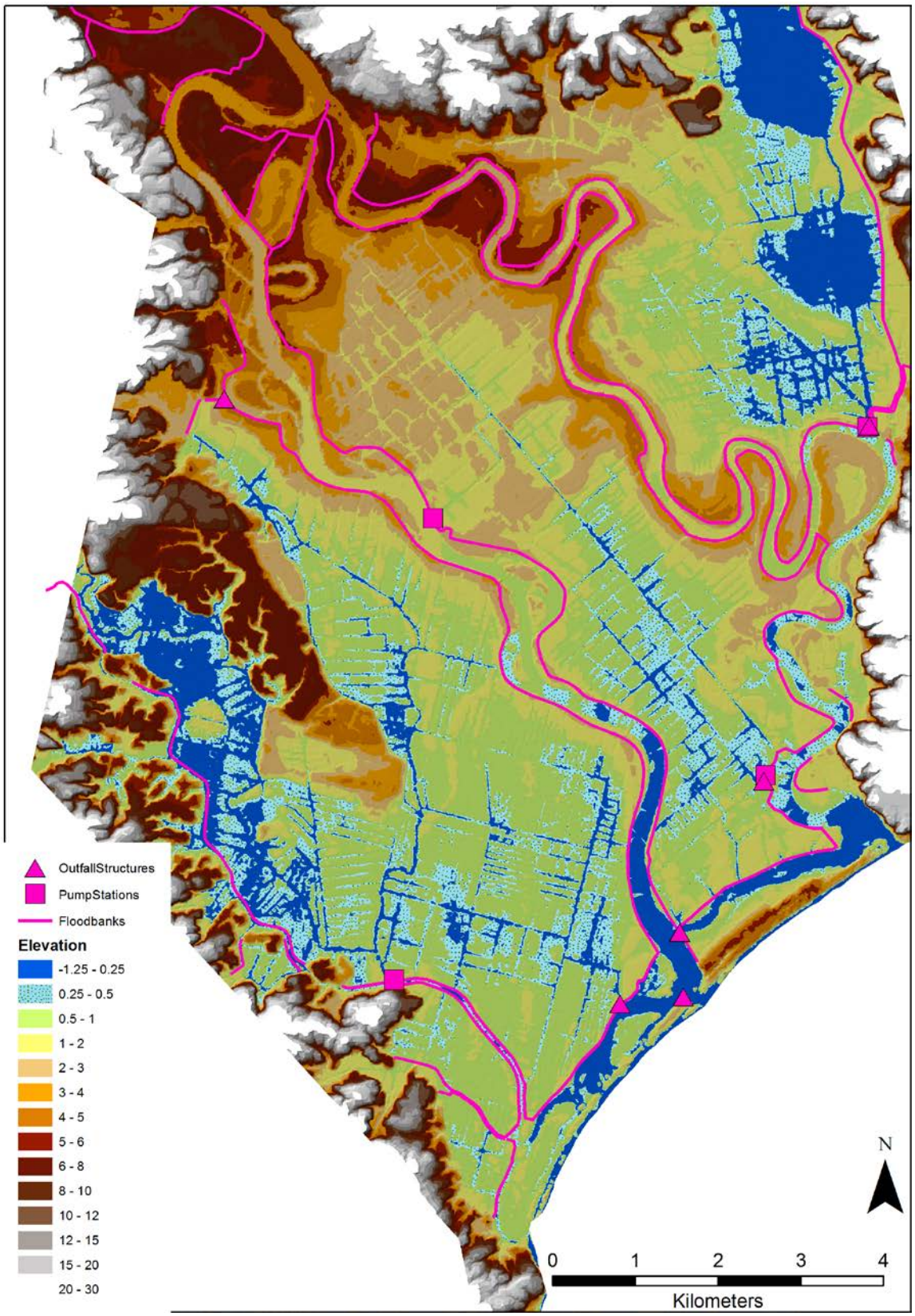

Figure 3. Elevation of land on the Clutha Delta. Land expected to be at risk of groundwater ponding as sea level rises by ~20 cm in the coming decades are highlighted in dark blue (<25 cm above MSL), with light blue showing areas likely to be similarly at risk (<50 cm above MSL). The southernmost outfall structures will also be negatively impacted as the hydraulic base level changes with projected sea-level rise (see Figure 3).

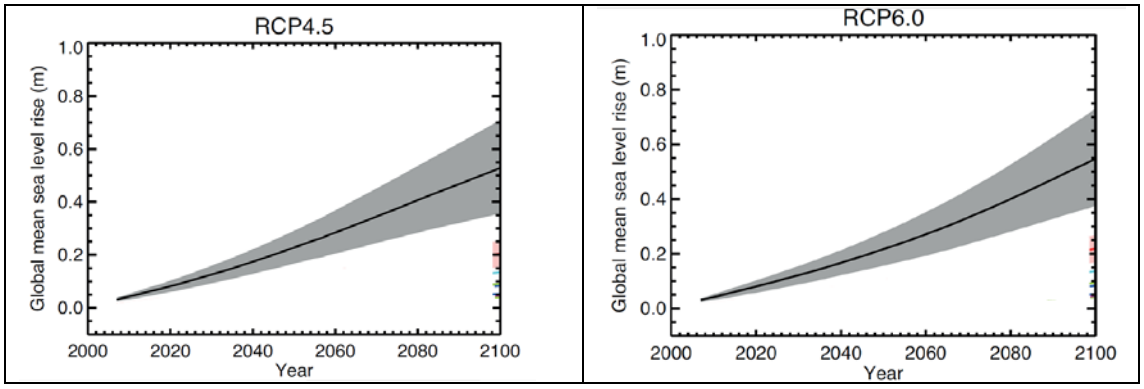

Figure 4. Projections of global mean sea level rise, relative to 1986-2005, for IPCC mid-range scenarios (RCP 4.5 and 6.0). The grey band represents the range within which actual sea-level is predicted to increase, under each scenario.

Land use decisions in the future will need to take the complex hazard setting of the Clutha Delta into consideration to ensure that proposed and existing activities are compatible with the hazard exposure and the residual risks posed by a range of natural hazards.

It is noted that the 2015/25 Long Term Plan provides for a new gravity outfall for the Paretai area to be constructed in 2020/21. This was previously proposed to be constructed in 2015/16. Construction was deferred so as to allow time for further investigation of at the sea level rise issues detailed in this report.

Council will need to decide how to alter parts of the Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme in response to coastal hazards. This will require further investigation of technical and funding options. The scope and timing of such an investigation will be considered during preparation of the 2017/18 Draft Annual Plan. It cannot be presumed that existing levels of service for drainage and flood protection are feasible in the medium-term or that the coastal boundary of the area serviced by the scheme will remain as is.

5. Recommendations

That;

1. this report be received and noted; and
2. this report is presented to the Clutha District Council and the Clutha Delta Community.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards & Science

REPORT

Document Id: A907258

Report Number: 2016/0847
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Adam Uytendaal, Environmental Resource Scientist – Freshwater
Eve Bruhns, Environmental Officer
Date: 24/05/2016

Subject: **Update on Glendhu Forestry (Plan Change 6A) Water Quality Monitoring Project**

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1. Précis

The objective of the Glendhu catchment study is to measure the effects of a multi-year pine harvesting operation on water clarity, suspended sediment yield, stream sedimentation and potential effects on instream biota. This report meets the 2015/16 annual plan target to provide an update report to 'summarise the results thus far of forest harvesting in the Glendhu Forest on stream health and water quality'.

The study supports ORC's Rural Water Quality implementation program in relation to diffuse suspended sediment and permitted activity rules. Plan Change 6A introduced a new permitted activity rule to the Regional Plan: Water, making it a permitted activity to discharge sediment to water, provided that the discharge did not result in a conspicuous change in water clarity or a noticeable increase in local sedimentation. Following discussions with Rayonier Matariki Forests, ORC agreed to undertake a study of the effects of large-scale forest harvesting activities on sedimentation in the Glendhu experimental catchments. These catchments, consisting of a forested catchment and a neighbouring tussock catchment, were chosen due to previous research undertaken in them to assess the effect of afforestation on water and sediment yields; and the presence of significant experimental infrastructure (permanent weirs and flow measuring devices).

The study compares a number of sediment related measures from a 'control' catchment in native tussock to an adjacent 'treatment' catchment planted in pine that is currently being harvested.

Landcare Research on behalf of Rayonier Matariki Forests supports the project by maintaining continuous flow monitoring sites at the bottom of both study catchments.

The study uses continuous turbidity measurements to estimate suspended sediment concentration. Turbidity measures the amount of light 'scattering' as a beam of light is passed through water. The more suspended particles in water the higher the turbidity. Measuring turbidity and suspended sediment during times of low and high flow (when suspended sediment concentration changes) allows the relationship between the two parameters to be quantified. Continuous turbidity measurements can then be converted to continuous suspended sediment measurements and, when combined with flow, the mass of suspended sediment leaving the catchments can be estimated.

Relationships between suspended sediment and turbidity have been developed.

The study has captured a number of moderate to high flow events and measured changes in turbidity that will allow estimates of suspended sediment yield to be made, along with comparisons of flow event sediment yields between the two study catchments.

Measurement of bed load from both catchments is also being made. Bed load is the amount of material flowing downstream that is transported along the bed. Bed load is complementary to the suspended load that is transported in the water column.

Turbidity measurements have been made intermittently since mid-2014 when harvesting operations began. There have been a number of logistical and technical issues with the instrumentation that has compromised the quality of some of the data collected. These issues are being addressed at present.

The Long Term Plan identifies environmental data collection at Glendhu to continue for another 18 months, at which point the data is to be analysed and reported on. To date there has been a number of logistical and technical issues with instrumentation at the site. Climatic conditions are extreme and access to the site over the winter months can be limited. The cold conditions have led to intermittent equipment failure. This combined with difficulties in accessing the site over winter has resulted in periods instrumentation failure and a compromised data record. Recent site upgrades will improve this situation for the remaining period of data collection. Harvesting is expected to continue for another 24 months so there is an opportunity to extend data collection (should this be required) to bolster the data set as well as aligning with completion of the harvesting program.

2. Background

There are a number of key drivers influencing water quality in stream and rivers. Drivers include geological weathering; hydrologic and geomorphic processes; climatic conditions, and physical, chemical and biological processes in terrestrial and aquatic environments (Baillie and Neary, 2015). Overlaid on these processes is the influence of catchment land use on water quality.

Research has found production forests have a strong influence on catchment hydrology and water quality and generally yield higher water quality than other land uses such as agriculture and urban development. Mature production forests often have water quality attributes similar to those of undisturbed native forests, but water quality, particularly sediment yield, can vary considerably through a production forestry cycle depending on management activities (Baillie and Neary, 2015).

Previous paired catchment studies have demonstrated increases in sediment yield during harvesting operations, but in some instances, these are for relatively short periods (2 to 3 years) when compared to the life of a production forest (30 to 35 years) (Eyles and Fahey, 2006).

Mitigation measures to manage sediment loss during harvesting operations have potential to reduce loss to a minimum that would result in less than minor effects on the environment. The study offers an opportunity to investigate the potential effects (or not) of present day forest operations on a small stream ecosystem and see how well forest harvesting activities in the Glendhu catchment comply with the permitted activity rules of discharging sediment to water "provided that the discharge did not result in a conspicuous change in water clarity or a noticeable increase in local sedimentation".

3. Objectives of the study

The objective of the Glendhu catchment study is to measure the effects of a multi-year pine harvesting operation on sediment transport related measures such as sediment yield. The study supports the ORC's Rural Water Quality implementation program in relation to the diffuse suspended sediment and permitted activity rules.

Sediment is seen as a key contaminant of concern as excessive sediment loss from a catchment may lead to the following environmental impacts:

- Sedimentation and smothering of the stream bed. This reduces habitat availability and quality for fish and aquatic invertebrates that live amongst the stream substrate. Sediment may also smother and kill fish and invertebrate eggs that are incubating in the stream.
- Reduced water clarity. Poor visibility impacts on fish feeding as well as limiting light reaching the stream bed that may then impact on in-stream productivity.
- Increased suspended particles. High concentrations of suspended sediment can smother the gills of aquatic animals and impact on their ability to breath. Suspended sediment may also irritate and damage the gills of aquatic animals.
- Increased sediment yield increases nutrient yield. This impacts on downstream receiving environments such as lakes and estuaries by increasing eutrophication risk.

Understanding potential effects of forest harvesting operations on small stream catchments in relation to sediment loss is important. Mitigation options around harvesting operations can keep this to an absolute minimum and potentially lead to little or no impact on the receiving environment. The Glendhu study provides an opportunity to look at a multi-year harvesting operation employing good practice and potential effect on a small stream as well as compliance with the permitted activity rules of discharging sediment to water "provided that the discharge did not result in a conspicuous change in water clarity or a noticeable increase in local sedimentation".

4. Study design, progress to date and finalisation

Study design

The design of the study is termed a 'paired catchment' study. The study compares sediment yields from a 'control' catchment in native tussock (Tussock catchment) to an adjacent 'treatment' catchment planted in pine (Forest catchment) that is going through a harvest rotation. The study also investigates potential effects on instream benthic invertebrates[1].

[1] An aquatic animal without a backbone (e.g. snail, crustacean, worm, insect) living on, under, or within the bed material of a water body

The catchment was the focus of an early study by Landcare Research in the 1980's that investigated potential impacts of production forest establishment. The current study is complimentary to this early work and is an Annual plan target for the years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The study complements a postgraduate (PhD) research project being undertaken by the University of Otago.

Study site location

Glendhu Forest is located on the southern flank of the Lammerlaw Range in East Otago (Figure 1). The two study catchments flow northwards to discharge into the Waipori River at a point approximately 5 kilometres upstream of Lake Mahinerangi.

The 'Tussock' study catchment has a surface area of approximately 217 hectares and is slightly smaller than the 'Forest' study catchment with a surface area of 318 hectares. The elevation, slope, climatic conditions and soils are comparable between the two catchments making them ideal for comparison of land-use effects or a 'treatment' undertaken on one catchment but not the other. The 'treatment' in this case being a multi-year forest harvest rotation on the 'Forest' study catchment.

Given the physical similarity and close proximity of the two catchments, differences in sediment yield, if measured between the two study sites, will reliably be attributed to the current forest harvest rotation as opposed to sediment yield differences that may be driven by physical characteristics of the two study catchments.

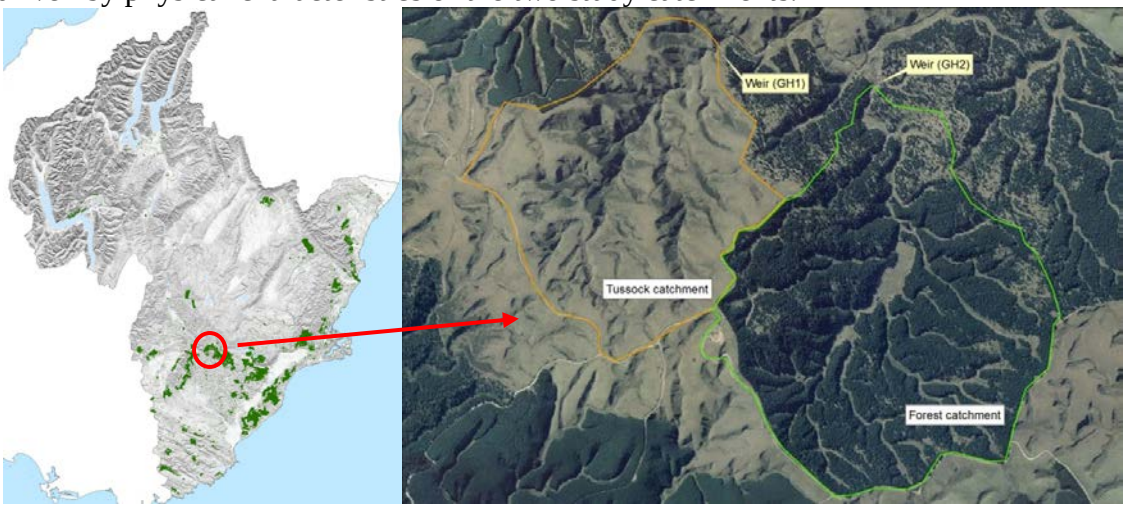

Figure 1. Location of the Glendhu study. *The 'control' Tussock catchment and the 'treatment' forest catchment are shown on the aerial photograph.*

Progress to date

Flow measurements

For the measurement of flow, large v-notch weirs are installed at the bottom of each catchment (Figure 2). Water level is continuously measured and the relationship between water level and discharge used to provide an accurate estimate of flow. Landcare Research (on behalf of Rayonier Matariki Forests), support the project by

maintaining flow monitoring sites and providing ORC with a continuous record of flow for both study catchments from January 2014 to the present date (Figure 3).

Rainfall records taken from the Waitahuna at Clarks Flat rain gauge (approximately 15 km SSE of the Glendhu Forest) show rainfall over the wetter months of 2014 (May to September) to be about average. Rainfall for the wetter months of 2015 was well above average. The increased rainfall in the local area is reflected in the stream hydrograph (Figure 3) with 2015 recording the highest magnitude flows of the two years of record. Based on rainfall and stream flows, it would be expected that sediment yields from the two catchments will be higher for 2015 than 2014 when detailed analysis are carried out.

Flow measurements will need to continue for the duration of the current study.

Figure 2. Picture showing v-notch flow recording weir and site shed.
Continuous turbidity monitoring sensors and automatic water samplers are located directly upstream of the concrete infrastructure to the left of the picture.

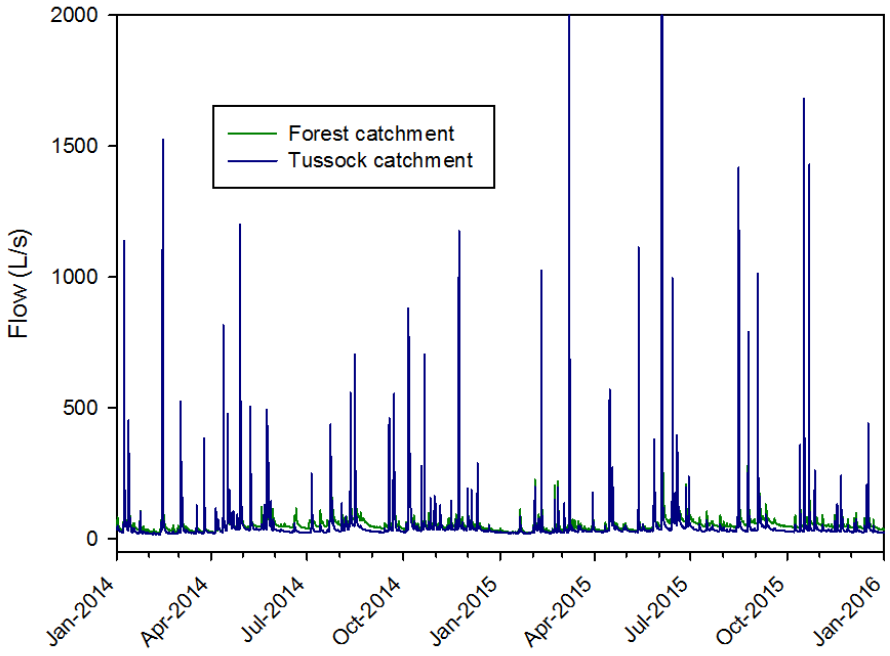

Figure 3. Flow hydrograph for the Tussock and Forest study catchments.

Turbidity measurements

The study is using continuous measures of turbidity (Figure 4) to estimate suspended sediment concentration and when combined with flow, suspended sediment yield. Turbidity is recorded at 15 minute intervals. The data record runs intermittently from July 2014 to the present date.

Turbidity measures the amount of light 'scattering' as a beam of light is passed through water. The more suspended particles in water the higher the turbidity.

