



Our Ref A610586

Committee meetings - Wednesday 7 September 2016

Following are the agendas for the Committee meetings to be held on Wednesday 7 September commencing at 9:30am.

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

	<i>Page Nos.</i>
Policy Committee	2 - 17
Regulatory Committee	18 - 43
Communications Committee	44 - 56
Technical Committee	57 - 83
Finance & Corporate Committee	84 - 102

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren McDonald".

Lauren McDonald
Committee Secretary

Phone: 03 470 7433 (DDI)
 Freephone: 0800 474 082
 Email: lauren.mcdonald@orc.govt.nz

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 7 September 2016, commencing at 9:30 am**

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:

In attendance:

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday
5 September 2016.**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

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

Matters arising from minutes

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/1010 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 25/8/16

The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 20 July 2016 commencing at 12:16pm**

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

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Scott MacLean
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Gerard Collings
Lauren McDonald
Karin Little

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Deaker and Cr Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/0907 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 8/7/16

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee on 8 June 2016.

Proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) on Urban Development Capacity

Discussion was held on the NPS on urban development pressures in the high population growth area of Queenstown which is unique to other New Zealand locations as a large section of the population were short term visitors.

Mr McRae outlined the historical issues from the 1980s including the failure in the fundamental model behind the RMA, which resulted in zoning which created constraints on the housing market. One of the main problems had been around what markets do maximise the returns (i.e. the market will hold on to pieces of land for this purpose). There is a need to get the planning industry to understand how these markets work and the need for Council to focus on infrastructure such as waste and water services.

Implementation Review of the NPS Freshwater management 2014

Mr McRae advised that ORC were doing relatively well in comparison to the rest of the country for compliance to the NPS and that the Ministry for the Environment were currently undertaking a review of how regional councils were implementing the NPS for Freshwater Management.

A workshop to be held on the comprehensive water strategy once the Urban Water Strategy has been completed.

Queenstown Transport business case planning

Mr Bodeker advised the multi agency meeting held on 18 July have agreed on the Terms of Reference and this will be presented to the next Policy Committee round in September.

Cr Kempton commented that one of the topics for the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committee cycle trail workshop being held on 30 July will be the development of the "slow tourism" concept.

Moved Cr Deaker

Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the report be noted

Motion carried

Meeting closed at 12:41pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A928028

Report Number: 2016/1010

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 25 August 2016

Subject: **Report on Policy Progress**

1. Policy Responses

1.1 National Policies, Strategies and Plans

The following were received over the six week period to 19 August 2016:

Agency	Number	Document
Ministry Primary Industries	1	Biosecurity 2025 'Protecting to Grow New Zealand' Discussion Document refer to 1.2 below
NZ Productivity Commission	1	'Better Urban Planning' Draft Report, refer to 1.3 below

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Ministry for the Environment - Coastal hazards and Climate change (Outline and key messages) document	Feedback	ORC supported key messages of the document and noted the work ORC has been doing: monitoring groundwater levels and community education/consultation in South Dunedin.

1.2 Biosecurity 2025 Direction Statement

The Ministry for Primary Industries has released the Biosecurity 2025 Direction Statement as a precursor to replacing the current Biosecurity Strategy *Tiakina Aoteroa* (2003).

The document proposes five strategic themes:

1. *A biosecurity team of 4.7 million.* A partnership that covers the country: every New Zealander becomes a biosecurity risk manager and every business manages their own biosecurity risk.
2. *A toolbox for tomorrow.* Harnessing science and the technology revolution to transform our systems.
3. *Free flowing information highways.* Tapping into the wealth of data available, building intelligence using powerful data analysis to underpin risk management.
4. *Effective leadership and governance.* System-wide leadership and inclusive governance arrangements support all participants in their roles.
5. *Tomorrow's skills and assets.* A capable and sustainable workforce and world class infrastructure provides the foundation for an effective system.

Escalating pressures are identified, such as trade and tourism, complexity of pests and diseases and social change. Opportunities are also discussed, including innovation and technology, use of social media and broadening social responsibility.

Submissions close on Friday 9 September 2016.

1.3 Better Urban Planning Inquiry

The NZ Productivity Commission has been invited by five ministries of the Crown (Finance, Local Government, Building and Housing, Environment, Transport) to review New Zealand's urban planning system and to identify, from first principles, the most appropriate system for allocating land use through this system to support desirable social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes. The inquiry is looking beyond the current resource management and planning system to consider fundamentally different ways of delivering urban planning and development.

The Commission identifies a number of priorities for change, including:

1. Making a clearer distinction between the natural and built environment
2. Providing greater prioritization, especially at a national level and regarding land use regulation and infrastructure provision
3. Enabling more responsive provision of infrastructure
4. Applying a more restrained approach to land use regulation
5. Developing stronger capabilities within local and central government.

The future planning framework would, amongst other matters:

1. Favour development in urban areas, subject to clear limits
2. Provide a clearer set and hierarchy of priorities for the natural environment
3. Provide more, and more robust, environmental management tools
4. Price and fund infrastructure to more accurately reflect actual costs, use and impacts
5. Enable plans to more rapidly be able to adapt to circumstances
6. Focus on parties directly affected by change, not third parties
7. Set out a narrower role for the Environment Court
8. Use more representative and less rigid consultation
9. Continue to recognise and protect Maori interests
10. Use spatial planning as a core, fully integrated component.
11. Make central government a more active partner in the planning process.

The inquiry does not address whether:

- one or two pieces of legislation are preferred for addressing urban planning and environmental protection; or
- an expanded Environmental Protection Agency is preferred over regional councils for regulatory compliance and enforcement.

Submissions close on Monday 3 October 2016.

1.4 NPS Biodiversity and Forum

At the August 2016 EDS Conference in Auckland, the Minister for the Environment announced that a National Policy Statement for Biodiversity would be prepared. A stakeholder collaborative forum would be established to help, with an expectation that it would deliver a proposal within the next 18 months.

1.5 Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

The following were received over the six week period to 19 August 2016:

Agency	Number Received	Document
CODC	1	Resource Consent
QLDC	2	Resource Consent
QLDC	2	Special Housing Area Proposal
West Coast Regional Council	1	Plan Change 1 Regional Land and Water Plan

The following responses were made over the six week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Gorge Road (Special Housing Area QLDC) – South Dunedin two dwelling development	Feedback	Confirm ORC hold's no significant concern of risk from alluvial fan to the development, but there is risk to Gorge Road itself (in terms of access to and from the proposed site)
Glenhaven (Special Housing Area - QLDC)	Feedback	Advocate discussion of stormwater management with ORC consents team.

1.6 Appeal: Clutha District Council Proposed Plan Change 28 (Natural Hazards)

Resolution of appeal is anticipated to be achieved by the end of August.

2. ORC: Policy, Plans and Strategies

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement

The hearing commissioners are finalising their recommendations and intend to present them to Council at the end of September.