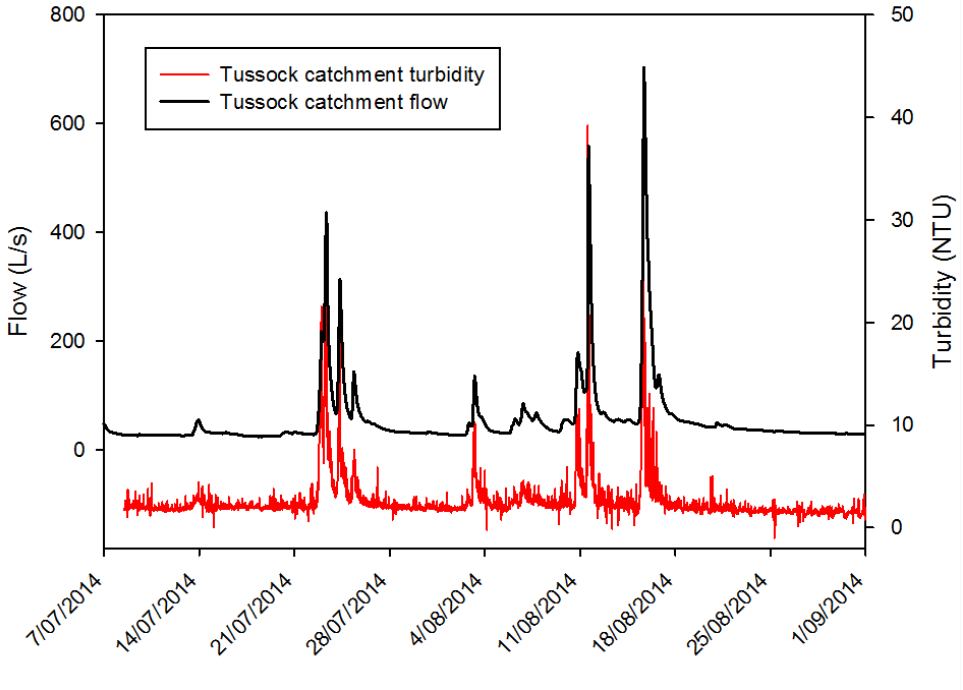

Figure 4. Changes in turbidity with flow measured in the Tussock study catchment.

Estimating suspended sediment concentration from turbidity

Measuring turbidity and suspended sediment during times of low and high flow (when suspended sediment concentration changes) allows the relationship between the two parameters to be quantified (Figure 5). Continuous turbidity measurements can then be converted to continuous suspended sediment measurements and, when combined with flow, the mass of suspended sediment leaving the catchments during flow events can be estimated and compared.

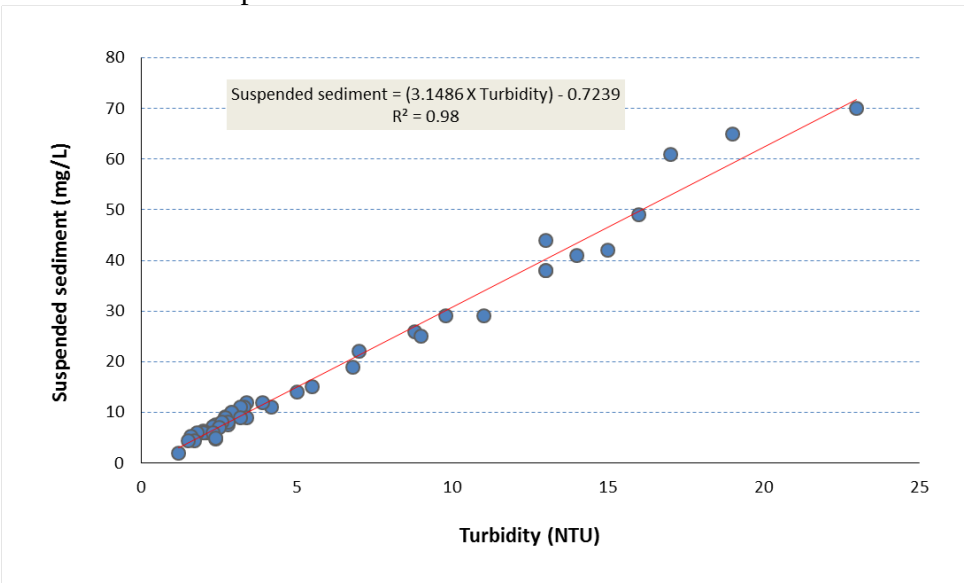

Figure 5. Relationship between turbidity and suspended sediment concentration in the study catchments.

Figure 6 and Figure 7 provides pictures of flow and turbidity measurement sites for the Forest and Tussock study catchments respectively. The photos give an appreciation of the terrain and vegetation that dominate the catchments and provide a useful contrast between the Forest and Tussock study catchments.

Figure 6. Photo of the flow and turbidity measuring station for the Forest catchment.

Figure 7. Photo of the flow and turbidity measuring station for the Tussock catchment.

Aquatic invertebrate measurements
Aquatic invertebrates were measured in August 2014 in the Forest catchment using quantitative sampling methods. When harvesting operations are completed, the surveys will be repeated to see if there are any measureable changes in the instream biota that may be attributed to the harvesting operations.

Bed load estimates
Comparisons between the Forest and Tussock catchments of the amount of material transported in the bed load are also being made. Bed load is the amount of material flowing downstream that is transported along the bed. Bed load is complementary to the suspended load that is transported in the water column. Bed load is being calculated by measuring the accumulation in material behind the two large V-notch weirs. All bed load material was removed from the weirs at the commencement of the project. Surveys of the volume of material accumulated behind each weir are being made annually.

Study finalisation
Harvesting of the Forest treatment catchment is approximately halfway through (see Figure 8) and is expected to continue for another 24 months. Ideally measurements of turbidity and flow will continue for this period. Once harvesting is completed, final measures of the volume of bed load material captured behind the weirs will be made. Sampling of aquatic invertebrates will also be repeated.

At the completion of harvesting, the continuous turbidity record will be processed and discrete flow events form each catchment isolated and analysed. Using the finalised relationship between suspended sediment concentration and turbidity the sediment yield for each flow event will be calculated and statistical analysis used to determine if the forest harvesting operations have had any measureable effects on increasing sediment yield in the Forest catchment when compared to the Tussock catchment.

Additional measures of water clarity are also being made during the final stages of the project. The data will be analysed and reported on in the context of the Plan Change 6A permitted activity rule in relation to the discharge of sediment to water.

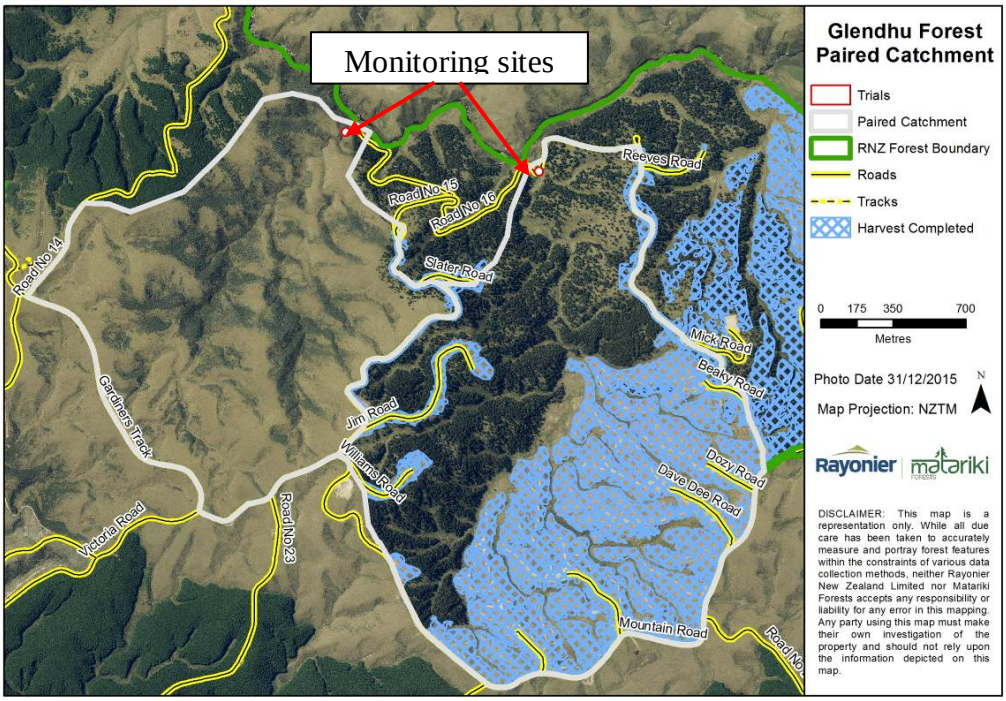

Figure 8. Aerial map showing harvesting progress on the forested catchment (right). Included to the 'control' tussock catchment (left). *Remaining pine to be harvested over the next 24 months. Map complements of Rayonier Matariki Forests.*

5. Recommendations

That;

1. this report be received and noted; and
2. Plan Change 6A meditation parties be updated on progress with the study.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards & Science

6. References

Baillie, B.R. and Neary, D.G. (2015). Water quality in New Zealand's planted forests: A review. New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science. 45(7). 18pp.http://nzjforestryscience.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40490-015-0040-0

Eyles, G. and Fahey, B. (2006). The Pakuratahi Land Use Study. HBRC Plan No. 3868. 128pp. Funded by Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Pan Pac, Carter Holt and Juken Nissho.

REPORT

Document Id: A901627

Report No: 2016/0809
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Adam Uytendaal, Environmental Resource Scientist - Freshwater
Rachel Ozanne, Acting Manager Natural Hazards
Chris Valentine, Manager Engineering

Date: 27 May 2016

Subject: Director's Report on Progress

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1. Leith Flood Protection Scheme

Construction continues on the Dundas Street to St David Street reach of the Leith Flood Protection Scheme. In-river works were completed 20 May with remaining works to the pathways, including landscaping, scheduled for completion on 4 June. Landscaping and a new fence along Montgomery Avenue will be installed late June. The forecast to completion construction costs for the works are within the contracts approved budget.

Preliminary design work is being finalised for the flood protection works between Union Street and Leith Street Footbridge. Preparation and planning is underway with the University of Auckland to construct and run a scale physical model to validate the design of the proposed works. The modelling augments similar work undertaken in 2005.

On 23 May weather conditions resulted in a peak flow in the Water of Leith of 32m^3/s at 8.07am, as measured at the Leith Street Footbridge. The new and existing works performed well during this moderate rain event. The event did not result in any damage of significance to the completed works. The moderate flow enabled the accurate recording of water levels as the flow receded. These records will be used to assist in the calibration of the physical model of the reach between Union Street and the Leith Street Footbridge and refinement of ORCs computational model.

Figure 1: Dundas Street to St David Street Reach of the Water of Leith during the rain event on 23 May 2016. Photos are taken at 8.15am approximately 8 minutes after the flow peaked.

2. Water of Leith Flood Forecasting

A model has been developed in-house to simulate the hydrological processes within the Water of Leith catchment. This is a target in the 2015/16 Annual Plan.

This semi-automated real-time flood forecasting tool was developed by staff using the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) HEC-HMS software package. The forecasting tool can be used to forecast the flood flows (real-time) in two locations at (i) Lindsay Creek at North Road Bridge, and (ii) Leith at the St David Street footbridge. It is being used to assess how well it can estimate the timing, extent of expected severity and consequences of predicted rainfall. The model simulates the flow characteristics for the flow event that occurred on 23 May reasonably well when actual rainfall is used as an input to the model (Figure 2). The model requires an accurate forecast of rainfall to produce and accurate forecast of the flow and this will be a limiting factor when applying the model in real-time.

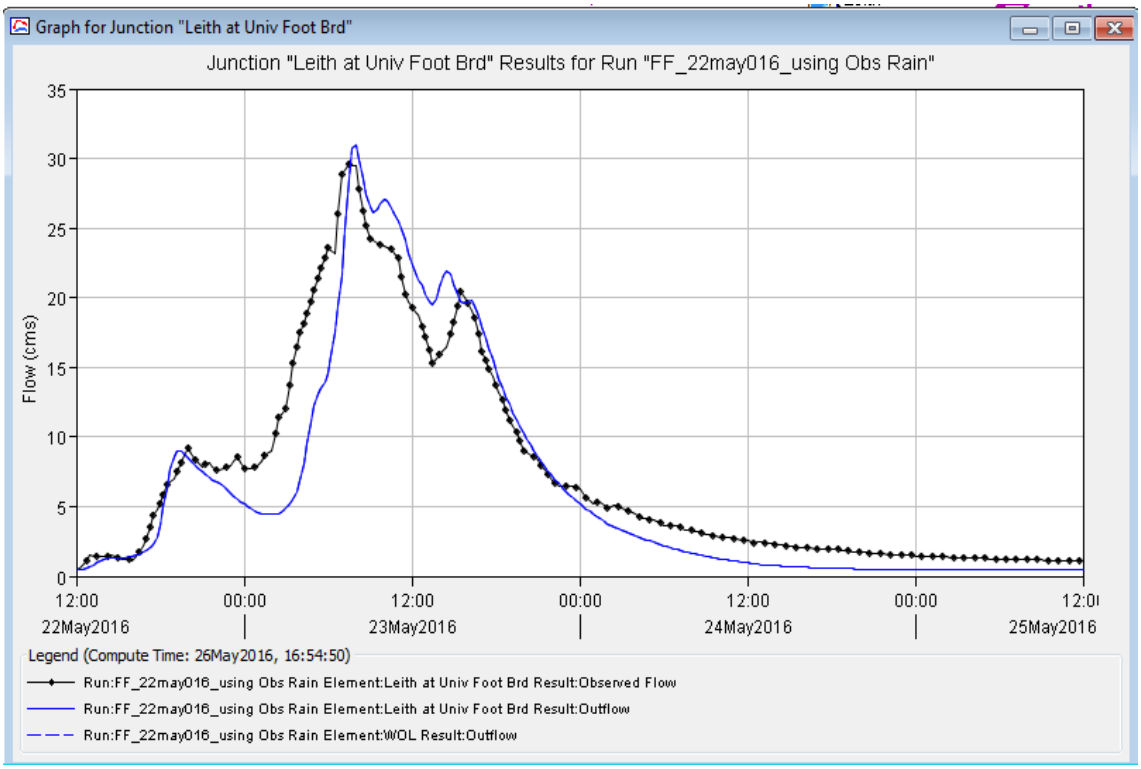

Figure 2: Measured and simulated flows in the Water of Leith at St David Street Footbridge. The simulation used measured rainfall.

3. Green Island sea level

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) operates a sea level recorder on Green Island partnering with ORC. Green Island is situated about 2 km offshore from the Kaikorai Stream mouth at Waldronville (Figure 3). The measured sea level is posted in real-time on ORC's water info website. To complement the recorder, a contract has been signed with the University of Otago's School of Surveying to install a Global Navigation Satellite System receiver and antenna at the site. This will be used to measure long term changes in the level of the island e.g. whether the island is stable, subsiding or rising. This will help determine absolute changes in sea level.

Figure 3: Green Island (left) and sea level recorder (right).

4. Flood Schemes Piping Risk Investigations

Geotechnical consultants GeoSolve are assessing the stability of floodbanks near Otokia Road (West Taieri) and Factory Road (Paretai).

Fieldwork at Otokia Road is underway, with the target to complete seepage modelling to quantify risks and determine the factor of safety against piping and floodbank stability at this location. The 2016/17 Draft Annual Plan provides for construction of a weighting blanket at this location to mitigate the risk.

At Factory Road field investigations are underway to inform a robust groundwater model to calculate safety factors for seepage and piping risks. The 2016/17 Draft Annual Plan provides for obtaining landholder agreements and any regulatory approvals for mitigation works. The 2015/25 Long Term Plan provides for the mitigation works to be constructed in 2017/18.

5. Seismic hazard information

On 18 May staff presented to a Queenstown-Lakes District Council organised and run Civil Defence exercise. The presentation involved a 30 minute talk relating to Queenstown-Lakes geology, with a focus on the potential effects of an earthquake on the Nevis-Cardrona Fault. Representatives from Delta and NZTA also gave presentations.

GNS are assessing liquefaction susceptibility in Clutha, Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago, and Waitaki Districts based on topography, geology, groundwater and subsurface information. The methodology being used is similar to that used in Dunedin District in 2014. The report is expected to be delivered by September, slightly later than originally intended. The delay is because of the more urgent need to do some additional work as part of the Dunedin District 2GP process.

The work being undertaken by GNS Science to update active faults map and information in the Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago Districts is continuing. This too is delayed for the reasons given above but is expected to be completed by November.

6. Modelling to Inform Minimum Flow-Setting Processes

NIWA has completed field surveys to progress analysis and reporting on the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) study carried out in the upper Manuherikia River. The report is currently being finalised and is due by end of June. The study was conducted in a braided section of the upper river upstream of the Dunstan Creek confluence. The current study complements two earlier IFIM studies carried out in Dunstan Creek and further downstream in the mainstem of the Manuherikia near Alexandra. The three IFIM studies provide a sound basis for informing the setting of minimum flows for ecological values in the Manuherikia River.

Figure 4: Hydraulic field data collection on the Manuherikia River. The hydraulic data underpins the IFIM model.

The Clutha Bioenergetics modelling work is progressing well. The modelling is a target in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 years of Council's Long Term Plan. Bioenergetics modelling is an approach to assess the effects of different flows on the supply of food (drifting aquatic invertebrates) for fish; and the energetic costs for the fish to swim against the current to catch food. For the Clutha, the model will ultimately predict the number of trout that a particular reach of river can support at different flows. The bioenergetics model sits on top of the more traditional IFIM model. The first surveys for physical and habitat modelling have been completed by NIWA (Figure 5) with follow-up surveys scheduled at different flows. Data collected during the first survey has been used to develop a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the study reach (Figure 6). The DEM will form the basis for the hydrodynamic model. The aquatic invertebrate drift sampling will be carried out by Cawthron but has been delayed due to unfavourable flows and large volumes of willow leaves being present in the drift (which clog the drift nets). Water levels remain too high for this work to be undertaken and this work has been deferred until spring/summer 2016/17 when flows and water temperatures are suitable and daylight hours are sufficient to allow the work to be completed. The delay will have no effect on the programme for setting a minimum flow.

Figure 5: Field data collection on the Clutha River to support development of the Bioenergetics model.

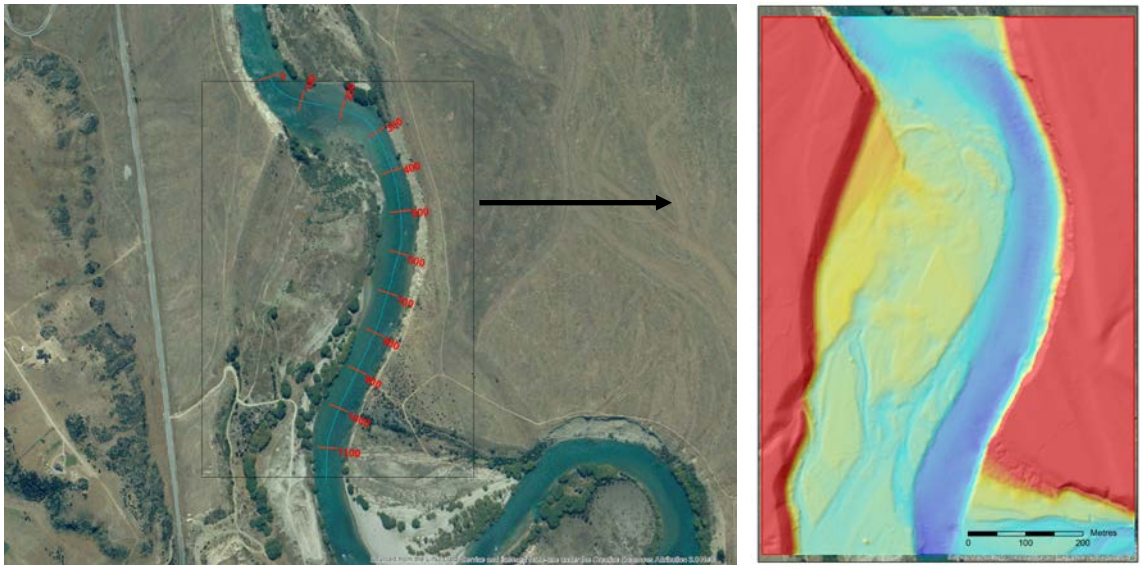

Figure 6: Aerial photo including survey transects and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the Clutha / Mata Au Bioenergetics study reach. The DEM forms the basis of the hydrodynamic model.