2.2 Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: Integrated water management

The decision of Council on Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: integrated water management) were publicly notified on Saturday 13 August 2016. The period in which to lodge appeals with the Environment Court extends for 30 working days from the date submitters receive notice of Council's decisions.

2.3 Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy

Information is currently being gathered on urban and coastal water quality issues.

The first stage, an online focus group survey, has been completed and preliminary findings reported to staff. This qualitative data will inform development of the second stage, a quantitative survey about how people relate to water and what this might mean for water quality management.

3. Regional Transport

Regional Transport Committees

The Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees met on 11 August 2016. Topics discussed included strategy on tourism (for inclusion in the review of the Otago and Southland Regional Land Transport Plans, which has commenced) and terms of reference proposed for the committees in the next triennium, the latter being reported to the final Council meeting of 2016. The Committees also held a cycle trails workshop on 30 July.

Road safety

Staff participation in the Southern Road Safety Influencing Group continues. The group has established the case for change and a partnering charter (attached), and are now developing a work programme.

The two initial work items are: (1) exploring how to collect and make use of data on near miss incidents (rather than relying only on data relating to crashes, as happens at present); and (2) developing an Otago Southland campaign to raise awareness and educate people on road safety, with the aim of changing problematic behaviour (not just driving behaviour but also, for example, the choices made by those purchasing vehicles whether for fleets or private use). The analysis undertaken by ORC of crash, hospitalisation and ACC data in Otago Southland is being used to identify those matters on which the campaign needs to focus.

Both work items are timely, given the changes required by new health and safety legislation.

Queenstown Transport business case planning

Participation in the preparation of a multi-party integrated transport business case for Queenstown continues. The multi-agency steering group (QLDC, ORC, NZTA and Queenstown Airport Corporation) met on 18 July and set Terms of Reference, which are attached. The technical group meets 26 August to develop its work programme.

State Highway 1

Staff are participating in the development of a business case for State highway 1 between Dunedin and the Waitaki River, which aims to address problems related to safety, resilience and connectivity. The work has reached the stage of identifying a long list of options which will be narrowed down over the next few weeks.

4. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management



Champion
Joe Bourque



Champion
Russell Hawkes



CHAIR/RTC Rep
Brian Dillon

Partnering Charter

Southern Road Safety Influencing Group



Champion
Jane Turnbull



Champion
Murray Hasler



Champion
Chris Bopp



Champions
Roy Johnston
James Newton



Champion
Russell Pearson



Champion
Nicola Miller



Champion
Denis Mander



Champion
Chris Peddie



Champion
Andrew Edgar



Champion
Tania Baron



Champion
Neil Collinson



Champion
Dale Cocker



Dairy for life
Champion
Dean Morrison



Champion
Dave Gibbs

Shared Purpose (WHY):

To significantly improve road safety for the Southern South Island through influencing effective strategic responses developed collaboratively between public and private sector organisations

Shared Objectives (WHAT):

1. We will identify and support strategic responses that can make a big difference to improving **Road Safety**
2. We want **Partner Organisations** to feel they have an effective forum to contribute ideas and influence change
3. We want our **Communities** to be engaged in initiatives to improve road safety
4. We want the **Southern Road Safety Influencing Group** to have a sense of 'one team' and enjoy working with each other
5. We are able to share learnings and the success of the initiative with the **Rest of New Zealand**

Shared Working Principles (HOW):

- *Commit to attend safety group meetings and fully participate in the group's work*
- *Strategic perspective to be maintained*
- *Systems approach to be adopted eg. utilise available methods like Safe System*
- *Advocate safety group purpose, objectives & activities in your own organisation*
- *Support other group members to help them influence their organisations and community*
- *Openly and Honestly share information and opinions within safety group*

Measured by:

KPIs agreed by the group
Regular partnering scorecard reviews

May 5th 2016
(version 1.0)

We will review and maintain the charter and measure our progress regularly



Partnering Workshop Two (June 9th 2016)

Southern Road Safety Influencing Group (June 2016)

Case for Change Story Reminder (Workshop One)

Current Situation...



There has been a **slowing of progress** on road safety across the Southland and Otago regions over the past 5 years.

Some good tactical improvements have been made but there is a need to consider more strategic responses.

	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015
Deaths	21	24	16	31	26
Serious Injuries	217	270	228	224	221

Some Contributing Factors...

1. Changing Road Usage

Increase in shared use of the roads in the Southland & Otago regions over recent years including more tourists and heavy vehicles.

2. Poor Driver Behaviour

Some drivers continue to demonstrate unsafe road behaviours. This is not just tourists but also professional & local drivers.

3. Lack of Community Ownership

Some complacency exists in the community about the impact of road trauma i.e. a feeling of this stuff happens to someone else.

4. Lack of Integrated Approach

The organisations in the Southland & Otago regions are looking at the problem in isolation which is not very efficient or effective.

Success Looks Like...

1. Step Change Reduction in Road Trauma

There is a major 'step change' reduction in road trauma in the Southland & Otago regions which results in a range of associated benefits.

2. Reduction in Related Costs

This includes the costs of developing safety initiatives & economic costs of travel delays & trauma services eg. emergency, medical, rehabilitation etc.

3. Enhanced Tourism Reputation

The Southland & Otago regions have a reputation of being the safest place to visit for tourists in NZ bringing in more money to the economy.

4. Better Quality of Life for Community

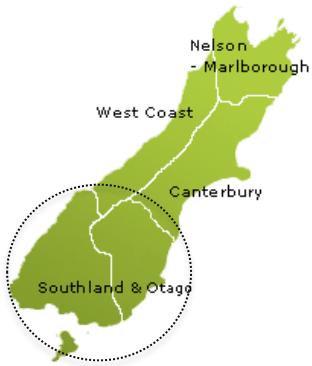
The communities of the Southland & Otago regions experience much less personal and family suffering from road trauma.

Partnering Workshop Two (June 9th 2016)

Southern Road Safety Influencing Group (June 14)

Case for Change Story (Workshop Two)

Current Situation...



There has been a **slowing of progress** on road safety across the Southland and Otago regions over the past 5 years. Some good tactical improvements have been made but there is a need to consider more strategic responses.

	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015
Deaths	21	24	16	31	26
Serious Injuries	217	270	228	224	221

Contributing Factors (WHY)...

1. Changing Road Usage

Increase in shared use of the roads in the Southland & Otago regions over recent years including more tourists, cyclists and heavy vehicles. Note, there are agencies already looking at increasing walking & cycling.

2. Poor Driver Behaviour

Some drivers continue to demonstrate unsafe road behaviours. This is not just tourists but also professional & local drivers.

3. Lack of Community Ownership

Some complacency exists in the community about the impact of road trauma i.e. a feeling of this stuff happens to someone else.

4. Lack of Integrated Approach

The organisations in the Southland & Otago regions are looking at the problem in isolation which is not very efficient or effective. This needs to consider all road users including vulnerable road users.

Initiative Areas (HOW)...

1. Data Consolidation

Utilise all data available through information exchange

2. Community Research/Influencing

Carry out community norms analysis through surveys (AA, ACC etc.)

3. Education/Information

Look at ways to educate & share info with agencies & tourist providers

4. Tools/Technology Initiatives

Identify technology trials eg autonomous cars, self explain roads

5. Licensing/Accreditation

Investigate licensing changes & advocate for more training

6. Legislation/Lobbying

Look at learnings from overseas legislation & lobby

7. Safer Vehicle Incentives

Look for opportunities to make safer vehicles more attractive

8. Physical Infrastructure

Look for opportunities to improve ditches, poles, encourage cycling etc.

Success Looks Like (WHAT)...

1. Step Change Reduction in Road Trauma

There is a major 'step change' reduction in road trauma in the Southland & Otago regions which results in a range of associated benefits.

2. Reduction in Related Costs

This includes the costs of developing safety initiatives & economic costs of travel delays & trauma services eg. emergency, medical, rehabilitation etc.

3. Enhanced Tourism Reputation

The Southland & Otago regions have a reputation of being the safest place to visit for tourists in NZ bringing in more money to the economy.

4. Better Quality of Life for Community

The communities of the Southland & Otago regions experience much less personal and family suffering from road trauma.

Note : build on good existing initiatives as required

Queenstown Lakes Governance Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

This document sets out how the parties will provide clear and united leadership in planning, delivering and funding transport matters in Queenstown Lakes District (QLD) with a particular focus in the Wakatipu Basin.

Oversee the preparation and implementation of the following:

Components	Lead(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) 	NZTA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 	ORC/QLDC
Transport components of the:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term Plan (LTP) 	QLDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Plan 	QLDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Plan 	QLDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Highways Programme 	NZTA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Public Transport Plan 	ORC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wakatipu Town Centre Transport Strategy 	QLDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee preparation of business cases to give effect to the agreed transport strategy for QLDC. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frankton Flats Strategic Case ○ Central Queenstown Strategic Case ○ Connection to the Crown Estate Strategic Case ○ Wanaka Strategic Case ○ State Highway 6A Strategic Case ○ Walking & Cycling Strategic Case 	

2. Monitor

- Implementation of plans, programs and projects
- Funding

3. Communications

- Endorse and oversee implementation of a Communications Plan
- Monitor the delivery of the Communications Plan

4. How we will work together

4.1. Membership

Membership of the following groups and proposed meeting times set out by position and current office holder.

QLD TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE GROUP	
Queenstown Lakes District Council	Vanessa van Uden , Mayor (<i>Chair</i>) Lyal Cocks , Councillor Alexa Forbes , Councillor Mike Theelen , Chief Executive
NZ Transport Agency	Jim Harland , Regional Director Southern (<i>lead</i>) Ian Duncan , Southern Business Unit Manager Michael Aitken , Southern Regional Manager Planning & Investment
Otago Regional Council	Trevor Kempton , Councillor Stephen Woodhead , Chair Peter Bodeker , Chief Executive
Queenstown Airport	Colin Keel , Chief Executive Officer
Scope	see purpose
Responsibility /accountability	Conduits to Queenstown Technical Group- Tony Sizemore (technical) Peter Hansby (lead)
Membership	as above with representatives from MBIE (tourism and housing), Tourism NZ, Ministry of Education, DOC as required

QLD TRANSPORT TECHNICAL GROUP	
Queenstown Lakes District Council	Peter Hansby , General Manager, Infrastructure (<i>Chair</i>) Tony Avery , General Manager, Planning and Development Tony Pickard , Principal Planner Infrastructure
NZ Transport Agency	Tony Sizemore , Transport Planning Manager Chad Barker , Principal Investment Advisor David Silvester , National Manager Planning P&I Manager
Otago Regional Council	Jane Turnbull , Manager Strategic and Transport Planning Fraser McRae , Director Policy Planning and Resource Management Gerard Collings , Manager Support Services
Queenstown Airport	Rachel Tregidga , General Manager Property
Scope	see purpose
Responsibility /accountability	Provide technical support to the Governance Group Ensure papers are prepared and follow up actions implemented
Membership	as above with representatives from MBIE (tourism and housing), Ministry of Education, DOC as required

NZTA/QLD TRANSPORT OFFICIALS GROUP	
Queenstown Lakes District Council	Mike Theelen , Chief Executive (<i>Chair</i>)* Peter Hansby , General Manager, Infrastructure Tony Avery , General Manager, Planning and Development
NZ Transport Agency	Jim Harland , Regional Director Southern (<i>lead</i>) Ian Duncan , Southern Business Unit Manager Michael Aitken , Southern Regional Manager Planning & Investment
Scope	Provide a forum to align workstreams, funding and bilateral priorities
Responsibility /accountability	
Membership	as above
<i>*chair will alternate</i>	

4.2. Papers

Need to be available at least two working days prior to the meetings.

4.3. Chair

Mayor of Queenstown Lakes District Council with the Deputy Mayor or the alternate)

4.4. Administration Support

QLDC. Partners to run agenda items through technical support group prior to the meetings.

4.5. Technical Support

NZ Transport Agency/ Queenstown Lakes District Council/ Otago Regional Council senior transport officials group

4.6. Quorum

Two members from QLD, ORC and NZTA.

4.7. Powers

Recommend to partners governing bodies.

5. Meeting Schedule

	NZTA/QLD Officials Group	QLD Transport Governance Group	QLD Transport Technical Group
10 June 2016	12.00-1.30pm	2.00-3.30pm	Tbc
18 July 2016	11.30-2.30pm	-	Tbc
8 September 2016	12.30-3.30pm	10.30-11.30am	Tbc
Late January 2017	12.30-3.30pm	10.30-11.30am	Tbc
Late April 2017	12.30-3.30pm	10.30-11.30am	Tbc
Late July 2017	12.30-3.30pm	10.30-11.30am	Tbc

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Regulatory Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 7 September 2016 following the Policy 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:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 5 September 2016

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

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

Matters arising from minutes**PART A – ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Item 1

2016/0983 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 19/8/16**

Reporting on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 1 July to 19 August 2016.

Item 2

2016/1022 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 22/8/16**

Detailing consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 1 July to 19 August 2016.

Item 3

2016/1006 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DPPRM, 19/8/16**

Detailing Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 1 July to 19 August 2016.

Item 4

2016/1024 **Progress Report 1C Deemed Permit Replacement Project. DPPRM, 22/8/16**

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

Item 5

2016/1027 **Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to September 2016 DPPRM, 31/8/16**

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday
20 July 2016 commencing at 1:18pm**

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

Leave of Absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Nick Donnelly
- Fraser McRae
- Scott MacLean
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Gerard Collings
- Lauren McDonald
- Suzanne Watt
- Nineva Vaitupu
- Martin King (item 2-3)
- Lisa Minhinnick

Cr Eckhoff chaired the meeting in Cr Neill's absence,

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Bell and Cr Robertson.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/0887 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 1/7/16**

Report on water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 21 May to 1 July 2016.