Work is progressing on the development of the Waikouaiti Estuary model to investigate hydrodynamics and the ecological condition of the estuary, specifically under low freshwater inflow scenarios. MetOcean Solutions and Cawthron have completed the bathymetry and data collection (Stage 1) of the proposal. Stage 1 will inform the hydrodynamic modelling (Stage 2). The model sensitivity will be sufficient to assess current, dilution and wetted habitat for each low flow scenario. Once the modelling is complete an assessment of the potential for ecological effects (both abiotic and biotic) to occur in the estuary resulting from shifts in the low flow regimes and the resulting changes to the physical and chemical conditions will be assessed (Stage 3). This is provided for in the 2016/2017 Draft Annual Plan.

Figure 7: Conductivity/temperature sensor (left) and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) (right) ready for deployment on the Waikouaiti River in support of Waikouaiti estuary model development.

7. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Communications Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016 following the Technical Committee meeting

Membership:

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 Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 6 June 2016.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, for adoption

Matters arising from minutes

FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0810 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 31/5/16

Reporting on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff between 1 April and 20 May 2016

Item 2
2016/0784 Rural Water Quality Advisory Group – Terms of Reference
DSE, 22/4/16

This item is to seek council endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Rural Water Quality Advisory Group.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 April 2016 commencing at 11:33am

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 Sam Neill
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

In attendance:
Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Scott MacLean
Caroline Rowe
Lauren McDonald

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Bell and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0704 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 12/4/16

The report detailed community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff since the last meeting.

A comment was made that Councillors were pleased to see the ORC support of the Wild Dunedin Festival being held during April.

Mrs Rowe advised that the Terms of Reference for the Rural Water Quality Advisory Group would be set at the group meeting on 21 April and as this group did not have any delegated powers, the Terms of Reference would be brought back to Council for endorsement.

A question was raised in regard to the continuation of the low flow agency briefings now that the low flow season had ended.

Mrs Rowe advised the intention had been to reduce the number of meetings but that the agencies involved had requested that the six weekly meeting schedule remain in place. There was a mutual benefit in continuing to meet as the information being discussed had begun to indicate the accumulative effect of dry weather conditions season after season, also regular review of climate updates provided Council the opportunity to keep the agencies informed with progress on Plan Change 1C. Mrs Rowe advised that the agencies had expressed willingess to continue collaboration, and on that basis these meetings would continue.

A question was asked in regard to social media advertising, specifically the number of submissions received online for the Annual Plan.

Mrs Rowe advised that approximately 70 online submissions on the Annual Plan, had been received to date, which was a high response level. Hits to the Annual Plan consultation documents on the ORC website were approximately 1300 to date, in comparison the LTP which had received 870 hits around the full consultation, so public interest was strong.

Cr Bell was thanked for his work as a Ballance Farm Environmental Awards judge.

The Chairman confirmed a field day was be held on Thursday 18 May for the Ballance Farm Environmental Award winners, Brendan and Paula Cross from Roselle Farm at Portobello, Dunedin.

<u>Water quantity</u>
A request was made that Councillors be advised of meeting dates set with the priority groups identified.

Mrs Rowe confirmed she would provide the meeting schedule dates.

Moved Cr Bell
Seconded Cr Robertson

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11:49am

Chairperson

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A901694

Report Number: 2016/0810
Prepared For: Communications Committee
Prepared By: Director Stakeholder Engagement

Date: 31 May 2016

Subject: **Communications Committee – Report May 2016**

This report records stakeholder engagement activity between 1 April and 20 May 2016.

1. Water Quality

Activities and events under the Council's rural water quality implementation programme (6A) for stakeholder engagement and education have been undertaken during this period with a range of stakeholders. These are summarised below:

1.1. Field Days

Two field discussion sessions were held in May in the Upper Clutha on the theme of 'Farming with Water Quality'. These were initiated by the Lakes Landcare group and discussed aspects of practical farm management in a way that safeguards water quality. Activities involved visits to a range of sites on each farm and discussing the following: wintering on greenfeed alongside waterways, stock and from waterways, tracks and crossings, working in waterways and what is a river. At each site, reference was made to applicable rules within 6A in association with suggested practices from the group.

Staff attended a 'Wintering of Dairy Grazing' field day at Lauder, hosted by Dairy NZ and Beef and Lamb New Zealand. The field day included aspects of environmental practice that need to be included for winter grazing of greenfeed alongside waterways.

Staff and councillors attended the Crosses' field day, winners of the Ballance Environmental Farm Awards in Otago.

Liaison and science staff attended a meeting of the Crookston Burn catchment group in conjunction with the Landcare Trust and Pathway for the Pomahaka group. Water quality results from the sampling programme currently being undertaken were presented. There was also discussion around the Water Plan rules, and feedback given on the way the water quality data was presented during the summer and distributed to the group.

Looking ahead it is shaping up to be quite busy in June, with two nutrient budgeting field days being run on the 14th and the 29th as part of the Pathway for the Pomahaka Project. Beef and Lamb NZ are also running a winter cropping event on 21 June at Waikoikoi.

1.2. Dairy Focus

The South Otago Dairy Working Group met in May. The velvetleaf response meant reporting on dairy inspections was limited but it is expected the majority of dairy inspections should be completed by the next working group meeting on 9 June.

The last North Otago dairy working group meeting was on 8 March in Oamaru and was reported on in the last committee report. There was a meeting scheduled for mid-April but the decision was made to postpone the meeting until 31 March as no dairy inspections had taken place in the intervening period as ORC staff were involved with the velvetleaf biosecurity response.

An Otago Dairy Stakeholders Group meeting was held on 20 April. The meeting was well attended by key dairy industry representatives. Outcomes included ORC undertaking to develop further written guidance around effluent ponding in collaboration with industry, and investigating the feasibility of adding additional soil moisture monitoring sites to ORC's website. ORC also undertook to ensure our environmental monitoring officers are on board with the Dairy Working Group initiative by attending meetings and promoting the Dairy Working Group to farmers during compliance visits.

1.3. Forestry

ORC staff met with forestry industry representatives about identifying where forestry activities are occurring, and to discuss health and safety legislation changes, and the rural water quality rules. The outcome of those discussions is an agreement to work together to develop protocols for:

- identifying where and when forestry activities are occurring across the region;
- setting out how ORC staff can safely undertake activity inspections (in accordance with the new health and safety legislation) and;
- guidance on our programme for monitoring compliance with rural water quality rules.

Staff will be meeting industry representatives again in June to begin developing these protocols, and in the interim, the representatives have agreed to help ORC staff get information about the Water Plan regulations out to small woodlot/farm foresters.

Liaison and compliance staff were involved in reviewing and making recommendations on the Southern Wood Council Forestry Awards – Environment category. ORC sponsored this award and Chair Stephen Woodhead presented the award on our behalf. Greg Kendall and Paul Hart won the award for their innovative contribution to managing the impacts of vehicle movements through waterways. Mr Kendall and Mr Hart have put their carpentry knowledge and skills to use and developed a wooden crossing made of untreated Douglas Fir or larch which is based on a cattle stop design, with a wooden causeway on top and steel bracing. This design keeps the wheels of vehicles out of the water at crossing points, but keeps the vehicle out of the stream bed. It allows for fish passage, and reduces or eliminates the effects of travel through the waterway such as sediment disturbance.

Otago Regional Council

1.4. North Otago

On 3 May, liaison staff updated the MOU partners Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company (LWIC) and Waitaki Irrigators Collective (WIC) on progress with the science project which is expanding the SOE monitoring network on the Waitaki Plains. So far, ORC has completed the first round of water quality samples from 10 bores on the plains and is awaiting the results of these tests before choosing three of the most appropriate bores to continue long-term monitoring on.

Sampling work was delayed by several weeks due to the velvetleaf biosecurity response and staff availability. LWIC wish to undertake their own groundwater sampling and are seeking collaboration from ORC so they are gaining the most useful information.

On 4 April staff assisted at a field day run by the Lower Waitaki River Management Society along with Papakaio School. The field day was located at a wetland on the southern bank of the Waitaki River. The field day focused on the conservation of the Canterbury mudfish and aimed to expose school children to environmental science in action. A video and photos are posted on the LWRMS blog: https://lwrmsblog.wordpress.com/.

A meeting was held in April with the Kakanui Water Allocation Committee and Kakanui irrigators. The meeting was well attended by the farmers, with ORC staff Suzanne Watt, Fraser McRae, Frederika Mourot, Simon Stevenson, James White, and Cr Doug Brown also there. The meeting had three aims:

- Provide a roundup of the irrigation season;
- Provide an update from ORC on the Kakanui aquifer science project, the timeframes around future plan changes, and ORC's future request of Overseer data; and
- Provide information from the Landcare Kakanui Community Catchment Project on the benefits of farm plans. This will be followed up with more sessions with landowners in the Kakanui in relation to The Overseer request on the 23/24 May.

Over the past period, liaison staff have been working with the NZ River Awards towards the possibility of a North Otago farmer being nominated for a River Story award. The farmer in mind has been doing some great work on his property towards embracing the Water Plan, including water testing and on-farm changes.

Liaison staff attended a field day run in conjunction with Beef and Lamb New Zealand and the Landcare Kakanui Community Catchment Project. The field day focussed on the benefits of farm plans to farmers. Staff presented on the Water Plan rules applicable to farmers in the Kakanui catchment. It was great to see a number of new faces amongst the attending farmers. It is becoming more apparent that one of the benefits of a farm plan is that it is a mechanism to get farmers thinking about their environmental impacts and the applicable rules. Farm plans are also helping farmers get in touch with their respective industry representatives for further advice.

1.5. Communications Water Quality Activity

The next edition of Waterlines is now under development. This issue is due out in June. The communications team has submitted content for the Irrigation New Zealand News in which we have four regional pages available to communicate both water quality and water quantity messages. We have committed to trialling this medium for 12 months with the first edition under this new approach due out at the end of next month.

1.6. Rural Water Quality Advisory Group

The Rural Water Quality Advisory Group met on 21 April. A paper to endorse the terms of reference is being brought to this committee.

2. Water Quantity

ORC had a stand at the NZ Irrigation Conference in Oamaru from 5 to 7 April. This was a successful event to promote the new Water User Guide. Fraser McRae also presented at the conference.

Meetings that have been held so far with priority water management groups are: Arrowtown, Bannockburn and Cromwell Basin. Remaining presentations to the first 15 priority groups will be held between now and 30 June.

Groups	Date
Arrow IC	26 April 2016
Bannockburn	3 May 2016
Pipe Gully	TBC
Northburn	19 May 2016
Rippon	TBC
Elbow	1 & 2 June 2016
Ettrick	1 & 2 June 2016
Roxburgh	1 & 2 June 2016
South Roxburgh	1 & 2 June 2016
Styx	8 June 2016
Poolburn	9 June 2016
Wetherburn	13 June 2016
Eweburn	TBC
Edenburn	TBC
Arrow	14 June 2016
Gibbston	15 June 2016
RPs	Mid June 2016

A meeting of affected party agencies will be held on 25 May. This is an opportunity for these agencies to outline their respective roles and be updated on the deemed permit replacement process.

Advertising and media promotion of the need to start thinking about the transition from deemed permit to consent has been under development and will begin to roll out late May/June in print and online.

A meeting for rural professionals in Central Otago is also planned to ensure they are aware of the changes that may affect their clients.

3. Low Flow Preparations

All Otago consent holders were sent a letter, thanking them for their efforts to conserve water and work together during the dry summer period.

4. Hazards, Science, and Engineering

4.1. A community consultation meeting was held for the Tokomairiro scheme at the Milton Coronation Hall on Thursday 14 April.

4.2. On 20 April, liaison staff assisted the Natural Hazards team at the community meeting in Middlemarch for the Strath Taieri river management strategy. The meeting was well attended, with good feedback being offered on the proposed strategy.

4.3. An application to LGNZ Excellence Awards was made for the Union to St David Street stretch of Leith flood protection project.

5. General

5.1. Draft Annual Plan advertising and meetings continued.

5.2. Meetings were held in preparation for ORC's participation in the International Science Festival in Dunedin in July. ORC will hold a healthy streams afternoon in the botanical garden on Sunday 9 July.

5.3. A redevelopment of the Otago Civil Defence website is underway and expected to be completed at the end of June. The website will allow for improved consistency between councils in regards to emergency management.

5.4. Queenstown/Alexandra based consents officer Ralph Henderson presented to the Queenstown Rotary Group about ORC, with a particular focus on water in the QLDC area.

5.5. The inaugural Wild Dunedin Festival took place at the end of April. The festival saw over 3,000 people engaging in various events across the city. ORC was a sliver sponsor of this event.

5.6. Work has been underway on the air module for LAWA which will now launch in June and feature live air quality monitoring results.

5.7. Advertising and media has been placed in Central Otago newspapers to promote home heating and insulation subsidies available in this area.

6. Internal Communications

6.1. An issue of the revamped chief executive's newsletter "ORC Matters" was distributed to all staff.

7. Media Monitoring Summary

7.1. Over the report period, there were 103 mentions of the Otago Regional Council in the print. In addition there were six broadcast media mentions which included two on velvetleaf, and two on other pest management issues.

8. Web Developments and Traffic Summary

8.1. There have been 54,269 visits to our website during this period.

8.2. Most popular pages have been as follows:

- Draft Annual Plan (3,809 page views)
- Information and Services – Bus page (45,933 page views)
- About Us – Job vacancies (2,323 page views)
- Information and Services – Rates (1,251 page views)

8.3. Top documents download:

- Bus timetable (5,992)
- Regional Plan Water (1041)
- Draft Annual Plan (331)

8.4. Social Media

We have 1,111 page likes to date on our Facebook account. There were 46 new posts or shares during this reporting period. The largest Facebook reach was from the Draft Annual Plan advertising which reached 11,238 people.

ORC held our first online Q and A session on the Draft Annual plan, leading up to the Q & A pre-event reach was 12,782 people and reach on the night of the event was 540 reach with 73 likes, comments and shares. There were 6 participants asking 29 questions.

We have 561 followers on Twitter. There were 57 tweets or retweets during this period.

9. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Caroline Rowe
Director Stakeholder Engagement

REPORT

Document Id: A898354

Report Number: 2016/0784
Prepared For: Communications
Prepared By: Director Stakeholder Engagement
Date: 22/04/2016

Subject: **Rural Water Quality Advisory Group - Terms of Reference**

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1. Précis

This item is to seek council endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Rural Water Quality Advisory Group.

2. Discussion

An outcome of the Plan Change 6A mediation was that ORC would establish an external advisory group to promote engagement at a national level so that knowledge and achievement from Council's unique approach to rural discharge management would be shared nationally. The purpose of the group has been proposed to:

- Regionally promote the learning and achievement from implementation of the new water quality provisions.
- Represent Otago landholders, conservationists, recreational users, local iwi, and tourism in the implementation of the water quality provisions in the plan.
- Provide feedback on progress within stakeholder sectors and identify gaps in implementation.
- Be a conduit for information flow between their organisations and ORC.

The inaugural meeting of the Rural Water Quality Advisory Group was held on 21 April 2016. At this meeting the members supported the terms of reference annexed to this paper and ask that council now endorse them.

3. Recommendations

That;

1. this report be received, and
2. the Terms of Reference for the Rural Water Quality Advisory Group is endorsed.

Caroline Rowe
Director Stakeholder Engagement

Appendix 1

Otago Regional Council Rural Water Quality Advisory Group Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of Advisory Group

1.1. Regionally promote the learning and achievement from implementation of the new water quality provisions.

1.2. Represent Otago landholders, conservationists, recreational users, local iwi, and tourism in overseeing the implementation of the water quality provisions in the plan.

1.3. Provide feedback on progress within stakeholder sectors and identify gaps in implementation.

1.4. Be a conduit for information flow between their organisations and ORC.

2. Membership

2.1. The Advisory Group shall consist of:

Organisation	Position	Name
Otago Regional Council	Chair	Stephen Woodhead
Otago Regional Council	Deputy Chair	Gretchen Robertson
Otago Regional Council	Chief Executive	Peter Bodeker
Federated Farmers	Otago President	Phill Hunt
MPI	Senior Policy Analyst (Dunedin)	Anne Sutton
Southern Wood Council	Director of Forest Industry Engineering Association	Brent Apthorp
Department of Conservation	Director of Conservation Partnerships	Barry Hanson
NZ Fish and Game	Otago Chief Executive	Niall Watson
Kai Tahu ki Otago Ltd	Manager	Chris Rosenbrock
Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand	Industry Advocate	Rachael Moore
Irrigation NZ	Chief Executive	Andrew Curtis
Horticulture NZ	Natural Resources and Environment Manager	Chris Keenan
Fertiliser Association of NZ	Executive Manager	Greg Sneath
Central Otago Winegrowers Association	Executive Officer	Natalie Wilson
Ministry for the Environment	Manager Freshwater Management Implementation	Roger Bannister
Te Ao Marama	Chief Executive	Michael Skerrett

2.2. Organisations are asked to send a delegate if the nominated representative is unavailable.

2.3. The Group shall be chaired by the Chair of Otago Regional Council or in their absence, the Deputy Chair.

3. Expectations

3.1. Contribution - we ask participants to contribute constructive advice – on Rural Water Quality projects and policies, where possible identifying evidence and solutions, whilst taking into account the wider needs, issues and views of communities.

3.2. Communication – engage with the Council other industry/advocacy groups to increase information flow and build knowledge of Council processes to support Council decision-making.

4. Administration

4.1. Otago Regional Council will support the Advisory Group with necessary technical or management staff as required. This will be determined by the meeting agenda.

4.2. Other parties may be invited to attend by the Advisory Group to inform the wider knowledge of the Group on Otago water quality issues.

4.3. Otago Regional Council will provide administrative support to the Group to compile agendas and record minutes.

4.4. There shall be at least one meeting per year.

4.5. An agenda will be circulated one week prior to the meeting date and will include minutes of any previous meeting.

4.6. The Advisory Group's membership will be reviewed to ensure appropriate representation every triennium.

5. Delegated Powers

5.1. The Advisory Group has no delegated powers but any recommendations coming from the Group may be reported back to Council through the Rural Water Quality report provided to the Regulatory Committee.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016, following the Communications Committee

Membership:

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

Apologies:

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 7 June

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

Minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, for adoption.

Matters arising from minutes

Otago Regional Council

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1
2016/0835 **2016/17 Annual Plan - Recommendations from the Hearing Committee.** DCS, 19/5/16

This report sets out the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the Draft Annual Plan.

Item 2
2016/841 **Section 17A Local Government Act 2002.** DCS, 23/5/16

Section 17A requires Council to undertake reviews of the cost effectiveness of current arrangements for undertaking its activities, specifically looking at governance arrangements, funding arrangements and how each service is delivered, for example, contracted out, shared service, in house etc.

This report provides information on the work completed to date and a proposed programme of work to come on Section 17A reviews for the Otago Regional Council.

Item 3
2016/0851 **ORC Head Office Accommodation – Site Options Evaluation.** DCS, 26/5/2016

This report presents the "Head Office Preliminary Options Report", being the summary of Council's consultant's review of potential sites for Council's Head office accommodation in Dunedin. The report seeks Council approval to undertake further work on developing more detailed concept designs on one or more sites in order to allow detailed estimates to be prepared for Council consideration.

The Feldspar Project Management 'Otago Regional Council Head Office study – Preliminary Options Report' is circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 4
2016/0848 **2016 Local Government Elections**. DCS, 25/5/16

This report summarises the role of the Electoral Officer, costs, timetable and matters to be considered by Council for the 2016 Local Authority triennial election to be held on 8 October 2016.

Item 5
2016/0829 **Total Mobility – Update and Photo ID**. DCS, 26/5/16

This report provides an update on the Total Mobility Scheme in regard to the work being undertaken to implement the new Photo ID card based electronic system.

Item 6
2016/0849 **Executive report**. DCS, 25/5/16

The report describes significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee. This report includes updates on Elected Members' Remuneration, CDEM reporting, irrigation schemes rates updates, public transport update and account payments.