Wallabies - More detail was requested on the reported sighting by tourists of wallabies on the Rail Trail. Mr MacLean advised that Alexandra staff investigated but had only observed a number of hares in the location of the sightings. An extensive search of the area did not find anything and it was thought the sighting was potentially of hares and not wallabies. Mr MacLean confirmed that sightings have been advised this week in North Otago, including in the coastal area.

Mr Bodeker advised the committee that there may be the need to spend significantly more on operational response activity in this financial year and that budget costings were being prepared for the Finance and Corporate Committee.

Cr Woodhead confirmed that Council was in the financial position to be able to fund some extra work, in this case for operational response for wallabies. He advised he did not believe Council should not take action because the funding was not in the Annual Plan and that Council would be in support of this stance. He commented that good spatial awareness was being developed up on this pest and that it was better to incur some financial costs now, rather than ongoing costs every year, if this pest becomes established.

A question was asked on the degree of the contact, relationship ORC held with the South Canterbury Council in identifying sites and co-ordinating with this Council before the wallabies get in our region.

Mr MacLean advised that ORC is in regular contact with Environment Canterbury and both councils are working closely on wallabies sightings south of the Waitaki on the Canterbury side of the Hawkdun.

Velvetleaf – Mr MacLean confirmed that the 51 affected property owners have been contacted directly and of those people who can't make it to workshops will receive a one-on-one visit.

Moved Cr Bell
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the report be received.

Motion Carried

Item 2
2016/0925

Summary of Dairy Farm Inspections for 2015/16. DEMO, 27/6/16

This report describes the findings of the 2015/16 annual inspection of dairy farms in the Otago region.

Mr MacLean advised that the report provided a summary of the detail reported through to the Regulatory Committee every six weeks. He confirmed not all dairy inspections were able to be completed for the year and this was due in majority to the staff resourcing required for the Velvetleaf incursion response.

Clarification was sought on the enforcement actions as the data seemed to indicate that historically there were less infringements and more prosecutions and that in the last couple of years this had reversed, so that there were more infringement actions and fewer prosecutions.

Mr MacLean advised it was just that way the data had displayed as each enforcement file must meet certain tests to see if it is up to a prosecution standard or if it warranted other enforcement action to be taken. He added that at times it is useful to work with the landowner to ensure they are mitigating the situation rather than fine them.

The question was asked if ORC specifically asked when completing dairy farm surveys if lab testing in the waterways was occurring and if not, should this information be requested.

Mr King advised that this was not something ORC proactively asked but that this could be taken on board for next year and that he had noted the comment for action. He confirmed if a farmer asked about water sampling they would be advised.

It was confirmed that the prosecution protocol remained unchanged.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the report be noted

Motion carried

Item 3
2016/0926

Consents Compliance Monitoring and Incident Summary Report for the year 2015/16 year. DEMO, 5/7/16

The report summarised the compliance activities and consent conditions for the 2015/16 year for all major consent holders and prohibited activities.

A concern was expressed at that percentage of non-compliance grading at grade 4 and 5 levels.

Mr MacLean advised that grade 5 percentage figures related to performance monitoring not being provided or being provided late, i.e. until ORC receive the data a grade 5 level is applied. If water meters were not installed, or installed incorrectly, they also received the grading of 5 by default, due to the potential environmental impact. He confirmed non-compliance with environment effects would go through the same enforcement process as any dairy farm.

Mr Bodeker commented that the area of resourcing of field work in Mr MacLean's directorate needed to be reviewed. The reason being that for events such as the Velvetleaf incursion (where there is a need to mobilise a group of people quickly) which impacts on the Environmental Monitoring and Operations directorate in particular. This will be brought to Council to workshop for discussion to reflect that an increased level of service will have an effect on targeted rate etc.

A question was raised on where the cost for the monitoring rests, i.e. general rate or targeted rate.

Mr Bodeker advised that consent monitoring cost is with consent holder. Funding for dairy monitoring is not under the RMA and comes out of generalised targeted rate.

Moved Cr Brown
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4
2016/0928

Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 6/7/16

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 23 May to 30 June 2016.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 5
2016/0920

RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.
DPPRM, 4/7/16

The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 21 May to 30 June 2016.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Deaker

That the report be noted

Motion carried

Item 6
2016/0929

Progress Report 1C Deemed Permit Replacement Project.
DPPRM, 6/7/16

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

Cr Scott left the room at 1:53pm

Cr Woodhead commented that it was good to see the progress being made, noting that some of the permits had lapsed or were not being used, which showed as a reduction in the total number.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Croot

That the report be noted

Motion Carried

Meeting closed at 1:54pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A923956

Report Number: 2016/0983

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Date: 19 August 2016

Subject: **Biosecurity & RMA Monitoring Report 2 July to 19 August 2016**

Précis

This report describes the Regulatory activity for the reporting period 2 July to 19 August 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 95 consent related inspections were carried out, 51 of which were full consent audits with the remainder being structure, water metering device and bore inspections.

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
RMA 200 STRUCTURE INSPECTION	5	1					6
RMA 300 BORE INSPECTION	4	27	2	4			37
RMA 99 AUDIT	4	12	10	1	15	9	51
Grand Total	14	40	12	5	15	9	95

An explanation of the gradings are:

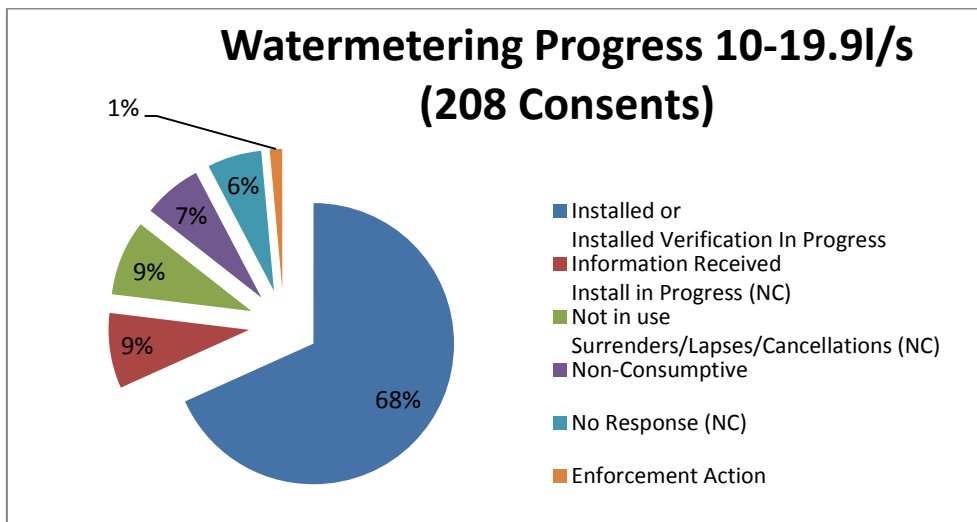
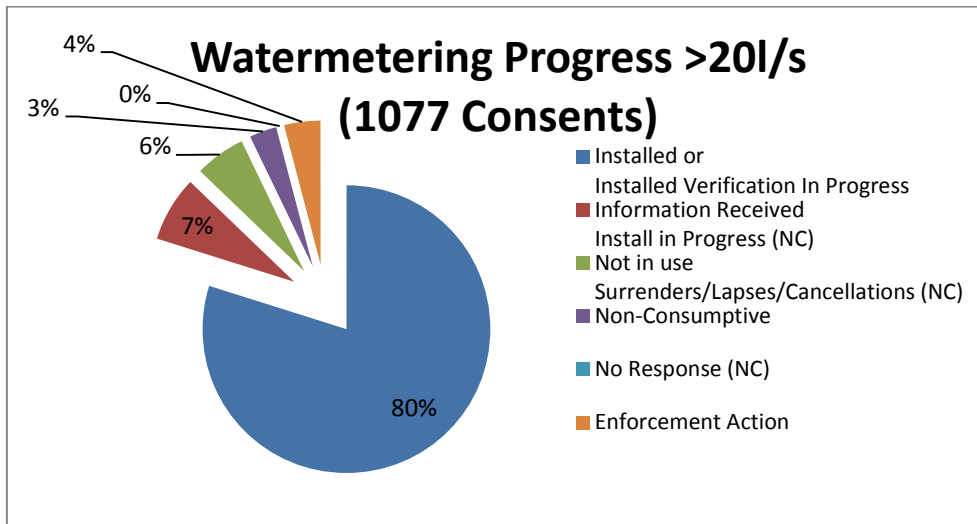
- **Grade 1** – fully compliant with the conditions of the consent including providing information on time;
- **Grade 2** – compliant with the parameters of the consent that they are required to stay within but some information was provided late;
- **Grade 3** – hasn't provided information so no assessment 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.*

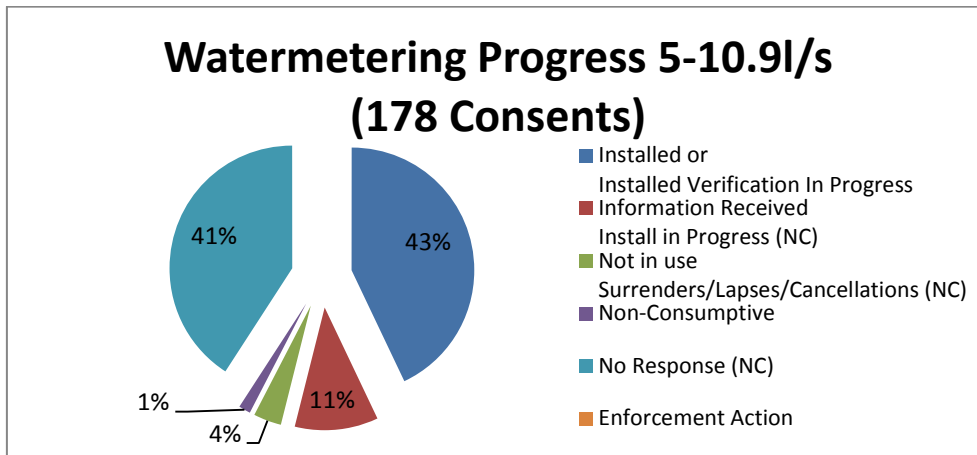
1.1.2 Water Metering – RMA Regulations

80% of water permits over 20l/s are now compliant with the water metering regulations. 6% of permits are not in use, holders have been advised that they will need to install measuring before use and have been reminded that they will need records of use if they intend to renew their permits. 7% are still in the process of installing measuring.

68% of water permits between 10-20l/s are now compliant with the water metering regulations. 9% of permits are not in use, and 9% are in the process of installing measuring. 6% of consent holders are yet to provide confirmation of the installation of measuring.

43% of consent holders in the 5-10l/s category have installed measuring. The deadline for these consent holders to confirm installation as per the regulations is by 10 November 2016





1.2 Rural Water Quality

1.2.1 Forestry contractor forums

The Communications and Engagement team developed and facilitated a forum for forestry contractors. The Milton-based forum was a joint staff effort across the Liaison, Science, Monitoring teams and included Industry representatives who outlined best practice.

The Forum sought to enable contractors to see why waterways are important and the values that they hold, even when you don't expect it. This involved a number of rare fish and invertebrate species being discussed and shown (in tanks).

ORC staff outlined key Water Plan rules that contractors should be aware of, as well as highlighting innovation in the industry through a video that communications staff prepared on the Southern Wood Council award winners. This video is available on the ORC website and on Youtube.

Approximately 80 forestry contractors attended and feedback received indicated that it was very interesting and provided a lot of information that was not already known, particularly around waterway values.

Further forums are planned for on-site discussions and information and these are strongly supported by the forestry industry group.

1.2.2 Communication and Engagement activity

There is a large volume of communication and engagement activity to support landholder activities in the rural water quality arena. This is outlined in section 1 of the Communications Committee report A923952 report 2016/0982.

1.2.3 Environmental monitoring and communications planning

ORC Staff continue work on the development of the Environmental Monitoring and Communications Plans.

1.2.4 Winter Grazing and Stock Pugging

Winter grazing fly-overs have been completed for South, Central and North Otago. In general, a substantial improvement in grazing practice was noted in South Otago from the previous year. Over the 400 km flight path, approximately 5 sites of potential non-compliance were noted, compared with 18 for a similar distance in 2015. Ground-based follow up inspections are being completed for these sites.

2. Pest Management Strategy Implementation and Biosecurity Compliance

2.1 Animal Pests

2.1.1 Rabbits

Twenty five follow –up audits and inspections have taken place this reporting period, in the Gibbston, Bannockburn, Cromwell and Upper Clutha area.

Rabbit poisoning operations with carrot have been underway in recent weeks in the Roxburgh and Upper Clutha areas.

With climatic conditions favouring rabbits, staff are noting an increased number of young rabbits particularly in some areas of Central Otago. Some toxin operations did not proceed as there was poor uptake of the pre feed carrot due to the availability of young grass throughout much of the relatively mild winter season.

2.1.2 Wallabies

One new report from the Galloway area was received this reporting period. The landowner noticed fresh tracks of three wallabies in the snow. Attempts to locate the wallabies by the landowner using a helicopter, were unsuccessful but further efforts are planned if conditions allow. Council staff will assist in this targeted surveillance effort along with the landowner and the Maniototo Pest Company.

Discussions with the Maniototo Pest Company have been ongoing. The ORC has provided the Company with some wallaby pre-feed "strikers" (non-toxic pre feed specifically designed to attract and lure Wallabies) and a motion detecting "trail camera" in an effort to target areas of reliable sign and / or sightings. This is an efficient and collaborative partnership model that will be essential in the fight against this pest becoming established in Otago. Should the camera detect wallabies coming in to the pre feed lure, the pre feed lure will be exchanged for encapsulated cyanide, again designed specifically for wallabies.