Item 7 **Minutes of the Audit & Risk Subcommittee.**

Minutes of the public portion of the Audit & Risk Subcommittee meeting held on 24 February 2016

PART B - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subjects to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 8	Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee meeting held on 24 February 2016	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees. S7(2)(f)(i)	S.48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 April 2016 commencing at 11.50am

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

In attendance:
Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Scott McLean
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Sharon Bodeker (for Item 3)
Gerard Collings (for Item 4)
Lauren McDonald

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

Minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 9 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Shepherd and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/0756 **Elected Members' Remuneration from 1 July 2016.** DCS, 7/4/16

This report sets out the Council submission to the Remuneration Authority on its review of base remuneration for the Chair and Councillors for the 2016/17 year.

Mr Donnelly summarised the information received from the Remuneration Authority for the setting of base remuneration from 1 July 2016 for Chairs and Councillors as noted in the report, including the request for information around payments for additional duties. He advised that Council are to provide The Remuneration Authority with what the additional duties will be for Councillors, Committee Chairs and Deputy Chair and the structure of the committees and the remuneration those roles might receive.

Mr Donnelly advised he had based the calculations on the existing committee structure with the apportion of 40% for Deputy Chair and 20% for Committee Chair, leaving $14,260 for Regional Plan reviews and $23,766 unallocated.

Mr Donnelly confirmed the pool available for additional duties had been capped at 1.5 times the base Councillor remuneration and was now increasing to 2 times, meaning $95,064 was available.

Discussion was held on allocation of funds for regional plan reviews and the amount of unallocated funds available from the remuneration pool. Mr Donnelly confirmed if the remuneration allocation is not used it is not carried forward to the next financial year.

It was noted there is a separate fee structure for consent hearings.

Discussion was held around the consideration being given to the level of work being required of Councillors for Plan Changes, work where Councillors are required to be accredited commissioners and work undertaken by Councillors outside of the role of Deputy Chair to see if the current remuneration is fair. The suggestion was made to also review the wording around resource planning changes and reviews to be more clearly defined.

Mr Donnelly was requested to review the levels of work from discussion held and to bring this report back to the Council meeting on 11 May for further discussion to allow the information required by the Remuneration Authority to be provided by the deadline of 16 May.

Mr Donnelly confirmed that the $14,260 allocated to the regional plan reviews could be increased by some or all of the unallocated funds of $23,677. Council were not required to allocate all the funds but were required to submit the remunerations figures to the Remuneration Authority for approval.

It was noted that the pool available for plan reviews was insufficient in the current year and the suggestion was made to increase this funding to $25,000.

Cr Woodhead commented that a new Council would be able to decide on a new Committee structure. He understood the basis of the Remuneration Authority request was to declare what the salaries will be before the local body elections.

Mr Bodeker requested that Council provide management some advice on where remuneration funding should be allocated.

Mr Donnelly was requested to check with the Remuneration Authority whether a new Council was able to allocate any unused funding and to provide a report to Council on 11 May with some options, including clarity in regard to how the unallocated portion can be spent.

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Scott

"Move that this paper and recommendations lie on the table until the 11 May Council meeting".

Motion carried

Item 2
2016/0759 **Executive report**. DCS, 7/4/16

The report describes significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

Moved Cr Scott
Seconded Cr Deaker

(a) That this report be received.
(b) That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the payment schedule, totalling $10,979,094.21, be endorsed.

Motion carried

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2016/0766 **8 Month Report on Progress.** DCS, 12/4/16

This report provided some commentary on variations between actual and estimated expenditure and revenue, along with a forecast of expenditure to 30 June 2016.

Mr Donnelly and Mrs Bodeker were thanked for a well set out and easy to read report, which informed potential discussion well.

A concern was expressed whether resources were being stretched too far which could impact on Council performance. Acknowledgement was also made of staff dedication to workload

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Bell

That this report and the "8 Month Review to 29 February 2016" report be received.

Motion carried

Item 4

2016/0762 **Passenger Transport Update – April 2016**. DCS, 7/4/16

This report provides an update to Council on contract negotiations, the Bus Hub and the Green Island-Concord service petition.

Mr Collings provided an update on the Bus Hub and Concord service petition.

Bus Hub – an appointment had not been made due to information from the NZTA still to be received.

Mr Collings confirmed the appointment of preferred candidate for the role of lead consultant will be put to the Chief Executive for approval.

Mr Collings confirmed that staff were well advanced in looking at options and costing for Unit 4 services. A summary of options would be reported to next committee round.

Mr Collings confirmed the route structure is that which Council endorsed in the Regional Plan and that there were no changes to the plan, just changes to the services on the route.

Mr Collings was requested to provide Council with an overview of the changes, describing key changes between Unit 4 services (Brockville, Halfway Bush, St Kilda) and those currently in operation

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That this report be received.

Motion carried

Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm for lunch

Meeting recommenced at 1.31pm

PART C - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.
The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subjects to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 5	Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 9 March 2016	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees. S7(2)(f)(i)	S.48(1)(a)(i)

Following the discussion of item 5

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the meeting resume in open session

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 1:33pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A905672

Report Number: 2016/0835
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Manager Projects
Date: 19 May 2016

Subject: **2016/17 Annual Plan - Recommendations from the Hearing Committee**

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1. Précis

Submissions on the 2016/17 Draft Annual Plan Consultation Document closed on 6 May 2016. Council received 184 submissions, and of those, 33 submitters presented their submissions to the Hearing Committee. Hearings were held in Cromwell on 16 May, and in Dunedin on 17 and 18 May. Deliberations were held following g the completion of the hearings on 18 May.

The purpose of this report is to present the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the Draft Annual Plan.

2. Background

Changes to the Local Government Act meant that council prepared a Consultation Document rather than a Draft Annual Plan for consultation purposes. The Draft Annual Plan could not be used as an alternative to the Consultation Document, and the Consultation Document could not have attached to it a draft Annual Plan.

Our Consultation Document provided some background to our activities, and explained the differences between year two of the Long Term Plan and the Draft Annual Plan.

The document was distributed to all households, in the same manner as our "Otago Wide" publication.

The consultation document presented six broad activities of council, and provided financial and rating information, to enable our community to understand the changes we were proposing and the financial impacts of those changes. The Consultation Document submission form included asking questions on three specific areas, namely wilding pines, the Castalia review recommendations to increase the portion of rates the wider community pays for flood and drainage schemes in the Taieri and Lower Clutha areas, and the proposal that lifestyle properties 2 ha and above be charged the rural water quality rate.

An on line submission form was made available, and an on line rate estimator, which enabled all ratepayers to view what their estimated rates will be for the 2016/17 financial year.

3. Submissions

Council received 184 submissions, covering a range of issues including the following:

- Wilding pines
- Taieri and Lower Clutha flood and drainage schemes
- Rural water quality targeted rate
- Regional economic development
- Regional signs

- Stock truck effluent disposal site for Central Otago
- Harbour matters
- Natural hazards and emergency management
- Transport matters
- Funding requests

A summary of submissions received, along with recommendations on each submission has been distributed separately with the agenda. Note is made that submissions received have been made available to all Councillors.

4. Consideration of the issues raised

The Hearing Committee has considered the submissions received, and makes the following comments and recommendations.

4.1 Wilding Pines

The Consultation Document proposed that $100,000 should be made available for wilding pine control in Queenstown and Central Otago. It asked a question of submitters, and provided options for answer as follows:

> *"Do you think Otago Regional Council should provide $100,000 to community groups for the control of wilding conifers?*
>
> *Yes, Option 1 – a targeted uniform rate split 50% regionally and 50% in the Queenstown and Central Otago districts (Queenstown $1.82, Central Otago $2.81, rest of region $0.54)*
>
> *Yes, Option 2 – a targeted uniform rate across the region of $1.07.*
>
> *No – I don't support Otago Regional Council funding the control of wilding conifers."*

158 submitters responded to this issue, with 50 supporting Option 1, 68 supporting Option 2, five supporting funding but not indicating which option, and 35 not supporting ORC funding the control of wilding pines.

Those supporting funding saw this as a very positive move from ORC. Option 1 supporters felt that those who benefit the most should pay the most, and that the regions most affected should contribute more.

Option 2 supporters saw the problem as a regional issue, and that benefits accrue to all ratepayers. In addition, those living in the affected areas are already paying rates to their local authorities towards this problem.

A number of submitters thought the contribution was too small, and would like to see ORC increase its contribution in future years.

Reasons for not supporting funding included that the trees should be used as a resource (carbon credits, firewood, milling, compost etc.), it is not ORC's role, they are a landowner responsibility, and submitters would rather see live trees than dead trees.

The Hearing Committee considered that funding should be provided towards the control of wilding conifers, and it is recommending Option 2 as the funding model. Further, the Hearing

Committee is recommending that the funding be distributed 40% each to Queenstown and Central Otago. The remaining 20% will then be made available to distribute to the other districts in Otago, for scoping and supporting the establishment of new community groups wanting to undertake wilding pine control, or assisting with wilding pine control if there are existing groups doing this work. If the 20% is not spent in the other districts, at the end of the year, whatever remains should be allocated equally to Queenstown and Central Otago.

The Hearing Committee noted that wilding pines are a landowner and community issue, and that they need to be doing the work. ORC needs to encourage this work, and encourage the other councils in Otago to do something in their districts, before their wilding pine problems get out of control.

4.2 Taieri and Lower Clutha flood and drainage schemes

During the year, Castalia were engaged to undertake a review of the public versus private benefits of the flood and drainage schemes in the Taieri and Lower Clutha areas. The recommendation from Castalia was that there should be a switch of $284,000 of funding from targeted rates to general rates. This equates to a 5.3% increase in general rates. Castalia's view was that there are greater benefits from our flood and drainage schemes to the wider community than is being recognised in our current revenue policy, as shown in the table below:

Scheme	Castalia Public private ratio	Current public private ratio
Lower Taieri flood	17:83	4:96
West Taieri drainage	8:92	0:100
East Taieri drainage	8:92	0 100
Lower Clutha flood	16:84	2:98
Lower Clutha drainage	6:94	0:100

Castalia considered that the public benefit for the drainage schemes should be funded by the district in which the schemes sit. For the Lower Taieri flood scheme, they suggested that the 17% public benefit allocation be funded 4% from the region and 13% from Dunedin city. For the Lower Clutha flood scheme they suggested the public benefit allocation of 16% be funded 12% from the region and 4% from the Clutha district.

The Consultation Document asked submitters if they supported the proposal to increase the portion of rates that the wider community pays for flood and drainage schemes by 5.3%.

Of the 134 submitters commenting on this, 84 supported the proposal, one disagreed because the switch to general rates was too low, 47 disagreed with the proposal to increase general rates, and two were neutral.

Reasons given for supporting the proposal included that the work has a wider public benefit than just to the affected parties, and aligning costs and benefits as far as reasonably practicable was supported.

Reasons given for not supporting the proposal included that people chose where they live knowing the risks, and that ratepayers pay a premium for flood free land so this proposal would make them pay twice for a problem that does not affect them.

The Hearing Committee recommends that the Castalia recommendation be adopted as consulted on, and that a review of the Lower Waitaki River be completed in 2016/17. The

Hearing Committee noted that two submitters asked that an independent review be undertaken of the allocation of rates within the targeted rating areas of the Taieri schemes. The Hearing Committee did not support this request for the 2016/17 year.

4.3 Rural water quality targeted rate

In 2015/16 a new rural water quality rate was introduced. At the time the revenue policy was established, consideration was given to those who should be charged the rate. Land owners with rural land use categories on their properties, and lifestyle blocks 4ha and over were charged the rate. Consideration has now been given to including lifestyle block owners 2ha and above, as these sized properties are commonly used for purposed that can have an impact on rural water quality.

The Consultation Document asked submitters if they supported the proposal to include 2ha to 4ha properties in the rural water quality targeted rate. Of the 137 submissions received, 109 supported the proposal and 28 did not.

Reasons for support included many believing that activity on these blocks could impact on water quality, in the same way as larger properties.

Reasons for not supporting the proposal included that there are major anomalies with sub-division sizes and that many smaller blocks are not farmed in any way but are big back yards. Small blocks are capital intensive, and many have no effect on water quality.

There are approximately 2,400 ratepayers in the 2ha to 4ha lifestyle block category, and the median value of these properties is $455,000. This group of ratepayers would contribute approximately $59,000 of the rural water quality rate requirement. The rural water quality rate for a median valued property is estimated to be $19.90. Sample rates payable for 2ha to 4ha property owners is shown in the table below.

Capital value	2ha to 4ha Lifestyle block rates
$250,000	$11.00
$500,000	$22.00
$5,000,000	$220.00

The Hearing Committee recommends, whilst there may be some anomalies, the threshold for lifestyle blocks to be charged the rural water quality rate be lowered to 2ha. The Hearing Committee considered the arguments presented, but noted that the proposed rate is to recognise that these properties are likely to have an effect on the environment because of the activities commonly undertaken on properties of this size.

4.4 Regional economic development

The development of a Regional Economic Development Strategy for Otago, estimated to cost $100,000, and to be funded from reserves was included in the Consultation Document. Its purpose is to identify key economic drivers for the region, the barriers to achieving economic growth, and identifying ways those barriers may be overcome.

Sixteen submissions were received on this, with 11 supporting the proposal and five opposing it. Reasons for not supporting the strategy included that it was not a role for the ORC.

The Hearing Committee noted that this is a regional strategy, and that it is to be done in conjunction with the Otago local authorities and key stakeholders. The Hearing Committee recommends that this initiative stay in the Annual Plan.

4.5 Regional signs

The Consultation Document included a proposal for the provision of regional boundary signage, advising road users that they are entering the Otago region. The estimated cost of $150,000 was to be funded from reserves.

Council received 15 submissions on this proposal, 13 of which opposed the proposal, and two supporting it. Those opposing the proposal felt the money would be better spent on other initiatives such as wilding pines.

The Hearing Committee recommends that ORC removes this proposal from its Annual Plan.

4.6 Stock truck effluent disposal sites (STED)

The Consultation Document included a proposal to construct a new STED in Central Otago. The STED is estimated to cost $426,000 and would be funded $217,000 by New Zealand Transport Agency and $209,000 from general reserves.

Council received 18 submissions, 13 supporting the proposal, three opposing the proposal, and two discussing matters relating to it.

The reason for opposing the proposal was that the cost of this belongs to farmers and trucking companies, not ratepayers.

Both the Dunedin City Council and Central Otago District Council asked Council to consider funding the maintenance costs of all STEDs across the region.

Central Otago District Council, while supporting the installation of a new site, was concerned with the disposal of the effluent, and whether its waste water system would cope with the increased loading.

The Hearing Committee recommends that the construction of a new site remains in the plan, however it does not support taking over the maintenance responsibilities for all the sites around Otago. It considered that whilst ORC is not responsible for STEDs, it is prepared to complete the Otago network through the provision of capital expenditure. With respect to the issue of disposal of the effluent, the Hearing Committee is of the view that the loading would be small.

4.7 Harbour matters

Council received 25 submissions on harbour related matters. Fourteen submissions supported the proposed dedicated harbour master role, and four were opposed.

Two submitters asked that Council support Stage 3 of the Portobello Jetty Project, which involves the construction of a boat ramp, allowing the Coastguard's rescue vessel to be launched quickly and safely.

Five submitters asked that council standardise consent fees for coastal occupations including boat ramps, sheds and moorings. They noted that most occupations have been on the same site for generations, and without exception, the effects of the occupation have not altered.

Dredging of the Eastern Channel was discussed by four submitters. They advised that this channel was important for yachties and boaties, in the past it has been navigable, but now there is a steady deterioration. Submitters asked ORC to work with clubs and the Coastguard,

to identify shallow areas that may be addressed in the short term, and to consider a long term plan.

Navigational markers were also an issue for five submitters, who ask ORC to review all markers and signage, to ensure they are updated, replaced and relocated as necessary.

The Otago Yacht Club is concerned about silt build up between the Victoria Channel to the entrance of the boat harbour, from the Water of Leith.

The Hearing Committee noted that a review of harbour matters was close to completion. The review would provide information and make recommendations on ORC's role and responsibilities, the need for a harbour master, and what the terms of reference would be for someone in that role. The Hearing Committee supports the appointment of a harbour master, subject to the recommendations in the pending report. It also recommends awaiting the outcome of that report to determine, what if any, of the requests made, are the responsibility of the ORC.

4.8 Natural hazards and emergency management

Ten submissions were received on natural hazards, eight supporting the increase in resources, one opposed, and one raising concerns about the South Dunedin area.

Six submissions were received on emergency management, all supportive of the appointment of a welfare manager.

The Hearing Committee supports the provision of additional resources for these two activities.

4.9 Transport

Council received 18 submissions on public transport covering both the Dunedin and Wakatipu areas. Matters raised included bus route comments, support for the bus hub, bus fares, support for electronic ticketing, and the desire to see greater use of rail.

The Hearing Committee notes that the bus hub and electronic ticketing initiatives are work in progress, and that new fare zones will be implemented during the 2016/17 year.

4.10 Funding requests

The following funding requests were received:

4.10.1 Lagarosiphon

Council received two submissions about the spread of lagarosiphon in Lake Dunstan and one submission from Queenstown Lakes District Council, requesting funding to assist with the response to the incursion of lagarosiphon in the upper reaches of the Kawarau. This submission asked that ORC create a "placeholder" for an appropriate financial contribution in the Annual Plan.

The Hearing Committee noted that ORC is working with LINZ, Queenstown Lakes District Council and others on this problem, and a financial contribution is already being made to LINZ and NIWA for lagarosiphon control works. Additional funding for the newly found Kawarau site could be sourced from the existing river management rate in that area.

4.10.2 Otago Surf Lifesaving Trust

The Otago Surf Lifesaving Trust requested funding assistance to install a VHF radio repeater on the cliffs above Seconds Beach and/or Tunnel Beach, to provide radio communications between Brighton, St Clair and St Kilda Surf Lifesaving Clubs.

The Hearing Committee recommends declining this request for funding, noting it is not an ORC role.

4.10.3 Landscape Connections Trust – Halo Project

The Landscape Connections Trust is working on a project called Beyond Orokonui. It involves a number of sub-projects covering over 55,000 ha in north Dunedin. A priority project called "The Halo Project", involves responding to invasive pests. The Trust is requesting funding from the Environmental Enhancement Fund, for capital expenditure for the purchase of traps for catching mustelids, possums and rats.

The Hearing Committee recommends supporting this initiative and that ORC invites an application to the Environmental Enhancement Fund. It notes that in addition, ORC could possibly donate used Timms possum traps that it has in store, which are no longer required.

4.10.4 Tomahawk Lagoon

EcOtago/OCEMES (Otago Community Environmental Monitoring Education Support) is a local umbrella group, whose mission is to support, empower and encourage regional community initiatives in the area of monitoring waterways. It is requesting a partnership with the ORC science team to assist in the collection of data, and its validation. It is asking for "in kind' support and a contribution to the cost of both facilitator/expert technical support and maintaining the team's equipment and website.

Two other submissions were received requesting ORC work with groups to assist cleaning up the Lagoon.

The Hearing Committee recommends that staff enter into discussions with this submitter to fully understand the extent of support required, and if appropriate, suggest a formal application to the Environmental Enhancement Fund.

5. Impact on estimates

The recommendations from the Hearing Committee have resulted in one change to the estimates presented in the Consultation Document, that Council no longer spends $150,000 on regional signs, funded from reserves. Total expenditure for the 2016/17 year is estimated to be $48.3 million as shown below.

LTP 2015/16 $000s	Activity	Draft plan 2016/17 $000s	LTP 2016/17 $000s
	Environmental		
7,498	- Water	**7,652**	7,710
440	- Air	**451**	368
2,085	- Land	**1,982**	2,181
1,958	- Rivers & waterway management	**1,821**	1,991
1,116	- Environmental incident response	**1,262**	1,222
	Community		
1,375	- Democracy	**1,548**	1,560
1,934	- Public information and awareness	**1,937**	2,039
504	- Financial contributions	**350**	361
-	- Regional economic development	**100**	-
	Regulatory		
434	- Policy development	**176**	152
1,860	- Consent processing	**1,531**	1,906
1,197	- Compliance monitoring	**1,163**	1,326
319	- Harbour management	**273**	300

	Flood protection and control works		
8,303	- Flood and drainage schemes	**9,150**	8,481
	Safety and hazards		
428	- Emergency management	**702**	520
1,172	- Natural hazards	**1,130**	1,096
451	- Flood risk management	**130**	462
	Transport		
123	- Regional transport planning	**168**	129
13,988	- Public passenger transport	**16,319**	12,922
52	- Stock truck effluent disposal	**495**	64
45,238	**Total Expenditure**	**48,339**	**44,791**

The sources of revenue budgeted to cover the cost of our activities are as follows:

LTP 2015/16 $000s	Revenue Source	Draft plan 2016/17 $000s	LTP 2016/17 $000s
5,354	General rates	**6,340**	5,600
9,092	Targeted rates	**9,600**	9,824
8,197	Grants	**9,575**	7,270
7,300	Dividends	**7,400**	7,400
3,564	Fees & charges	**2,967**	3,660
7,711	Reserves	**8,157**	6,766
4,020	Interest &Other income	**4,300**	4,271
45,238	**Total revenue**	**48,339**	**44,791**

5.1 General rates

The general rate increase is $986,000, or 18.4%, as shown below:

	Draft annual plan 2016/17 $000s	Long term plan 2016/17 $000s	Annual Plan 2015/16 $000s
General rates for activities	15,409	14,952	14,541
Switch from targeted rates to general rates (flood & drainage schemes)	284	-	-
Total general rates	15,693	14,952	14,541
Less investment income	(9,353)	(9,352)	(9,187)
General rates payable	**6,340**	**5,600**	**5,354**
% increase on 2015/16	**18.4%**	**4.6%**	

Note is made that general rates are subsidised by the Port Otago dividend of $7.4 million and interest and investment income of approximately $2 million. The increase in gross general rates before the subsidy is applied compared to the gross rates in 2015/16 is 7.9%.

5.2 Targeted rates

Targeted rates are made up as follows:

	16/17 Draft Plan $000s	LTP 2016/17 $000s	LTP 2015/16 $000s
Air quality	0	100	100
Water quality	639	604	507
Dairy inspection	129	106	103
Transport – Dunedin	3,429	3,427	3,296
Transport - Queenstown	55	55	50
Wilding trees	100	0	0
River Management Rates			
Central Otago District	300	300	225
Clutha District	265	265	225
Dunedin City	150	150	150
Wakatipu	200	200	200
Wanaka	167	167	167
Waitaki District	350	350	260
Flood & Drainage Scheme Rates			
East Taieri Drainage*	390	439	399
Leith Flood	1,275	1,275	1,192
Lower Clutha*	548	643	585
Lower Taieri*	640	722	668
Lower Waitaki District	145	145	145
Shotover Delta	250	250	250
Tokomairiro	80	80	60
West Taieri Drainage*	488	545	510
Total	**9,600**	**9,823**	**9,092**

With respect to the air quality rate, rather than continuing to rate Airzone 1 and Milton properties, the clean heat initiative of providing subsidy for clean heating appliances is now being funded from its reserve.

*The targeted rates for these schemes have been adjusted to reflect the Castalia findings.

6. Balancing the budget

We are required to ensure that our estimated revenue is sufficient to cover our estimated operating costs. We can however set our revenue at a different level, if Council resolves that it is financially prudent to do so. It is estimated that for the 2016/17 year, the estimated revenue will not cover estimated operating costs. We are estimating an operating deficit of approximately $3.8 million.

The primary reason for the shortfall in revenue is the use of reserves to fund operating expenditure. General reserves are to be used for:

General reserves	$
Regional economic development	100,000
STED's	209,000
Research & development	265,000
Restoration (biodiversity)	250,000
Total general reserves	$824,000

The Dunedin Transport Reserve has funds available of approximately $4.6 million. Approximately $1.1 million of these reserves are going to be used to implement the new electronic bus ticketing system, and approximately $800,000 will be used to develop a bus hub in Dunedin city. Further, a decision was made during the LTP process to smooth targeted rates for Dunedin public transport, and as such a further $900,000 is being used from the transport reserve. The transport reserve has been established to fund operating revenue, and its use in these circumstances is considered prudent.

Council needs to resolve that it is financial prudent to have an operating deficit in the 2016/17 year.

7. Fees and Charges

The schedule of fees and charges has been reviewed to update the scale of charges in relation to the actual cost of staff time, make minor amendments to the charges for performance monitoring, and introduce a proposed administration charge for water regulation implementation. The amendments proposed are as follows:

	Proposed 2016/17	Actual 2015/16
Scale of Charges:	**$**	**$**
Staff time per hour:		
* Executive	235.00	235.00
* Senior Technical/Scientist	180.00	160.00
* Technical/Scientist	115.00	110.00
* Field staff[1]	100.00	-
* Administration	92.00	80.00
Performance Monitoring Charges: (amendments only)		
Discharge to Water, Land and Coast		
Return of flow/discharge records[2]	60.00	-
Water Takes	**$**	**$**
Annual assessment report[3]	50.00	-
Administration fee – water regulations[4]	100.00	-

Notes:

1. This new hourly rate is for staff who are out in the field undertaking work such as compliance audits, inspections, and follow up of pollution incidents. Previously these staff were charged out at the Technical/Scientist rate.

2. This charge is for discharge permits in respect of septic tank consent holders, which is not covered under the existing schedule of charges.

3. This annual assessment report for water takes was missing from the existing schedule of charges.

4. This is a proposed new administration fee to assist recovering our costs in getting water take consent holders compliant with the water regulation requirements for having a water meter. It is proposed that this would be an annual charge, and once a meter is installed the charge would cease, and the consent holder would then be charged our scheduled performance monitoring fees.

8. Adoption of the 2016/17 Annual Plan and Rates Resolution

The final Annual Plan and Rates Resolution will be presented for adoption at the June Council meeting.

9. Recommendations

1. That this report be received.

2. That the recommendations of the Hearing Committee within this report, and within the summary of submissions be endorsed.

3. That it is financially prudent to have an operating deficit in the 2016/17 financial year.

4. That the amendments to the Schedule of Fee and Charges be endorsed.

5. That the 2016/17 Annual Plan, incorporating the recommendations from the Hearing Committee be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.

6. That the 2016/17 Rates Resolution be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A906653

Report Number: 2016/0841
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee
Prepared By: Manager Projects
Date: 23 May 2016

Subject: **Section 17A Local Government Act 2002**

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1. Précis

Section 17A of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires Councils to periodically review the cost effectiveness of current arrangements for service delivery in meeting the needs of communities within their district or region, including the governance, funding, and delivery of infrastructure, services and regulatory functions.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on work completed to date, and a proposed programme of work to come on Section 17A reviews for the Otago Regional Council.

2. Background

The LGA was amended in August 2014, to bring in the Government's second phase of legislative reform to improve the operation, efficiency and effectiveness of local government. One of the new provisions in the amendment was the introduction of Section 17A – Delivery of Services.

This section requires Council to undertake reviews of the cost effectiveness of current arrangements for undertaking its activities, specifically looking at governance arrangements, funding arrangements and how each service is delivered, for example, contracted out, shared service, in house etc. A copy of the full section is attached at Appendix 1.

A review must be undertaken:

- In conjunction with consideration of any significant change to relevant service levels; and
- Within 2 years before the expiry of any contract or other binding agreement relating to the delivery of that infrastructure, service, or regulatory function; and
- At such other times as the local authority considers desirable, but not later than 6 years following the last review under subsection 1 of Section 17A.

Regardless of the above, the LGA has a transitional provision that requires that all services must be reviewed by 8 August 2017.

There are two exceptions where a review is not necessary, as follows:

- There is a contract or other agreement in place that cannot reasonably be changed within two years, or
- The local authority is satisfied that the costs of doing a review outweigh the benefits of doing a review.

3. Work completed to date

3.1 Otago local authorities project team

The Otago Mayoral Forum expressed support for a joint Otago review process, and in January 2016, the Otago Chief Executive Forum convened a project team to scope this work. The project team consists of a representative from each council, its purpose being:

- to consider the activities of each council and determine if there is an opportunity to undertake joint reviews, and
- to develop a two stage programme of work.

A paper from the Project Team detailing proposed stages of work and methodology, was presented to the Mayoral Forum in May, and the recommendations in that paper were endorsed.

The paper proposed a two stage programme of work, consisting of:

- Stage 1 – a high level review of all activities.
- State 2 – a detailed review of those activities which represent the best opportunities in Otago for more cost-effective service provision.

During 2016, the project team collected information from their respective councils to inform the possible timing and scope of Section 17A reviews. In April, the project team members, (with the exception of Central Otago District Council) collated that information, and a draft programme of reviews to be completed jointly was developed. That programme is presented in Section 4 of this report.

A detailed methodology is currently being developed to assist with the Stage 2 work.

Section 17A reviews will be undertaken prior to August 2017, but note is made that for some activities, those reviews may recommend further investigation into governance, funding or delivery methods that are different to the status quo. The implementation of any change for an activity may take months or even years to implement.

Because ORC has different responsibilities to those undertaken by the Otago territorial authorities, the number of joint reviews that ORC will participate in is limited. Note is also made that a joint review may not involve all councils, but may consists, for example, of only two councils that believe there may be some benefit in considering a shared service.

3.2 Emergency management for Otago

A Section 17A review, being completed by ORC on behalf of the Otago local authorities for Emergency Management for Otago, is in progress.

4. Proposed programme of work

4.1 Project team programme

A programme of joint reviews proposed by the project team, including the estimated cost of those reviews, is shown in the following tables. The activities highlighted in red are ones that the ORC may participate in.

Otago Regional Council

Table A. Potential "First Tranche" of Reviews

Infrastructure	$000	Regulatory	$000	Corporate Services	$000
Waste Management: Note: Supports RMA outcomes.	50	**Building Control / Services - Note:** Local resourcing issues exist.	20	**Legal Services: - Note:** Opportunity to share existing internal resources and advice	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Transportation Note: Opportunity to align with CDC and Southland DC review.	50	**Environmental Health - Note:** Opportunity to combine with liquor licencing.	10	**Payroll, Human Resources and Health and Safety**	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Public Transport: Note: QLDC and ORC, possibly DCC and NZTA	10	**Liquor Licensing - Note:** Opportunity to combine with food licencing.	10	**Customer Services Note:** Number of parties already use PNCC resources afterhours.	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Total 2016/17	**$110**		**$40**		**$150**

Table B. Potential "Second Tranche" of Reviews

Infrastructure	$000	Regulatory	$000	'Corporate' / Services	$000
Three Waters	50	**Animal Control**:	Internal review /scoping study *($Nil)*	**Rates Administration**	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Aquatic Facilities Note: Each council to conduct scoping review and confirmation of future needs**.**	Internal review /scoping study *($Nil)*			**Finance Management**: - Note: includes debt recovery, treasury invoicing	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Libraries Note: Each council to conduct scoping review and confirmation of future needs.	Internal review / Initial scoping study *($Nil)*			**Property Management - Note**: Focus on capacity and technical capability	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
				Information Technology - Note: Internal reviews are underway - better coordination to find opportunities.	Internal review / scoping study *($Nil)*
Total 2017/18	**$50**				**$50**

The potential benefits of undertaking a collaborative review on the activities shown in Table C below were identified as less likely to justify the costs of the review and therefore have a lower priority. The project team considered however that they should still be reviewed within the timeframes set out under Section 17A of the Act, and if any further investigations are required as a result of those reviews, they would be scheduled for completion during the 2018-28 LTP period.

Table C. Potential "Third Tranche" of Reviews – 2018-28 Long Term Plan

Infrastructure	Regulatory	Corporate Services
Green space -Note: Difference in parks and reserves scale and service levels. Needs to be scoped and future requirements confirmed prior to a shared service review.	**Parking Enforcement**	**Fleet - Note:** All of Government covers the need well. Mostly small fleets.
Airfield management - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered	**RMA Compliance - Note:** Good practice reviews, how much monitoring and why, cost recovery models. Maybe in future. Hazardous sites database = ORC	**Strategy**
Community Housing - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered	**District Plan/City Development - Note:** Very different drivers, geographically separate. Consider options to share capacity.	**Communications - Note:** Very local community specific. Limited areas for savings, though appetite to share resources and collaboration
Forestry - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered		**Council Governance administration**
Community Facilities - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered		**Economic Development - Note:** Often outsourced. Separate scoping reviews and confirmation of future needs
Community Safety - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered		
Community Development - Note: Each council to do a review before wider S17A considered		
Otago Museum - Note: Recognise further legislative change will be required.		

4.2 ORC programme of work

ORC undertakes many activities not undertaken by the other Otago territorial authorities, and these are listed in the table below:

Activities	Comments
Emergency management	Review is in progress.
Resource consent processing	Both RMA and Building Act (dams).
Compliance monitoring and enforcement	Include looking at how much monitoring work should be done and why.
State of the Environment monitoring	Includes air quality, water quality and quantity.
Policy planning and development	Strategies, regional plans etc., across all areas of Council.
Flood and drainage schemes, and river management	Both operational work (maintaining the schemes) and engineering planning and capital works.
Biosecurity	Pest plant and animal control
Natural hazards	Includes flood risk management
Harbour management	May want to do in conjunction with QLDC and CODC, re transfers of responsibility in place.

Over the next 12 months, the following process will be undertaken for these activities:

- Determine the cost effectiveness of undertaking Section 17A reviews for each.
- Where appropriate, undertake high level reviews that comply with Section 17A. The reviews should identify if there are any feasible options for other ways to provide these services etc. that may need to be investigated further. If so, establish a priority list for review, and the resources needed to undertake those investigations.
- Present findings and recommendations to Council.

5. Recommendation

1. That this report be noted.
2. That the proposed programme of work be endorsed.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

Otago Regional Council

Appendix 1 Section 17A – Delivery of services

(1) A local authority must review the cost – effectiveness of current arrangements for meeting the needs of communities within its district or region for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a review under subsection (1) must be undertaken –
   (a) In conjunction with consideration of any significant change to relevant service levels; and
   (b) Within 2 years before the expiry of any contract or other binding agreement relating to the delivery of that infrastructure, service, or regulatory function ; and
   (c) As such other times as the local authority considers desirable, but not later than 6 years following the last review under subsection (1).

(3) Despite subsection (2)(c), a local authority is not required to undertake a review under subsection (1) in relation to the governance, funding and delivery of any infrastructure, service or regulatory function-
   (a) To the extent that the delivery of that infrastructure, service, or regulatory function is governed by legislation, contract, or other binding agreement such that it cannot reasonably be altered within the following 2 years; or
   (b) If the local authority is satisfied that the potential benefits of undertaking a review in relation to that infrastructure, service or regulatory function do not justify the costs of undertaking the review.

(4) A review under subsection (1) must consider options for the governance, funding, and delivery of infrastructure, services, and regulatory functions, including but not limited to, the following options:
   (a) Responsibility for governance, funding and delivery is exercised by the local authority:
   (b) Responsibility for governance and funding is exercised by the local authority, and responsibility for deliver is exercised by –
      (i) A council-controlled organisation of the local authority; or
      (ii) A council-controlled organisation in which the local authority is one of several shareholders; or
      (iii) Another local authority; or
      (iv) Another person or agency:
   (c) Responsibility for governance and funding is delegated to a joint committee or other shared governance arrangement, and responsibility for delivery is exercised by an entity or a person listed in paragraph (b)(i) to (iv).

(5) If responsibility for delivery of infrastructure, services, or regulatory function sis to be undertaken by a different entity from that responsible for governance, the entity that is responsible for governance must ensure that there is a contract or other binding agreement that clearly specifies-
   (a) The required service levels; and
   (b) The performance measures and targets to be used to assess compliance with the required service levels; and
   (c) How performance is to be assessed and reported; and
   (d) How the costs of delivery are to be met; and
   (e) How any risks are to be managed; and
   (f) What penalties for non-performance may be applied; and
   (g) How accountability is to be enforced.

(6) Subsection (5) does not apply to an arrangement to the extent that nay of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (g) are-
   (a) Governed by any provision in an enactment; or
   (b) Specified in the constitution or statement of intent of a council-controlled organisation.

(7) Subsection (5) does not apply to an arrangement if the entity that is responsible for governance is satisfied that –
   (a) The entity responsible for delivery is a community group or a not-for-profit organisation; and
   (b) The arrangement does not involve significant cost or risk to any local authority.

(8) The entity that is responsible for governance must ensure that any agreement under subsection (5) is made publicly available.

(9) Nothing in this section requires the entity that is responsible for governance to make publicly accessible any information that may be properly withheld if a request for that information were made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A907812

Report Number: 2016/0851
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Manager Support Services and Director Corporate Services
Date: 26 May 2016

Subject: **ORC Head Office Accommodation – Site Options Evaluation**

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1. Précis

This report presents the "Head Office Preliminary Options Report", being the summary of Council's consultant's review of potential sites for Council's Head office accommodation in Dunedin. The report seeks Council approval to undertake further work on developing more detailed concept designs on one or more sites in order to allow detailed estimates to be prepared for Council consideration.

2. Background

As part of the ongoing considerations regarding Council's long term accommodation needs the Finance and Corporate Committee resolved at its 9 March meeting;

"That

1) *Council confirm its long term accommodation needs will not be met by its existing premises in Stafford Street, Dunedin; and*
2) *Council plan to vacate the existing premises within the next 3 years; and*
3) *Council include in its draft Annual Plan funding to allow for planning, design, and necessary statutory approvals for new or refurbished premises; and*
4) *Staff continue to work with Chalmers Properties Ltd to develop concepts for the sites identified in its initial review presented to Council workshop on 10 February 2016; and*
5) *Staff continue to work with Chalmers Properties Ltd to identify opportunities for potential reuse of existing buildings including options for heritage building reuse."*

In accordance with the Finance and Corporate resolutions staff have continued to work with Chalmers Property Limited (Chalmers) to undertake further investigation on potential sites. Based on Chalmers advice, independent consultants (Feldspar) were engaged to undertake the further investigation and to prepare a report outlining their findings to Council.

Feldspar's findings, including a final draft of their report was presented to a Council workshop on the 11 May 2016. A copy of the final Feldspar "*Head Office Study Preliminary Options Report*" is attached.

3. Feldspar - Head Office Study Preliminary Options Report

The Feldspar report was developed from previous work undertaken for Chalmers which was presented at Council workshop on February 2016.

Feldspar considered 8 sites of which 6 were considered in more detail being:

- Birch and Kitchener Streets site
- 22 Queens Gardens (Leviathan Hotel Carpark)
- 15 Dowling St (existing DCC Carpark)
- 291 Stuart St (King Edward Technical College)
- 372 – 394 Princes St (Prista Apartment Site)
- 41 Wharf St

These sites were assessed against the following criteria:

- Design and Constructability;
- Ownership and ability to purchase;
- Timeframes;
- Planning, heritage, and archaeology;
- Transportation and accessibility;
- Proximity to amenities;
- Car parking; and
- Services.

The following table provides a graphical summary of Feldspars finding;

	15 DOWLING ST	KITCHENER /BIRCH ST	22 QUEENS GARDENS	291 STUART ST	372-392 PRINCESS ST	41 WARF ST
Design and Constructability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Ownership and Ability to Purchase	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓
Timeframes	✓	✓	?	?	?	?
Planning, Heritage, and Archaeology	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?
Transportation and Accessibility	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?
Proximity to Amenities	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?
Car Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓
Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

In order to make any further meaningful comparison, additional work is required. Feldspar have recommended a shortlisting of sites to allow conceptual designs and robust construction cost estimates to be prepared. This work will require the engagement of specialist design and engineering consultants. Feldspar have provided a cost estimate for the next stage at $156k per site. The next stage will also require a greater level of specification for the design criteria that Council will need to give guidance on. The engagement of specialist design and engineering consultants should be through a competitive process.

It is proposed that a workshop led by Feldspar be undertaken to develop the key design criteria necessary for the next stage. Once developed, the draft design criteria would be brought back to Council for confirmation and endorsement.

Prior to the commencement of design services on any short listed sites, Council should confirm that any property acquisition agreement would be on terms and conditions that would be commercially acceptable to Council.