2.2 Plant Pests

2.2.1 Didymo

At the Committee meeting of 20 July 2016, a request was made to update Council on the issue of Didymo in Otago.

Didymo, a freshwater alga, was first detected in New Zealand in October 2004. That initiated a Biosecurity response, ultimately leading to the preparation and implementation of a Long Term Management Plan.

There is no known control tool for Didymo anywhere in the world. In fact, very little research had been undertaken anywhere on the invasive alga and its potential impacts. Since the New Zealand incursion, with the extensive research undertaken, New Zealand is now considered the global authority on Didymo.

Given there are no known control tools, and that Didymo starts out as a microscopic organism in fresh water, it is virtually impossible to eradicate. This was recognised, hence the incursion transitioning to a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP). The aim of the LTMP is to slow the spread of Didymo to waterways not currently infected.

Didymo is only present in the South Island so one of the key objectives of the LTMP is to prevent establishment in the North Island. The locations of Didymo in the South Island and where new discoveries were made, suggested that the most likely pathway for spread was human activity. Most commonly associated with boat ramps and popular fishing water bodies, a significant part of slowing the spread and preventing it entering the North Island, relies on changing behaviour and social marketing. This gave rise to the "Check, Clean, Dry" (CCD) programme.

In Otago, Didymo is reasonably widespread but the rate of spread has slowed significantly since the implementation of the CCD programme. The Otago Regional Council employs a CCD advocate each summer (on a cost recovery arrangement with Central Government) to move between high use recreational aquatic locations (rivers, lakes etc) informing people of the CCD programme and its importance. Recreational waterway users are given information and other things such as wash bottles containing soapy solution, in order for them to clean their gear, which includes boats and fishing equipment.

The ORC has also been involved in supporting the CCD message at events such as jet-boat racing and multi sports events etc. Event organisers are supported with information they can give out, explanations of how to set up wash stations (for boats etc) and other material that reinforces the CCD message. This social marketing has been crucial in slowing the spread of Didymo throughout Otago.

The CCD programme has and is a success, as to date, Didymo has not been recorded in the North Island and the spread has slowed in those areas of the South Island where it was originally detected.

2.2.2 Old Mans Beard

A total of 187 inspections were carried out within the last 6 week period with the following results –

Compliant: 84 properties

Non-Compliant: 62 properties (58 Minor/4 Major)

A further 41 sites were identified and passed on to the DCC

All sites identified will be re-inspected into the new year when the plants are actively growing.

2.2.3 Low Incident Plants

Bomarea:

A total of 290 properties were inspected with the following results –

Compliant: 222 properties

Non-Compliant: 22 properties (22 Minor/0 Major)

A further 46 sites were identified and passed on to the DCC

Further inspections (and re-inspections) will be carried out over the next 3 to 4 months.

Cape Ivy:

A total of 7 new sites have been identified (while actively inspecting for Old Mans Beard and Bomarea). Many with these sites were controlled at the time of inspection, with the remaining due to be sprayed within the next month. Inspections ongoing.

3. Environmental Incident Response

3.1 Contaminated Sites

Fifty four enquiries regarding the land-use history or contamination status of specific properties were received. One request for the entire database was received from Radio New Zealand.

3.1.1 Remediation Projects

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) project to assist the Dunedin City Council with remediation planning for the former Dunedin City Gasworks was approved by the Ministry for the Environment. A funding agreement has been signed by ORC, DCC and MfE. ORC staff developed a Project Plan, and this is currently with MfE for approval prior to commencement.

3.1.2 Investigations

Fourteen contaminated land investigation reports were received and assessed during the reporting period. The reports were found to have been prepared in accordance with Ministry for the Environment guidelines. The contaminated land register has been updated accordingly.

Staff have worked with QLDC on the recent identification of arsenic contaminated soil on road verges throughout a Frankton subdivision. We are currently awaiting confirmation of results, and will update our register to identify the affected land. The concentrations of arsenic present are not expected to cause human health effects.

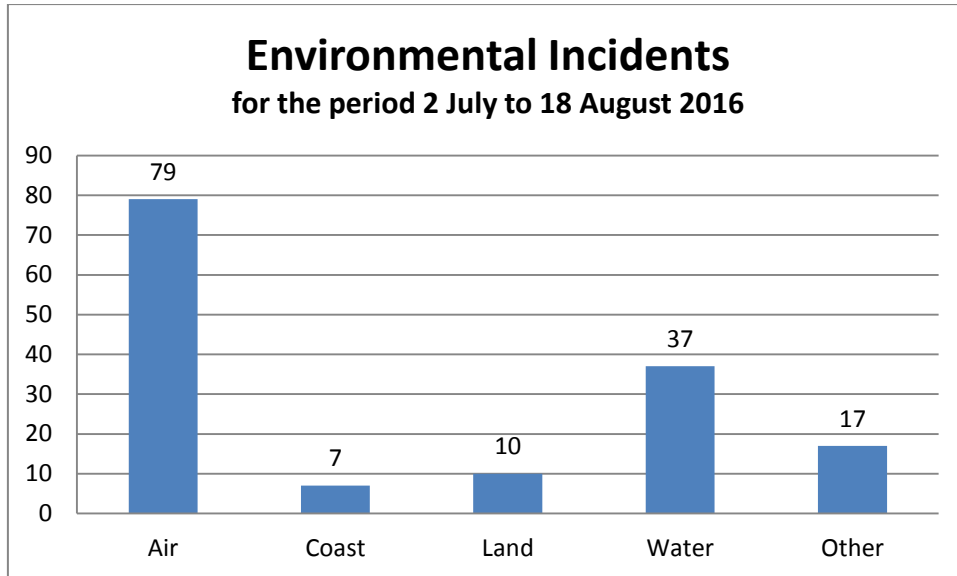
3.1.3 Data Management

Following the review and audit of existing Otago Regional Council held data on contaminated land, staff have begun to incorporate some information held by territorial authorities.

Information is now managed through a geospatial database, and direct access to this information has been provided to territorial authorities.

A workshop was held with representatives from all Regional Councils to discuss a proposed classification system for monitoring contaminated land, designed to improve consistency and improve the effectiveness of aggregated reporting.

3.2 Environmental Incidents



150 incidents were reported to Council during this reporting period. The majority of the air incidents can be attributed to domestic chimneys. Back yard burnings and odour are also major contributor for air incidents. The coastal incidents were mostly to do with marine pollution. The majority of land incidents were from land contamination. Concerns about fresh water pollution were the cause of the majority of water investigations. The other types of incidents were varied however most of them were in regards to pest animals and issues that were outside the scope of what Council gets involved with.

4. Recommendation

That this report be noted.