4. Purchase vs Lease

Council has previously discussed whether or not Council should own or lease its Head Office premises. Council has previously expressed a preference to own its head office building rather than lease.

The fundamental rationale behind this is that ownership incurs a capital cost that is funded via reserves whereas leasing incurs an operational expense that would require general rate funding.

Council has the resources to purchase and/or build without requiring debt funding which further increases the benefit of ownership as there is no interest component to general rate fund. Unlike other tax paying entities, operating expenses do not result in tax efficiencies to Council. As Council doesn't generate profit it pays no tax so any operational expense does not generate a tax deduction as is the case with commercial entities.

A lease should only be considered if Council were prepared to increase the general rate by the required amount, or sufficient funding was set aside to generate an ongoing cash return that could be used to offset the lease cost and therefore offset any general rate requirement. In order to achieve this significant capital would have to be set aside in a cash generating investment. At current interest rates the amount required to fund the lease costs of 3,000m2 would potentially exceed the cost of purchasing/building. Further this amount would have to be increased annually to reflect rent reviews and Council/ratepayers would not benefit from any ongoing capital gain in this scenario.

5. Harbourside Development

An update as requested by Council is detailed in Appendix A.

6. Recommendations

That:

1) Council confirm its preference to own its Head Office premises and land;
2) Council confirm one or more sites for the development of concept designs and construction estimates;
3) The design criteria for the next stage be brought back to Council for endorsement prior to the engagement of design and engineering services;
4) The Chief Executive confirm as soon as practicable, for Council endorsement, the commercial terms and conditions of any land acquisition possibly required as a result of recommendation 2 (above) prior to the commencement of any detailed design and further investigation.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

: 3/06/2016

Otago Regional Council

Appendix A

REPORT

Document Id: A908490

Report Number: 2016/0857
Prepared By: Chief Executive
Date: 30 May 2016

Subject: **Harbourside Development**

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1. Précis

At the workshop held by Council on 21 April regarding possible development of the Dunedin harbourside area, I met with representatives of the University of Otago, DCC and NZTA to gauge likely progress.

2. University of Otago

I met with Professor Richard Blaikie on 19 May to seek an update on the proposed marine science centre. Professor Blaikie briefed Council that the University was promoting a marine science teaching facility, including a public aquarium.

Professor Blaikie reported that the marine studies centre was not currently on the University's immediate plan, but that they were still committed to marine science, and if funding became available they would re-evaluate the facility at harbourside.

3. NZTA / DCC

I met with Jim Harland (NZTA) and Dr Sue Bidrose (CEO DCC) on 25 May to discuss pedestrian and cycle access from the Dunedin city centre to the harbourside area. Currently there is a lack of adequate pedestrian and cycle access from the Chinese Garden area over the railway line and the heavy traffic bypass to the harbourside.

Both NZTA and DCC advised that they are both committed to ensuring a pedestrian/cycleway from the Chinese Garden area to the harbourside, either across or under the railway line and heavy traffic bypass.

Peter Bodeker
Chief Executive

REPORT

Document Id: A907552

Report Number: 2016/0848
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 25 May 2016

Subject: **2016 Local Government Elections**

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1. Précis

The 2016 local authority triennial elections will be held on Saturday 8 October 2016. The Otago Regional Council election will be conducted under the First Past the Post system in accordance with the decision made by Council at its Finance and Corporate Committee meeting on 4 September 2014.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provide the legislative framework for the conduct of elections. Council must appoint an Electoral Officer and may resolve to determine the order of names on the voting papers. All other matters are determined by the territorial local authorities, which are obliged to conduct the elections on the Council's behalf, or by the Electoral Officer.

2. Electoral Officer

Electoral officers are appointed under Section 12 of the Local Electoral Act. The Council appointed Pamela (Pam) Jordan as its Electoral Officer in 2006. Ms Jordan is also the Electoral Officer for the Dunedin City Council. The ORC Electoral Officer is responsible for overseeing all election processes, ensuring that all steps are in accordance with statutory provisions and timeframes. It is recommended that Council reconfirm its appointment of Pam Jordan as the Electoral Officer for the Otago Regional Council.

3. Role of Electoral Officers of the other Territorial Authorities in Otago

The electoral roll for the Regional Council election is made up of the relevant parts of the electoral rolls of each of the territorial authorities, those rolls being compiled by the Electoral Officer of each of those councils. The ORC Electoral Officer is not required to compile or certify that roll.

The TLA Electoral Officers are also responsible for issuing and receiving votes and other documents, processing and counting votes, and carrying out any other duties delegated to them by the ORC Electoral Officer. The Local Electoral Act was amended in 2013 allowing the Electoral Officer, at his or her discretion, to undertake the early processing of votes. As a result the Regional Council is no longer required to approve the early processing of votes as it has done in the past.

4. Costs

Costs are apportioned among all of the parties involved in the elections, i.e. the territorial authorities, Regional Council, District Health Board and licensing trusts. Expenses are allocated directly to one or more of the parties or apportioned between the parties as appropriate. The Southern District Health Board is not undertaking elections in 2016, therefore the costs will only we apportioned amongst the remaining participants.

5. Election Timetable

The following table show the dates for key election activities in accordance with the provisions of that Bill:

Friday 15 July 2016	Nominations open Electoral Rolls open for inspection
Friday 12 August 2016	Nominations close (12 noon) Electoral Roll close
Friday 16 September 2016	Voting period commences
Saturday 8 October 2016	Election Day Voting closes 12 noon

6. Matters to be Considered by the Otago Regional Council

The Local Electoral Act prescribes that the voting method for a triennial election is to be that resolved by the territorial authorities. In the absence of such resolutions, the default is postal voting. It is not expected that any territorial authority in New Zealand will use other than postal voting for the 2016 election.

Council may by resolution, determine the order of candidates' names on the voting paper. The regulations provide for the names to be arranged in alphabetical order of surname, pseudo-random order, (names are drawn "out of a hat" and every paper is printed in that order), or random order, where each paper is printed at random. If no resolution is made, the names must be printed in alphabetical order of surname. Council resolved to use random order for the 2013 elections. Prior to that alphabetical order had been used.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That this report be received.

7.2 That the appointment of Pamela Jordan as the Electoral Officer for the Otago Regional Council be reconfirmed.

7.3 That the names on the voting papers be printed in random order of surname.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A904573

Report Number: 2016/0829
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee
Prepared By: Manager Support Services
Date: 26 May 2016

Subject: **Total Mobility - Update and Photo ID**

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1. Précis

The Otago Regional Council manages and administers the Total Mobility Scheme ("Scheme") in the Otago region. Over the coming months Council will be implementing a new Photo ID card based electronic system to replace the existing voucher system. Staff will be working closely with our agencies and transport operators

2. Background

The Scheme provides subsidised transport via taxi, shuttle and specialist private hire services for eligible people who cannot access public transport due to their disability or impairment. The Scheme which is jointly funded by NZTA and Council is administered by the Otago Regional Council in the Otago region.

In the Otago region, the Scheme has approximately 4,000 customers, 24 participating community agencies (who are authorised to assess a person's eligibility for subsidised travel under the Scheme) and 16 transport/taxi operators. The Scheme currently operates in Alexandra, Oamaru, Balclutha, Queenstown, Wanaka and Dunedin.

In accordance with the Annual Plan, Council is replacing the existing voucher based system with a card based system. The system being implemented ("Ridewise") is an extension of the system developed and implemented for Auckland Transport. The system was procured with the assistance of NZTA with the intent of extending it to other Councils throughout New Zealand through New Zealand Transport Ticketing Limited (NZTTL), which is owned by NZTA. Wellington and Christchurch are both operating an earlier version of the system.

Based on the experiences of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch the new system will make use of the Scheme easier for our total mobility customers and assist in the improvement of business processes for Council, the agencies and taxi companies. The new system also provides for a greater level of security and will assist in identifying inappropriate use.

Otago is one of the few Councils still administering the Total Mobility Scheme that does not use a Photo ID Card as a means of confirming a customer's entitlement to the scheme. The Ridewise system provides for a centralised management and distribution network for the cards.

A number of other Councils are scheduled to implement the system once it has been deployed in Otago

Otago Regional Council

3. Timing and Key changes

Staff are currently working through the implementation programme with NZTTL and our Project Manager who has been engaged to manage the implementation process. At this stage we do not have a confirmed date for implementation.

The implementation of the new system will result in a number of changes including;

- Photo ID's being mandatory
- Expiry dates on cards
- Updating the conditions of use to reflect the new system
- Updating agency and operators participation agreements to reflect the new system requirements and business processes.

Communications with our agencies, the scheme customers and the transport operators will be a key focus of the business change process and project implementation.

While not directly related to the new system staff are also taking the opportunity to review the business and operating procedures to ensure we maximise the opportunity for active management and administration of the scheme.

4. Recommendation

That this report be received

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A907573

Report Number: 2016/0849
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee
Prepared By: Director Corporate Services
Date: 25 May 2016

Subject: **Executive Report - June 2016**

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1. Elected Members' Remuneration from 1 July 2016

The Finance and Corporate Committee received a paper (A893958) entitled "Elected Members' Remuneration from 1 July 2016" at its meeting on 20 April 2016. The Committee decided to defer any decision on this paper and recommended that the paper together with various points of clarification was submitted to the Council meeting on 11 May 2016.

A revised paper (A900274) was presented to that Council meeting and as a result the item has been closed and no further action is required by the Finance and Corporate Committee.

2. Civil Defence and Emergency Management Reporting

At its 24 February meeting the Audit and Risk Subcommittee discussed responsibilities around CDEM following a request from Cr Scott to review current ORC protocols concerning Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management. The Audit and Risk Committee considered that its responsibility for CDEM lay within the risk management framework and the development of a risk register and risk reporting. This work was underway and CDEM would be considered together with the other risks in Council's risk portfolio and reported back to Council through the Finance and Corporate Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee also considered that a six monthly update on Otago's CDEM activities should be presented to Council and this recommendation is now made to Council via the Finance and Corporate Committee.

3. Irrigation Scheme Rates Update

On the 1 July 2015 a ruling was made to amend the use of the utility assets category to include irrigation schemes (ruling number LINZ300000). Based on the Valuer-General's ruling Quotable Value (QV) valued all irrigation schemes in New Zealand. Due to insufficient documentation some irrigation schemes in the Central Otago District were not identified by QV and were not rated in the 2015/16 period.

QV has corrected this omission and have included an additional 10 irrigation schemes in the district valuation roll. It is ORC's legal responsibility under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to set rates on all rateable properties on the district valuation roll. The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides for circumstances where omission are made and allows the striking rates on the omitted irrigation schemes for the 2015/2016 period. These rates would range from $24-$419 with the total value of the omitted rates on the 10 schemes being $1,482.

ORC will strike rates on these omitted irrigation schemes to ensure fairness in the irrigation scheme industry and for all ratepayers in the Otago Region.

Discussions are progressing between Irrigation New Zealand (INZ) and the Valuer-General with regard to the valuation methodology used to determine the value of irrigation schemes. Council's understanding is that a change in methodology is likely however any change will only be effective for the rating periods 2016/17 onwards. It is therefore expected any objections to the 2015/16 valuations will be reviewed under the current methodology and resolved before 30 June 2016.

4. Public Transport Update

Bus Hub

Staff have now finalised contractual arrangements with Beca as the preferred consultant for the provision of design services for the Central City Bus Hub/Interchange and Super stops. Site survey has now been completed, and work on revising the design concept will commence shortly. Staff are working with Beca to develop a detailed work programme.

Unit 4

A commencement date of 15 August has been agreed with the operator for Unit 4. Unit 4 provides services to Belleknowes, Brockville, Halfway Bush, Ocean Grove, Ross Creek, St Kilda, and Waverley. Staff are actively working on implementation tasks.

Wakatipu Network Review and Business Case

The draft programme business case for the Wakatipu network is now with key stakeholders for comment and will be presented to the next Finance and Corporate Committee meeting. The Wakatipu Public Transport Network Review is under final review and will also be presented to the next Finance and Corporate Committee meeting.

We have however just received advice from NZTA that they will require an integrated programme business case for the wider Wakatipu transport network to assist with its decision making process. Policy staff have been working with NZTA and QLDC to develop the necessary framework to minimise any impact on the forward programme.

5. Account Payments

Schedules of payments made are referred to the Finance and Corporate Committee for endorsement. The financial commitments and payment authorisation are made in accordance with Council's financial delegations and internal control procedures.

Payment Category		**April 2016**
Trade and general payments		2,836,396.29
Payroll		621,362.34
Investments		-
Total		3,457,758.63

Otago Regional Council

6. Recommendations

a) That this report be received;

b) It is noted that Elected Members' Remuneration has been dealt with by Council at its meeting on 11 May 2016 and no further action is required by this Committee;

c) That a 6 monthly update on Otago CDEM activities be presented to Council;

d) That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the payment schedule, totalling $3,457,758.63, be endorsed.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee held in the Harbour Room, Council Chambers, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 24 February 2016 commencing at 1.00 pm

Present: **Mr David Benham** (Chairperson)
Cr Stephen Woodhead
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Doug Brown
Cr David Shepherd

In attendance: **Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Mr Benham moved
Cr Robertson seconded

That the in committee section of the agenda be considered first.

Motion carried

There were no other changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Mr Benham and Cr Woodhead.

Matters arising from minutes

It was noted that the actions arising from the 9 September meeting had been completed or were covered in agenda items.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

It was **agreed**

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subjects to be considered	*Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution*	*Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution*
Item 1	*SIPO Review*	*Enable any local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. (S7(2)(h))*	*S.48(1)(a)(i)*
Item 2	*Draft Annual Plan.*	*Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. (S7(2)(f)(i))*	*S.48(1)(a)(i)*
Item 3	*Managed Fund report to 31 December 2015.*	*Enable any local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. (S7(2)(h))*	*S.48(1)(a)(i)*
Item 4	*Follow up on Audit Management Letter.*	*Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. (S7(2)(f)(i))*	*S.48(1)(a)(i)*

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

Following discussion of Items 1- 4, it was agreed that the meeting resume in open session

Item 5
2015/1255 **Legislative Compliance.** DCS, 18/2/16

The report noted that Otago Regional Council derived its functions, duties and responsibilities from a range of Acts, Regulations, Bylaws and other Government directives. Council needed to ensure its compliance by periodic review of its performance against these instruments.

A review of Council's navigation safety responsibilities and activities was being carried out by a consultant, and provision had been made in the Annual Plan for some resource to meet what might arise from the review.

Cr Robertson suggested it would be useful for this Subcommittee to see the outcome of the recent HR review, to ensure the approaches taken were correct. Mr Benham pointed out this was the CE's responsibility, and Mr Bodeker stated that he would report to the Employment Committee.

Mr Benham moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That:
1. *That this report be received; and*

2. *That the Council undertake a legislative compliance survey and report back to the Subcommittee on outcomes.*

Motion carried

Item 6
2016/0647 **Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.** DCS, 17/2/16

The report discussed questions raised by Cr Bryan Scott relating to Councillors' legal responsibility for CDEM matters. Mr Bodeker's report to Council dated 16/10/15 was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Woodhead explained that this item had arisen from a concern expressed by Cr Scott that Councillors did not have a full understanding of their responsibility for CDEM activities. Cr Woodhead advised that a review of CDEM in the region was under way, and would be workshopped with council. Cr Brown considered that a due diligence survey needed to be undertaken, and agreed that Councillors needed to have an understanding of their responsibilities. Cr Woodhead suggested that the two capability reports, the Cornwell and Charles Hakkaart reports, could be presented to Councillors. A recommendation for a six monthly update to Finance and Corporate or Council could also meet Cr Scott's expectations.

Mr Benham agreed that elements of CDEM should be included on the risk register. Cr Brown agreed, noted that the probability of a serious event occurring was small, but the outcome if anything did happen was huge. In response to a comment by Mr Benham, Mr Bodeker noted that the option of all EMOs being employed by the regional CE was being discussed in Otago, and had been raised at the Mayoral Forum.

Mr Benham considered that this Subcommittee would take a view in terms of the level of this Council's responsibilities in terms of CDEM, and would

report as it did with other risks, through Finance and Corporate to Council. Cr Brown considered it was necessary to identify what Councillors' role was, whether it was appropriate, and whether Councillors were capable of performing that role to the satisfaction of this Subcommittee and Councillors.

Cr Woodhead suggested the addition of two further recommendations, (3) that a 6 monthly update on Otago's CDEM activities be presented to council, and (4) that CDEM be considered with other risks in Council's risk portfolio and reported back to Council.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Brown seconded

1. *That this report be received.*

2. *That the Subcommittee consider Councillor Scott's request and determine what action, if any, is required by the Subcommittee.*

3. *That a 6 monthly update on Otago's CDEM activities be presented to council.*

4. *That CDEM be considered with other risks in Council's risk portfolio and reported back to Council.*

Motion carried

Item 7
2016/0640 **Finance report for the six months to December 2015.** DCS, 18/2/16

The report provided information in respect of the overall Council finances for the six months ended 31 December 2015.

Mr Benham moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 8
2016/0650 **Health and Safety Summary.** LL, 17/2/16

Mrs Lesley Laing, Human Resources Manager, attended for this item.

The report summarised items of interest from the Staff Health and Safety Committee and health and safety work in progress. A table showing work

risks and injury prevention associated with wading was circulated with the report.

Mr Bodeker noted that ORC had good health and safety awareness and would be compliant when the new legislation came into effect on 4 April. He commented on the need for senior managers and directors to go out and inspect equipment and field staff work practices.

In response to a question Mrs Laing advised that the installation of reversing cameras in the pollution hotline vehicles had arisen from a concern, not an incident. Mr Bodeker noted the debate about use of mud tyres on vehicles. Given that ORC vehicles were on the road 90% of the time, and off road 10% of the time, road tyres were safer. Alternatives were to tow a trailer with a 4 wheel drive vehicle on it, or to do viewing once a year from a helicopter. Staff needed to be trained to drive off road.

Mr Benham considered that a regular report should be presented to this Subecommittee to provide an update on lost time injury trends.

Cr Shepherd moved
Mr Benham seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Mrs Laing left the meeting at 3.15 pm

Item 9
2016/0649 **Executive Report**

The report covered risk management, project reporting/forecasting, and fraud awareness. Mr Donnelly reported further as follows:

Risk management – a draft risk management strategy was in preparation and would be presented to the next Audit & Risk Subcommittee meeting. Individual risks would be documented and ranked according to risk and consequences, and key risks would be identified for more detailed consideration. High risks would be reported more frequently, low risks annually.

Project reporting – Mr Donnelly noted that the Opal3 software being considered for four monthly project updates also contained a risk reporting module. It was planned to have the software in place for reporting for the next financial year. Mr Benham clarified that the next meeting would receive the risk strategy and the first draft of risk reporting, and he noted there was a lot of work to be done to identify risks. Mr Donnelly advised

that Opal3 could be funded in the current financial year, and the reports could be customised to ORC needs.

Fraud awareness – Deloittes had been engaged to provide fraud awareness training to staff.

Cyber security – Mr Benham noted the risk from junk emails being received. Mr Donnelly advised that cyber security had been raised with Council's IT staff and a report on internet security had been prepared for the Chief Executive. The matter would be reported back to this committee.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Next meeting

The date of the next meeting was changed from Wednesday 15 to Thursday 16 June.

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm.

Chairperson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016 following the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting

Membership:

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

Apologies:

Leave of Absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 6 June

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, for adoption

Otago Regional Council

Matters arising from minutes

PART A – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0811 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 27/5/16

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 2 April to 20 May 2016.

Item 2
2016/0843 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 24/5/16

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 4 April to 20 May 2016.

Item 3
2016/0828 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.** DPPRM, 23/5/16

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 2 April to 20 May 2016.

Item 4
2016/0844 **Progress Report 1C Deemed Permit Replacement Project.** DPPRM, 24/5/16

This report notes progress on Project 1C implementation of the RPW policies

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 April 2016 commencing at 9:00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Gavin Palmer
Scott MacLean
Caroline Rowe
Marian Weaver
Lauren McDonald

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Eckhoff and Neill.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0728 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report.** DEMO, 8/4/16

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 20 February to 1 April 2016.

Clarification was sought on the term "continuous maximum" in regard to the rivers identified with minimum low flow conditions since 1 October. Mr MacLean clarified that the reference was to the number of days with continuous low flow. Noted it should read "continuous low flow", rather than "continuous maximum".

Mr MacLean advised there had been an outstanding response from the community, with landowners taking an active role in managing their takes to comply with consent conditions. Council had also maintained a compliance overview throughout the past low flow period.

A request was made to acknowledge the farming community and irrigators' efforts in rostering water takes throughout the low flow period. Mr Bodeker confirmed that acknowledgement was 'in hand' via direct communication, publications and general media releases.

An update on the velvetleaf incursion was requested and Mr MacLean advised that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) have described Velvetleaf as potentially the worst agricultural weed in the world. It can have significant impact on cropping rates by up to 30% together with serious economic impact annually. As of the date of 20 April, Otago had 38 confirmed infected properties. Inspection work was hoped to be completed with community assistance by the end of April, all going well. MPI had advised that they have capped their expenditure on the Velvetleaf response nationally, and are keen to move to a long term management regime. The preferred option for MPI is the progressive containment of the weed. A national governance group is being set up, of which MPI have advised they will allow two Regional Council observers on the governance group. Mr MacLean confirmed that the Bio Manager Sector Group have requested up to 6 members on that Governance Group, as active observers and that MPI are considering this request.

Mr MacLean advised that a large number of staff hours have been involved with Velvetleaf inspections, including staff who have worked over the Easter holiday break and weekends. Involvement in this Velvetleaf inspection work has taken a toll on some project work, such as auditing and dairy inspections work, as it was mainly compliance officers undertaking the velvetleaf inspection work. Mr MacLean confirmed it has been a very important leadership role for this Council to take and the feedback from the community has been very positive.

The response to the Velvetleaf incursion has taken a lot of staff time and some regions have received substantially more assistance from MPI than ORC. The community assistance received has helped greatly. The ORC compliance work programme has been impacted to allow a focus on eradication. Mr MacLean advised a larger effort put in now by landholders and Council to identify Velvetleaf seeding plants was important as some crops were not far off being grazed and ORC want to avoid seeding plants being moved by stock or birds, which would result in a very large future problem to deal with (as the seed remains viable for up to 60 years). If seed has been dropped, the impact over the next 2-3 seasons with Velvetleaf seed germinating would cause real impact on farm cropping programmes.

Mr MacLean confirmed the inspection work is painstaking because farms had not always recorded where seed was planted, so all cropped areas require inspection, with the added concern of cross contamination in other properties. Good communication was required to ensure farmers knew the correct actions to take to limit cross contamination, with emphasis on education for the farmers of best practise to ensure seed in the ground can be managed. Mr MacLean confirmed that funding and resourcing needed to be addressed for this, in the coming year.

It was agreed by the meeting that staff should be very strongly commended for their work. Mr Bodeker confirmed staff would be thanked and acknowledged for their efforts.

Mr MacLean confirmed that MPI are considering containment rather than eradication but it did not take away from the ultimate goal for eradication in the Otago region. As 38 infected properties had been identified to date, Mr MacLean believed that Council should aim for the eradication of Velvetleaf in the Otago region.

A question was raised on what prevention work has taken place. Mr MacLean advised that MPI were looking very closely at the import and seed preparation process. Mr MacLean did note that the seed involved in the current incursion had meet all the border security requirements, and this will be rechecked to ensure no further incursion.

In regard to the Pest Management Strategy a suggestion made to include musterers in any further wallaby training as they worked independently of farmers and were potentially another surveillance resource.

Media arrived 9:24am.

Recommendation:
That the report be noted.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Croot

Motion carried

Item 2
2016/0742
Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.
DPPRM, 4/4/16

Details consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 20 February to 1 April 2016.

Discussion was held on consent RM15.202 Borst Holdings Ltd. Independent commissioners had granted a permit for a 15 year term commencing 2020. The appeal period closed on 19 April, and it was understood that Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Te Runanga o Moeraki had submitted an appeal.

Concern was expressed that precedence may have been set with this consent being processed as a limited notification application. Mr McRae confirmed due process for notification, as detailed in the Resource Management Act (RMA) had been followed.

A report was requested to be provided to Council once the formal appeal process was completed, on what precedence may have been set and potential impact on the Water Plan for Council.

Recommendation:
That the report be noted.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Woodhead

Motion carried

Item 3
2016/0736 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**
DPPRM, 4/4/16

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 20 February to 1 April 2016.

Recommendation
That this report be noted.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Kelliher

Motion carried

Item 4
2016/0745 **Progress Report on Implementation of RPW Water Quantity (Plan Change 1C).** DPPRM, 4/4/16

This report notes progress on project implementation of the RP Water Quantity policies

A question was raised on the inventory assessments held for aquatic survey work and if there were any known gaps for these aquatic assessments. Mr McRae confirmed the information was incomplete for Otago. Collecting data has occurred over time but that it was not a Council responsibility to provide information for an applicant

Objectives
Clarification was sought on the wording of Performance Target 2 (50% of the volume of water taken in Otago as managed by groups and 50% managed individually) as it intimates Council only want a 50% target achieved.

Mr McRae confirmed it is not compulsory to be in water management groups but there were benefits of working in a group. Council had made the decision to make a target of at least 50% of takes and 50% of the volume being managed in groups, to emphasize the value of working in groups i.e. the benefit of grouping consents. Mr McRae confirmed this target is to allow management to resource and report on progress.

Mr McRae confirmed Council is duty bound to process the consents received, e.g. landowners can keep own consents and wire together with others, or have total take as a joint consent. Staff will discuss with applicants the conditions, or the conditions set can be appealed

Discussion was held on the resourcing required for the number of applications to be processed for the replacement of existing deemed permits with resource permits by 2021. Mr McRae advised that pre-applications (whether for groups or individuals) are treated as an application, with the intent of having an application include all relevant details without having to go back and get information. If deficiencies are seen, they will be highlighted, i.e. correct policies reference or the required data provided so when an application is received formally, staff can complete processing without the need for additional information within the 20 working days.

Concern was raised whether Council may be sending slightly the wrong message with the Performance Target 2 of 50/50 water permits managed through groups or individuals. Council wished to communicate their support to a ‘grouped’ approach where this is most effective and efficient for water management, also providing preference to groupings where it makes sense to do so.

Mr Bodeker confirmed the target had been tabled through a workshop and then to Council. Resources have been funded through general rates. The reason the target was set was to allow measurement as management to allow report back to Governance.

A questioned was raised if the performance targets would be met. Mr Bodeker advised if applications are received 6 months before expiry then the water can be granted further out from the cut off time. He was confident we are beginning the process of going out with groups. Farmers understand what the desired position from this Council is for reasons of cost, community, and better water sharing. It is up to the people of a community to be able to work together. Mr Bodeker advised a more firm indication of the likelihood of achieving the target would be available soon. Once this was known this would allow for further discussion by Council.

Performance Target 1 (water taken under deemed permits are replaced by resource permits) was confirmed as a legal requirement, it is law and we have to get there. Current permit holders will need to make application on time i.e. 6 months before cancellation date or they will not be able to operate after this cancellation date. The onus is on the consent holders to act, if the application is received before the 6 months it remains live until replaced, however long this takes. If an application is not received the permit cancels at the due date in 2021

Recommendation:
That the report be noted.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Croot

Motion carried

Meeting closed at 10:15am

Chairperson

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A901705

Report Number: 2016/0811
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations
Date: 27 May 2016

Subject: **Biosecurity & RMA Monitoring Report 2 April to 20 May 2016**

Précis

This report describes the Regulatory activity for the reporting period 2 April to 20 May 2016.

1. Water Quality and Quantity

1.1 Regional Plan: Water and Resource Consent Monitoring

1.1.1 Audit & Inspection Monitoring

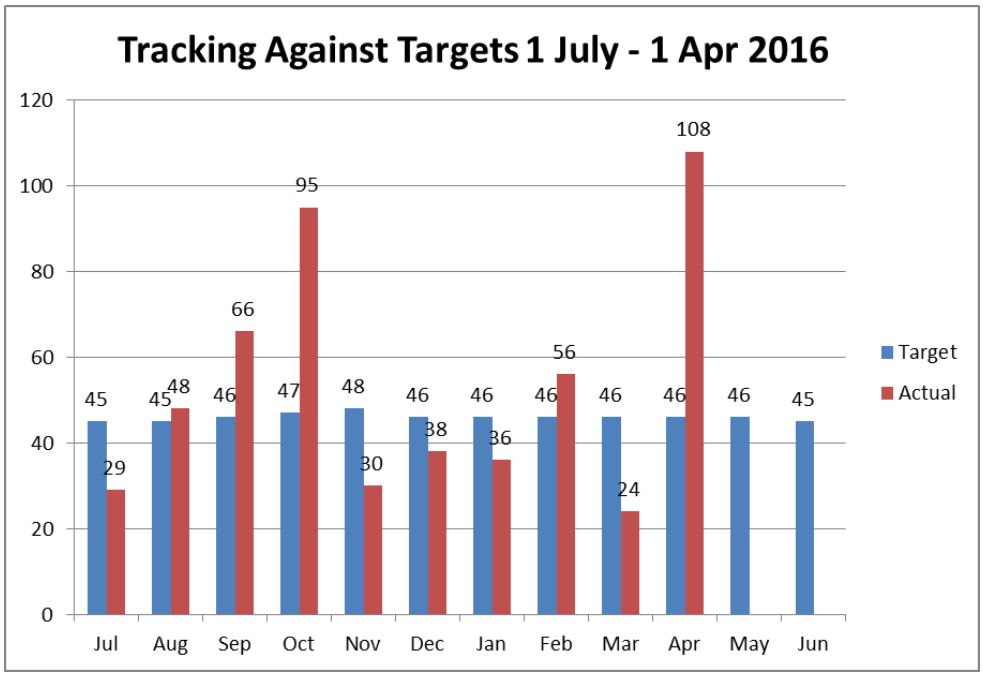
Over this reporting period 139 consent related inspections were conducted. These related to a number of different permits with 61 inspections related to water permits, 22 related to CMA use permits and the remainder spread across dam and other discharge permits.

Total Audits/Inspections

Inspection Type	0 No Compliance Grade	1 Compliant	2 NC Minor no effects	3 NC Significant no effects	4 NC Minor act. effects	5 NC Significant act. effects	Grand Total
RMA 100 Water Device Inspection		1			1		2
RMA 200 Coastal Structure Inspection	1	1			2		4
RMA 200 STRUCTURE INSPECTION	1	4	1				6
RMA 300 BORE INSPECTION		4		1			5
RMA 99 AUDIT	11	50	13		43	5	122
Grand Total	13	60	14	1	46	5	139

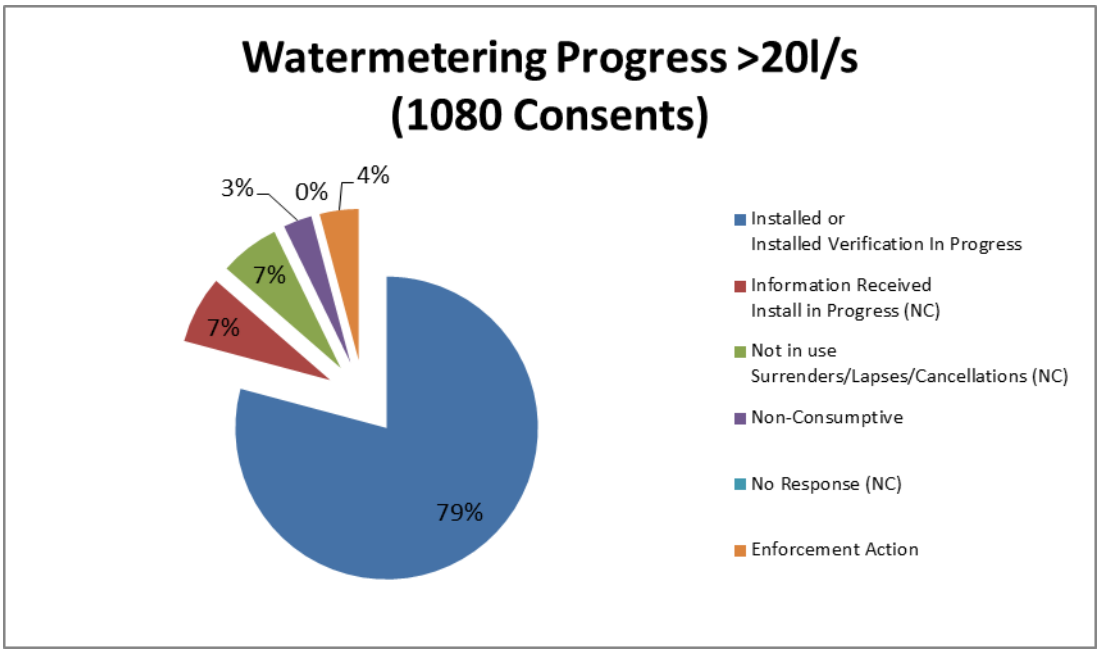
An explanation of the gradings are:

- **Grade 1** – fully compliant with the conditions of the consent including providing information on time;
- **Grade 2** – compliant with the parameters of the consent that they are required to stay within but some information was provided late;
- **Grade 3** – hasn't provided information so no assessment of effects has occurred;
- **Grade 4** – are non-compliant with some parameters of the consent but not having a significant environmental effect. *An example would be e-coli is required to be no higher than 10 but results show it is 500.*
- **Grade 5** – are non-compliant with some parameters of the consent but are having a significant environmental effect. *An example would be e-coli is required to be no higher than 10 but results show it is 20,000.*

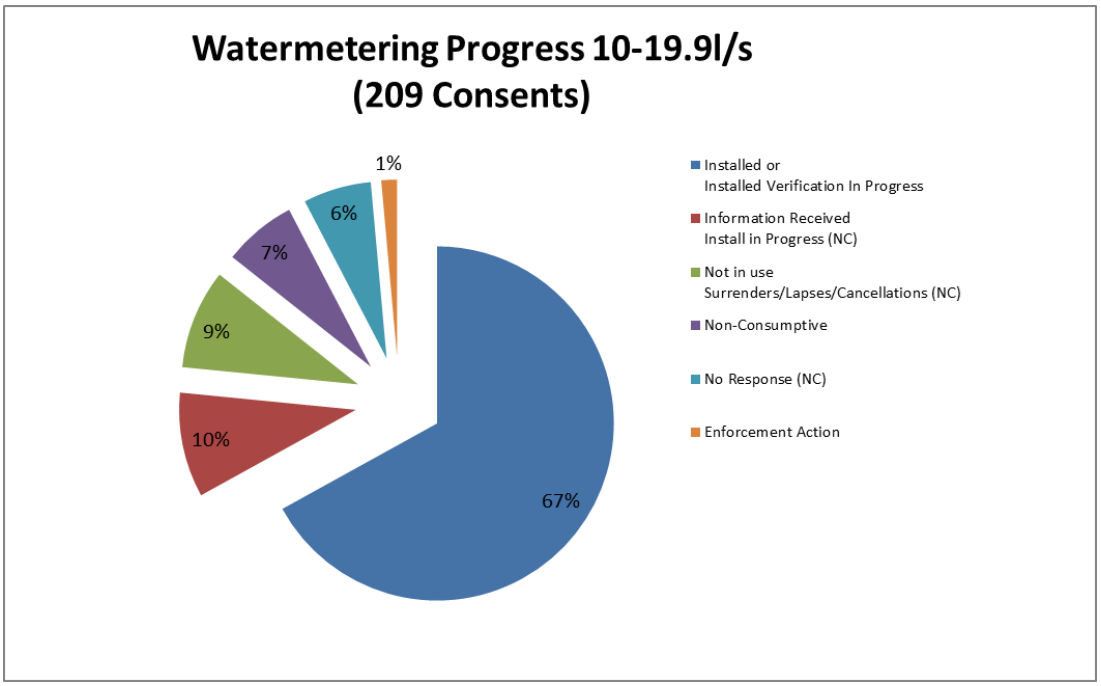


1.1.2 Water Metering – RMA Regulations

Currently 79% of consents over 20 l/s have water metering equipment installed. 7% are still in the process of installing equipment, this includes 55 consents held by irrigation companies. 4% have been recommended for enforcement action due to their failure to meet the requirements of the regulations and a further 7% are being assessed for cancellation/lapsing.



67% of consents between 10-19 l/s are compliant with either their consent conditions or the Regulations with respect to metering. 10% are in the process of installing equipment. 9% have been advised as not being in use and are being assessed for cancellation or lapsing.



Consents with a rate of take between 5-10 l/s have until 10 November 2016 to comply with the Water Measuring Regulations. Consent holders who have not yet complied will be reminded of their obligation in the coming months.

1.2 Rural Water Quality

1.2.1 Schedule 16 monitoring

The Environmental Monitoring team completed a programme of sampling diffuse runoff discharges around the region. Results of the sampling are being compared against the Water Plan Schedule 16 thresholds and a project summary report is being prepared.

Awareness survey

A survey of rural landholders is currently being undertaken to inform us about the current level of awareness on rural water quality rules.

1.2.2 Kakanui aquifer study

As part of the Kakanui aquifer study, Council is requesting the information (to run the OVERSEER model) from landholders over the aquifer as well as other landholders throughout the catchment (as a point of context). A series of meetings are planned for 23rd and 24th of May in the Kakanui catchment to explain the information request.

A number of Certified Nutrient Management Advisors will be in attendance enabling landholders the ability to start ensuring that data collection is taking place from 1 July 2016. The data collection period being requested is 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017.

1.2.3 Forestry contractor forums

Staff are working with Forestry Industry representatives to prepare forums for forestry contractors. The forums will help inform those contractors about Water Plan rules and how to best protect the environment during harvest and site establishment. These forums will be co-hosted by the industry representatives and seek to include smaller scale contractors and woodlot farm growers. The first forum will be in South Otago, with subsequent forums to follow around the region. Feedback from the forestry industry representatives is very positive about the collaboration between the industry and Council in bringing the 'good water quality message' to their industry.

2. Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance

2.1 Pest Management Strategy

2.1.1 Rabbits

35 properties have been inspected in the Bannockburn area, of which 30 were non-compliant. Landowners in this area have planned a well-coordinated control operation this winter. Property inspections are on-going.

2.1.2 Wallabies

The number of reported wallaby sightings is on the increase. While this is very concerning, it is all valuable information as we continue to build a spatial picture of the problem. In response to recent sightings, biosecurity staff have installed bait stations at a number of locations. The bait stations, and the bait used are specifically designed for wallaby control.

Discussions are underway for a collaborative project between ORC, Environment Canterbury and Landcare Research Ltd looking at an option to deploy high-tech thermal imaging equipment from a helicopter. Initial trials suggest this is could be an extremely useful tool that has a high degree of accuracy, for use in search and destroy operations in the Hawkdun Range area, south of the Waitaki.

Of significant concern is the location of some of the confirmed sightings. These include recent sightings near Waianakarua, Trotters Gorge, Macraes, Cape Wanbrow and the Ferry Road area outside of Oamaru. These animals will almost certainly be the result of illegal liberation. This is extremely disappointing and has the potential to significantly impact the rural economy and local biodiversity values should these liberations result in breeding populations becoming established.

There are significant penalties under the Biosecurity Act for knowingly releasing an Unwanted Organism (the legal status of wallabies in NZ). If an offender was found guilty under Section 52 & 53 of the Biosecurity Act, they could face a penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment and/or, up to a $100,000 fine.

2.2 Plant Pests

2.2.1 Gorse and Broom Surveillance

Several non-compliance notices have been issued for gorse/broom on rural properties, with re-inspections to be carried out next month.

2.2.2 Old Man's Beard

In the Central Otago and Queenstown areas, eight properties have been re-inspected. Aerial and ground spraying has occurred on seven of these properties with ongoing work required next season. One property is to receive a notice of direction.

2.2.3 Contorta

Six properties have been re-inspected in Central Otago and Lakes districts. Removal of trees has been carried out on four properties. Two properties are to receive a notice of direction.