Scott MacLean
Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations

Summary of RMA Incident Complaints (General Location)

From 2 July to 18 August 2016

General Location	Row Summary	AIR							COAST					LAND					WATER					OTHER		
		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	
atkins	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Central Otago	15	1	4	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0		
Clutha Plains	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0		
Dn - Abbots/Green Is	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dn - Coast North	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		
Dn - Coast South	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Dn - Inner City	31	6	0	18	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0		
Dn - Mosgiel	20	1	1	0	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0		
Dn - Otago Harbour	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Dn - Peninsula	8	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Dn - West Harbour	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		
East Otago Uplands	9	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Lakes	20	0	1	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	2	0		
Maniototo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
North Otago	17	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	4	1	0	3	0		
Roxburgh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
South West Otago	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Strath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Taieri Plains	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		
TOTALS	150	13	9	35	4	2	15	1	0	1	6	0	0	3	2	5	0	5	1	0	30	1	0	17	0	

REPORT

Document Id: A928835

Report Number: 2016/1022

Prepared For: Regulatory

Prepared By: Marian Weaver & Chris Shaw

Date: 22 August 2016

Subject: **Consents and Building Act Report 1 July to 19 August 2016**

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

RM16.138 Oceana Gold Limited.

These applications are for a new pit, waste rock stack and water dam near the location of the existing Coronation site. This is a joint process with consents also required from Waitaki District Council and Dunedin City Council. The applications were publicly notified on 23 July and when submissions closed on 19 August, there were seven submissions to ORC: four neutral, one opposed, one in support and one in support subject to conditions, with four wishing to be heard. A prehearing is being organised and a joint panel for the hearing.

RM16.179 Port Otago Limited

These applications received on 30 June are to renew the consents for the three near shore maintenance dredging dumping sites at Heyward Point, Aramoana Spit and Shelly Beach. The applications were publicly notified on 11 July and at close of submissions there were seven submissions: one opposing, one neutral, four in support and one in support subject to conditions. Four of those in support wish to be heard. A panel to hear the applications is being set up.

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 and the submissions were heard jointly by CODC and ORC on 16 & 17 June in Alexandra. The decision to grant the consents was given on 19 August. Appeal period closes 9 September.

RM16.076 Clutha District Council

Consents for coastal erosion protection works near Pounaweia. The application was notified on 7 May and there were six submissions received in support. A hearing panel of two Councillors will meet to consider the application on 24 August.

1.3 Limited Notified Applications

One application had limited notified 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 2015 and the decision was given to grant consents for both dams. The decision was appealed by the Department of Conservation. Court assisted mediation took place on 26 April 2016 in Alexandra. The mediation was adjourned to enable the applicant to consider its options. The applicant subsequently withdrew the applications to dam Bickerstaff Creek. The consents for Mt Campbell creek are now current.

RM15.202 Borst Holdings Limited

The application is for leaching of nitrogen at three 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 appealed the conditions and duration of the permits. Court assisted mediation was held on 5 July and some follow up actions are being explored to resolve issues. All parties are to report back to the Court on 2 September.

3. Objection to Costs

2009.254 - Golden Bush Mining Ltd

A hearing held on 8 August and the objection to costs was not upheld.

4. 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
15/16 year totals	415	40	11	6	353	46	11
1 July to 19 Aug	45	12	1	0	55	10	0
16/17 Year to date	45	12	1	0	55	10	0

All decisions on consents were given within RMA allowed timeframes.

5. Consent Administration

Table 2. Consent Administration Statistics

Reporting Period	Transfers Received	Transfers Issued	S417 Certs Received	S417 Certs Issued
15/16 totals	125	125	4	1
1 July – 19 Aug 2016	31	7	2	5
16/17 year to date	31	7	2	5

6. Building Consent Authority (BCA) Administration

During the period:

	Building Permits		Certificate of Acceptance		Code Compliance Certificate	
	received	issued	received	issued	received	issued
15/16 totals	6	6	2	10	2	4
1 July – 19 Aug 2016	1	1	0	0	1	0
16/17 year to date	1	1	0	0	1	0

In addition two BCA pre applications were lodged.

7. Public Enquiries

Appendix 2 shows that 295 enquiries were received during the reporting period.

Table 4. Public Enquiries Statistics

Period	Number of Enquiries
15/16 year total	2495
1 Jul - 19 Aug 15	295
16/17 year to date	295

8. 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 was expected in the second half of 2016.

Appendix 2

Resource Consent Public Enquiries For period from 1 July to 19 August 2016

Total Number of Enquiries **295**

Enquiry Type	No.	% of Total
Current Consents	107	36.3 %
Mining Privileges	2	0.7 %
Other	23	7.8 %
Permitted Activities	106	35.9 %
Pre-application	31	10.5 %
Property Enquiries	21	7.1 %
TLA Enquiries	2	0.7 %
Transfers	3	1 %

Enquiry Location	No.	% of Total
Central Otago District Council	90	30.5 %
Clutha District Council	10	3.4 %
Dunedin City Council	43	14.6 %
Outside Otago	5	1.7 %
Queenstown Lakes District Council	45	15.3 %
Throughout Otago	6	2 %
Unspecified	77	26.1 %
Waitaki District Council	19	6.4 %

Enquiry Method	No.	% of Total
Counter	4	1.4 %
Email	174	59 %
Letter	1	0.3 %
Telephone	116	39.3 %

REPORT

Document Id: A927173

Report Number: 2016/1006

Prepared For: Regulatory

Prepared By: Director of Resource Management

Date: 22 August 2016

Subject **Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 Enforcement Activities from 1 July 2016 to 19 August 2016**

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 1 July 2016 to 19 August 2016.

2. Resource Management Act 1991

a) Complaint Response

Table 1. Infringement Notices

Details	Period – 1 July 2016 to 19 August 2016	Total – from 1 July 2016
Disturbing the bed of a wetland	1	1
TOTAL	1	1

Table 2. Abatement Notices

Details	Period – 1 July 2016 to 19 August 2016	Total – from 1 July 2016
To cease discharging a contaminant in breach of a regional rule.	1	1
TOTAL	1	1

3. Recommendation

That this report be noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A928970

Report Number: 2016/1024

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Marian Weaver, Resources Manager - Procedures & Protocols

Date: 22 August 2016

Deemed Permit Replacement and Water Groups report 1 July to 19 August 2016

1. Background

The Water Plan promotes the replacement of deemed permits and other water permits that expire in 2021 to be held and implemented by water management groups. This project implements the Plan policies and this report notes progress.

2. Promotion of Group Formation

A meeting of Bannockburn permit holders was held; this was attended by people who use water out of the Bannockburn and Cairnmuir Creeks, Pipeclay and Long Gullies. At the end of the meeting the group recognised the need to move to the next step and engage a consultant to begin their application process while retaining their rapport with stakeholders that had been established at the meeting.

The Bannockburn meeting was set up as a pilot as a learning opportunity for other meetings with the first set of priority groups. The second round of where requested, will be based on the principles established at the pilot meeting with the Bannockburn group.