2.2.4 Velvet Leaf

Inspections have been completed on 192 properties, covering approximately 5000 hectares, with 45 confirmed sites. Long term management/elimination is to be discussed between MPI and Regional Councils. The majority of the previous six weeks has been spent inspecting Velvet Leaf in South and North Otago

2.2.5 Low incident plants

Several sites have been re-inspected. One seeding plant found and sprayed.
Spartina spraying in the Waikouaiti and Pleasant River estuaries has also been carried out with good results.

A meeting was recently held with KiwiRail representatives looking at pests along the rail corridor. KiwiRail are going to prepare a pest management plan that addresses those pests of concern to the ORC.

2.2.6 Fresh Water Pests

Lagarosiphon herbicide control has recently been completed over approximately 16 hectares of the Kawarau River between the outlet and the mouth of the Shotover River. This work was urgently required as the recent inspection completed on Lake Wakatipu identified growing plant material at four separate sites – three within Frankton Arm and the 4th in Queenstown Bay. All sites have been cleared. Further inspections will be carried out at other 'high use' locations around Wakatipu to ensure the lake remains free.

An experimental trial is due to be carried out on Lake Dunstan utilising a long reach digger to remove bio-mass. This trial will be funded and managed by LINZ, assisted by the Guardians of Lake Dunstan.

3. Environmental Incident Response

3.1 Contaminated Sites

Fifty-one enquiries regarding the land-use history or contamination status of specific properties were received.

3.1.1 Remediation Projects

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) application to assist the Dunedin City Council with remediation planning for the former Dunedin City Gasworks was approved by the Ministry for the Environment. A project management plan has been drafted, and the funding agreement is with the Dunedin City Council for approval.

Resource consents have been granted for the remediation of former timber treatment site as part of a subdivision in Wanaka.

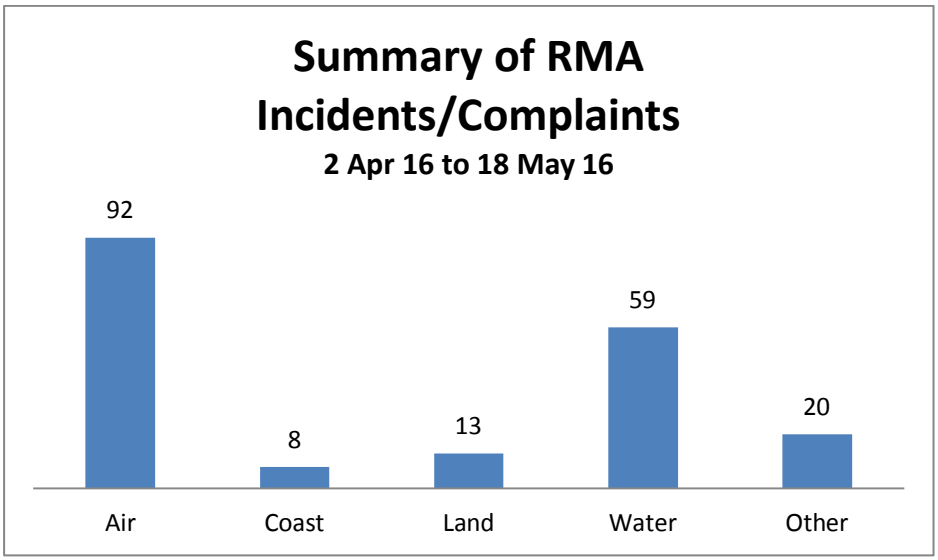
3.1.2 Investigations

One Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) removal report was received during the reporting period. The report has been assessed, and found to comply with Ministry for the Environment Guidelines. Work was carried out in accordance with industry best practice and ORC has no concerns about any environmental effects.

3.1.2 Data Management

A full audit of contaminated land data is being completed. All of the 1360 pre-existing site records have been reviewed and updated in accordance with current best practice. Of these, 18 were found to remain with a status of contaminated. It is intended that owners of these properties will be contacted to ensure that we have up to date information, and to determine whether any remedial action is intended.

3.2 Environmental Incidents



Out of the air incidents 29 were regarding domestic chimneys, 23 were back yard burnings and 23 were odour and industrial air discharges. The coastal incidents were mostly in regards to marine pollution and coastal structures. The majority of land incidents were from disturbances, land contamination and deposits. The 47 complaints about fresh water pollution and 7 complaints about water takes were the cause of the majority of water investigations. The other types of incidents were varied however most of them were in regard to the impacts of pest plants, stock trucks, erosion issues or deadfall.

4. Recommendation

That this report is received.

Scott MacLean
Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Otago Regional Council

Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)

From 2 April to 18 May 2016

General Location		AIR							COAST					LAND				WATER					OTHER		
	Row Summary	Backyard burning	Burning	Domestic chimneys	Dust	Industrial air discharge	Odour	Spray Drift	Coastal structures	Marine oil spill	Marine pollution	Reclamation	Removal	Deposit	Disturbance	Land contamination	Mining	Abstraction	Damming	Diversion	Fresh water pollution	Stormwater	Noise	Other	Staff performance
Catlins	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Otago	12	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Clutha Plains	11	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	5	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dn - Coast North	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dn - Coast South	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dn - Inner City	43	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	10	3	0	4	0
Dn - Mosgiel	19	5	1	1	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dn - Otago Harbour	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Dn - Peninsula	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Dn - West Harbour	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Otago Uplands	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Lakes	45	2	6	6	0	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	14	1	0	2	0
Maniototo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Otago	15	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	4	0
Roxburgh	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
South West Otago	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Strath	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Taieri Plains	7	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	192	23	8	29	7	10	13	2	3	1	3	0	1	5	4	4	0	7	1	0	47	4	1	19	0

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A906696

Report Number: 2016/0843
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Marian Weaver
Date: 24 May 2016

Subject: Consents and Building Act report 4 April to 20 May 2016

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1. Consent Processes

1.1 Consent applications where status has not changed since the last report are summarised in Appendix 1.

1.2 Notified Applications

RM15.361 Kokiri Lime Company Ltd

Consents are sought for establishing and operating an open pit alluvial gold mine and associated activities, covering 163 hectares from the south of Coal Creek to the north of Roxburgh adjacent to and including an area of the Fruitlands - Roxburgh Road (SH8). The applications were publicly notified on 6 February and there were 10 submissions received; 3 neutral, 6 opposed and 1 in support. The applications will be heard jointly by CODC and ORC. Commissioners have been appointed and a hearing date is set for 16 &17 June in Alexandra, reserve day on 20th June.

1.3 Limited Notified Applications

3 consent applications went to limited notification during the period. 3 consents with limited notification were granted during the period.

2. Appeals

RM14.206 Mt Campbell Station Ltd

The application is for the construction of two dams in a tributary of Bickerstaff Creek and Mt Campbell Creek near Alexandra. The hearing was in Alexandra on 30 November and the decision was given to grant consents for both dams. The decision has been appealed by the Department of Conservation. Court assisted mediation took place on 26 April in Alexandra. The mediation was adjourned to enable the applicant to consider its options. A report back to the Court and other parties is required by end of May.

RM15.202 Borst Holdings Limited

The application is for leaching of nitrogen at farms near the Kakanui River. The application had limited notification. Independent commissioners granted the permit for a 15 year term that commences in 2020. Iwi have appealed the conditions and duration of the permits. Mediation has been agreed to and a date for this is awaited.

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3. Consent Statistics

Table 1. Consents Statistics Summary

Reporting Period	Lodged			Rejected	Decision Given		
	Consents	Variations			Consents	Variations	
		Regular	Water reporting date			Regular	Water reporting date
14/15 year total to date	**348**	**33**	**24**	**10**	**356**	**54**	**31**
1 Jul – 14 Aug 15	47	5	4	0	44	3	4
16 Aug – 25 Sept 15	51	2	0	2	40	6	0
28 Sept – 6 Nov 15	36	6	1	2	36	4	1
9 Nov 15- 8 Jan 16	68	5	0	1	52	9	0
11 Jan – 19 Feb 16	37	3	0	0	55	7	0
20 Feb-1 Apr	54	0	2	0	45	1	2
4 Apr – 20 May	53	4	2	1	43	5	2
15/16 YTD	**346**	**25**	**9**	**6**	**315**	**35**	**9**

All decisions on consents were given within RMA allowed timeframes.

4. Consent Administration

Table 2. Consent Administration Statistics

Reporting Period	Transfers Received	Transfers Issued	S417 Certs Received	S417 Certs Issued
14/15	**89**	**91**	**2**	**6**
1 Jul – 14 Aug 15	30	29	0	0
16 Aug – 25 Sept 15	25	17	0	0
28 Sept – 6 Nov 15	23	26	0	0
8 Nov 15 – 9 Jan 16	18	20	1	1
11 Jan – 19 Feb 16	8	10	2	0
20 Feb – 1 April 16	10	8	0	0
4 Apr – 20 May 16	11	15	1	0
15/16 YTD	**125**	**125**	**4**	**1**

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5. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

During the period:

2 Building permits issued
0 Building permit applications received.

6. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 409 enquiries were received during the reporting period.

Table 3. Public Enquiries Statistics

Period	Number of Enquiries
14/15 year	**2259**
1 Jul - 14 Aug 15	366
16 Aug - 25 Sept 15	264
28 Sept – 6 Nov 15	289
8 Nov 15 – 9 Jan 2016	367
11 Jan – 19 Feb 16	297
20 Feb to 1 April 16	234
4 Apr – 20 May 16	409
YTD 15/16	**2226**

7. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

:

Appendix 1:

Summary of applications that have not changed since the last report to the Committee

RM12.066 – Environment Canterbury - erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River.
Environment Canterbury has applied for consents to allow it to undertake erosion protection works in the Lower Waitaki River. Numerous erosion protection measures are proposed over a 3 km stretch of river. DoC, Iwi, Fish and Game and owners of land on which the works are to take place are all considered to be affected parties. Staff are working with the applicant to move this application.

Pending Applications of Interest

RM13.423 – Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCWSG)
A working party has been established comprising MCWSG, Golder Associates and ORC staff. The aim of the working party is to develop a consenting strategy giving regard to existing mining privileges, individual water takes and irrigation options within the Manuherikia catchment. A decision on the viability of the upgraded scheme is expected in the first half of 2016.

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Appendix 2

Resource Consent Public Enquiry Report For period from 4 April to 20 May 2016

Total Number of Enquiries 409

Enquiry Type	No.	% of Total
Current Consents	140	34.2 %
Mining Privileges	9	2.2 %
Other	53	13 %
Permitted Activities	118	28.9 %
Pre-application	39	9.5 %
Property Enquiries	35	8.6 %
Transfers	15	3.7 %

Enquiry Location	No.	% of Total
Central Otago District Council	136	33.3 %
Clutha District Council	32	7.8 %
Dunedin City Council	68	16.6 %
Outside Otago	5	1.2 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	62	15.2 %
Throughout Otago	8	2 %
Unspecified	79	19.3 %
Waitaki District Council	19	4.6 %

Enquiry Method	No.	% of Total
Counter	13	3.2 %
Email	250	61.1 %
Telephone	146	35.7 %

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REPORT

Document Id: A904553

Report Number: 2016/0828
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Peter Kelliher, Legal Counsel
Date: 23/05/2016

Subject: **Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016**

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1. Précis

This report details Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council during the period 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016.

2. Resource Management Act 1991

a) Permitted Activity Rules - Inspections

Table 1. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016	Total – from 1 July 2015
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule – effluent	1	13
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule – silage	1	1
TOTAL	1	14

Table 2. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016	Total – from 1 July 2015
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule – effluent	1	2
Disturbing the bed of a river - pugging	0	1
TOTAL	1	3

Complaint Response

Table 3. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016	Total – from 1 July 2015
Discharge of contaminants to air – outdoor burning	1	6
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule – effluent	0	1
Discharge of contaminants to water – carcasses	1	1
Disturbing the bed of a river - pugging	0	2
Diverting water in breach of a regional rule	0	1
Disturbing the bed of a river – mechanical excavation	0	3
TOTAL	2	14

Table 4. Authorised Legal Proceedings

Details	Period – 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016	Total – from 1 July 2015
Discharge of contaminants to land in breach of a regional rule – effluent	0	2
Disturbing the bed of a river – mechanical excavation	0	1
TOTAL	0	3

Table 5. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 2 April 2016 to 20 May 2016	Total – from 1 July 2015
To cease damming water within a river in breach of a regional rule	0	3
To cease discharging a contaminant in breach of a regional rule– septic tank	0	1
To cease discharging a contaminant in breach of a regional rule - sediment	1	1
TOTAL	1	5

3. Recommendation

That this report be noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Otago Regional Council

REPORT

Document Id: A906861

Report Number: 2016/0844
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Marian Weaver, Resource Manager Procedures and Protocols
Date: 24 May 2016

Subject: Progress Report 1C Deemed Permit Replacement Project

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1. **Background**

Plan change 1C promotes the replacement of deemed permits and other water permits that expire in 2021 to be held and operated by water management groups. Project 1C implements the RPW policies and this report notes progress with that implementation.

2. Planning

The 'User's Manual' for deemed permit holders has been distributed to all deemed permit holders. An accompanying guide to filling out consent forms is about to be posted on the website.

3. **Liaison**

Affected parties to the 1C liaison group are meeting on 25 May 2016. For discussion is the aquatic and flow information and how this will be made available; the programme ORC has for meeting with groups and a guide through the Water User's Manual.

A presentation was done for Dunedin property lawyers on 14 April. There was a lot of discussion about s417 certificates (to provide easements for the land occupation of water races) and what happens to these in 2021, and when properties change hands.

4. Promotion of Group Formation

Visits to permit holders to discuss group approaches for deemed permit replacement commenced in the latter part of April. To date, Arrow River and Bannockburn permit holders have been visited with Northburn/Rippon, Roxburgh East, Roxburgh/Ettrick and Poolburn meetings booked. There has been a pleasing response to the invitations to attend meetings so far.

A "doodle script" which is a pictorial summary of the Water User's Manual is being prepared and will be available on the website.

5. Objectives

Performance Measure 1:

Water taken under deemed permits are replaced by resource permits (water permits) by 2021, less any cancelled or surrendered.

Performance Target 2:

50% of the volume of water taken in Otago under consents is being managed by groups at 1 October 2021; 50% of water permits are managed through groups or water allocation committees.

All deemed permits are replaced or have applications lodged by 31 March 2021.

Progress on Objectives:

For reporting purposes a "group" includes existing irrigation companies and Territorial Authorities.

Table 1.Allocated Surface Water

	Total	**Groups**	**TLA**	**Other**	**%Held by Groups & TAs**
l/sec	322,154	69,508	5,685	246,961	23.3%
No. Permits	1,152	131	71	950	17.5%

No change since last report.

Due to the impact of the water measuring regulations, some cancellations and surrenders and consent replacement, the number of deemed permits is slowly decreasing. In April 2014 there were 458 current deemed water permits and on 24 May 2016 there were 411 current deemed water permits.

Recommendation
That this report is noted

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning & Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016 following the Regulatory Committee meeting

Membership:

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

Apologies:

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 6 June 201.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, for adoption.

Otago Regional Council

Matters arising from minutes

FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0836 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 24/5/16

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee.

Item 2
2016/0855 **Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to June 2016**
DPPRM, 26/5/16

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 April 2016 commencing at 10:17am

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
Lauren McDonald

Cr Scott absent

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Shepherd and Deaker.

Cr Scott returned at 10:19am

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FOR NOTING

Item 1
2016/0748 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 6/4/16

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee.

Presentation and meetings
Councillors expressed their interest in attending meetings such as the University of the Third Age, Water Groups (re water management for irrigation in Otago) and enquired if funding was available for Councillors, or staff, to attend these meetings as this would be a good opportunity for interface between Council and irrigators.

Mr Bodeker confirmed he is happy to discuss Councillor attendance at meetings and funding available for this.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Neill

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Meeting ended 10:24am.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A905693

Report Number: 2016/0836
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management
Date: 24 May 2016

Subject: **Director's report on Policy Progress May 2016**

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1. Policy Responses

1.1 National Policies, Strategies and Plans

The following were received over the six week period to 24 May 2016:

Agency	Number	Document
Ministry for the Environment	1	Streamlining the regulatory regime for pest control consultation document

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Streamlining the regulatory regime for pest control (Ministry for the Environment)	Submission	General support. Request for information to be supplied to ORC where pest control is to be undertaken in close proximity to water, or to regionally significant wetlands.
Next Steps for Freshwater Management	Submission	General support. Noted further work required for proposals targeting efficiency of water use within catchments other than those over or near full allocation; as well as addressing over allocation. Opposed proposals around transferring consents and stock exclusion from certain rivers using fencing regulation.
Inquiry into the Future of New Zealand's Mobility	Submitter	General support. Requested that questions for this investigation are more clearly set, including: ensuring a basic level of mobility is available to all of the population; sufficient investment in transport systems; and there is appropriate monitoring and review of those systems' benefits.

1.2 Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

The following were received over the six week period to 24 May 2016:

Agency	Number Received	Document
DCC	4	Resource Consent
CODC	1	Resource Consent
QLDC	1	Resource Consent

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Review of the Dunedin City District Plan	Hearing presentation	Discussion about ORC's proposed designations relating to flood protection management, Leith and Taieri Plain.

1.3 Appeal: Clutha District Council Proposed Plan Change 28 (Natural Hazards)

The s274 party has provided updated survey information for the proposed development of their land. ORC is promoting a resolution to the s274 party based on this information and is awaiting confirmation of acceptance.

2. ORC: Policy, Plans and Strategies

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement

Deliberations are continuing. The panel intends to make its recommendations by September 2016.

2.2 Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: integrated water management

Deliberations are continuing. The panel intends to make its recommendation in August.

2.3 Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy

Work is now commencing on the Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy, which will extend the strategic approach to water quality management beyond the existing rural strategy to cover 'urban' and coastal water quality matters, including discharge of storm water from roads and discharge of wastewater from on-site systems.

By the end of May, staff will have completed preliminary meetings with all territorial authorities in the region.

2.4 Biodiversity Strategy

As reported earlier, the completion of this strategy has delayed due to resources being diverted to the RPS.

3. Transport

Regional Transport Committees

Organising a South Island-wide meeting of Regional Transport Committee Chairs meeting that will include discussion on the future of transport planning and management with Chief Executives from Ministry of Transport and NZ Transport Agency.

Queenstown

Staff participation has continued in the preparation of a multi-party integrated transport business case for Queenstown. The multi-agency (QLDC, ORC, and NZTA) steering group which has oversight of the business case development will next meet on June 10. Corporate Services and Policy staff are participating in the technical working group which is developing the integrated business case. Recent efforts have focused on developing the medium to long-term strategy for transport in Queenstown, which will be work-shopped with councillors in the near future.

This multi-agency initiative is seeking to increase use of public transport along with walking and cycling, so that modes are fully integrated from user's perspective and the transport system operates seamlessly – in both perception and reality. The NZ Transport Agency has asked that development of the programme business case for public transport (due to be reported to the Finance and Corporate Committee in July) be incorporated into this integrated transport business case for Queenstown. This request has implications for how ORC proceeds with its public transport planning, including the timeframe. Staff are considering those implications.

Road safety

Continued participation in the Southern Road Safety Influencing Group

Cycling

Organised presentations at the Otago and Southland Mayoral Forums. Organising a southern cycling workshop involving cycling trusts.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A908218

Report Number: 2016/0855
Prepared For: Regulatory Committee
Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management
Date: 26 May 2016

Subject: **Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to June 2016**

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1. Précis

An amendment to the Resource Management Act in 2005 means that consent hearing commissioners must be appointed by the Council. The Commissioner Appointment Subcommittee has this function and reports to the Regulatory Committee. The appointments made in this reporting period are set out in this report.

2. Meeting 16/17 May 2016 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot, Woodhead and Robertson
Applicant	Kokiri Lime Company Ltd
Appn. No.	RM15.361
Activity	• Seeking nine consents from the ORC associated with the development and operation of an alluvial gold mine. • Land use consent application to CODC
Mover/seconder	Cr Woodhead moved, Cr Croot seconded
Appointment	Brent Cowie, David Clarke and Terry Emmitt (CODC appointed) Joint Hearing with CODC acting as lead agency

3. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management