A meeting with the Teviot Irrigation Company members was held.

Second meetings are being set up for groups that held their first meetings earlier in the year.

3. Liaison with Stakeholders.

Meetings with parties who may become affected parties to deemed permit renewal applications have been held, in respect of the Bannockburn catchments.

Some groups requesting second meetings have also requested that affected parties attend.

Meetings with Rural Professionals in Central Otago, and Otago Valuers were held, to discuss ORCs approach to deemed permit replacement.

4. Communications

Information about flows in creeks and rivers, and descriptions of the instream values that ORC holds, has been summarised and this together with information about consents and historic water use is being prepared so that such information can be accessed on our website. A new search facility, that will be operated like the existing Hazards database is being prepared; preparatory work is continuing

5. Objectives

Performance Measure 1:

Water taken under deemed permits are replaced by resource permits (water permits) by 2021, less any permits 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, and on 19 August 2016 there were 403 current deemed surface water permits.

6. Recommendation

That this report is noted

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning & Resource Management

REPORT

Document Id: A929813

Report Number: 2016/1027

Prepared For: Regulatory Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 31 August 2016

Subject: **Appointment of Hearing Commissioners to September 2016**

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 15 August 2016 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot, Woodhead and Robertson
Applicant	Clutha District Council
Appn. No.	RM16.076
Activity	Proposed to extend the existing seawall at Pounaweia by approximately 337 metres, for the purpose of erosion protection.
Mover/seconded	Cr Woodhead moved, Cr Croot seconded
Appointment	Cr Bryan Scott (Chair), Cr Gary Kelliher

Meeting 15 August 2016 and 24 August (by email)

Present	Crs Croot, Woodhead and Robertson
Applicant	Oceana Gold
Appn. No.	RM16.138
Activity	The Otago Regional Council has received applications from Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited for resource consents for various activities as part of the Coronation North Pit and Waste Rock Stack expansion at Macraes Flat, North Otago. A joint hearing with Waitaki District Council and Dunedin City Council. ORC is the lead agency.
Mover/seconded	Cr Croot moved, Cr Woodhead seconded, (15/8/16) Cr Woodhead moved, Mr Donnelly seconded (24/8/16) for the appointment of Mr Weatherall in replacement of Cr Noone as requested by DCC.
Appointment	Brett Cowie, Chair (ORC), Colin Weatherall (DCC), Cr Gavan (WDC)

Meeting 15 August 2016 (by email)

Present	Crs Croot, Woodhead and Robertson
Applicant	Port Otago Ltd
Appn. No.	RM16.179
Activity	The Otago Regional Council has received an application from Port Otago Limited for resource consent to continue to dispose of dredge material at the Heyward Point, Spit Beach (locally known as Aramoana Beach) and The Spit (locally known as Shelly Beach) disposal sites for a further 35 years.
Mover/seconded	Cr Croot moved, Cr Woodhead seconded
Appointment	Brent Cowie (Chair) and Hugh Leersnyder as independent commissioners

3. **Recommendation**
That the report be noted.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Agenda for a meeting of the Communications Committee to be held in
the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 7 September 2016 following the Regulatory 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:****In attendance:**

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday
5 September 2016.**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**CONFLICT OF INTEREST****PUBLIC FORUM****MINUTES**

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

Matters arising from minutes

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/0981 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 24/8/16

Reporting on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff for the period 2 July and 19 August 2016

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 20 July 2016 commencing at 12:00 noon**

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**

Leave of absence: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott MacLean**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Gerard Collings**
- Lauren McDonald**

Cr Kempton welcomed staff in attendance as observers:
Suzanne Watt, Eleanor Ross, Lisa Minhinnick, Glenn Lambert and Charlotte Panton

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest noted

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Brown and Cr Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2016/0891 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 12/7/16

Reporting on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff for the period 21 May to 1 July 2016.

A comment was made that it was good to see the awareness of the ORC water plan rules had lifted from 78% to 91% with the highest level of increase with sheep and beef farmers. It was also noted that the wallaby incursion awareness promotional material had been well received.

Attendance of the priority group meetings (section 2.2 of the report) had been excellent with attendees having a positive attitude which was pleasing to see leading into the second round of communication and meetings.

A question was raised on the provision of print copy material for the upcoming Local Body Elections with the information only currently available online from the ORC website.

Mrs Rowe advised limited print copies have been produced and she would follow up on access and distribution of information to potential candidates.

Cr Scott commented that the forestry contractors forum held in Milton recently was a very well organised meeting and well attended by key companies and contractors.

Discussion was held on improving the awareness of rural water quality regulations towards 2020. In regard to having a better understanding of what regular water sampling and testing was being undertaken by farmers and also if it was appropriate to seek this information as this is not a legal requirement for them to provide this.

Mrs Rowe advised that water sampling was not a question currently including in the survey, asking if farmers were undertaking testing but that this could be added to the questionnaire in the future. She commented that

it may also be worthwhile when groups are establishing their monitoring programme to ask farmers if they are actively water sampling.

Cr Bell commented on the meeting he attended in Alexandra with professional agribusiness people and asked when staff would be able to provide feedback on the discussion held at the meeting.

Mrs Rowe noted that this meeting was held outside of the reporting period and would be reported on for the next Committee round.

Moved Cr Robertson
Seconded Cr Scott

That the report be noted

Motion carried

Meeting closed at 12:14pm

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A923952

Report Number: 2016/0982

Prepared For: Communications Committee

Prepared By: Director Stakeholder Engagement

Date: 24 August 2016

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

This report records stakeholder engagement activity between 2 July and 19 August 2016.

1. **WATER QUALITY**

Engagement activities and events under the council's rural water quality programme (6A) have been undertaken during this period with a range of stakeholders. These are summarised below:

1.1. Field days, workshops, and presentations

1.1.1 Clinton Beef and Lamb LEP 1 Workshop - 4 July

There was a good turnout at this workshop with approximately 12 groups of landowners. Groups had travelled from West Otago, Clydevale and Clinton to attend. Liaison staff presented on the ORC water plan to the group.

1.1.2 Tarras Beef and Lamb LEP 1 Workshop - 6 July

Liaison staff presented at this workshop. Nine farmers were present and they were supportive of the 'global consent' approach for clearing waterways. This means the approach where a land manager may apply to ORC for a single resource consent which enables them to clear multiple waterways on their property for a number of years.

1.1.3 Dairy NZ Clydevale farm systems discussion group - 11 July

ORC Liaison and communications staff participated in a discussion group with several dairy farm owners/managers/workers as well as vets and other industry professionals. Discussion centred around cropping, dairy cow wintering on fodder beet, and cow wintering on silage in a herd home.

1.1.4 Kakanui riparian planting and waterway management - 19 July

Liaison staff presented at a riparian planting and waterway management field day in the Kakanui catchment. A local farmer was highlighted as displaying good practice and critical thinking in his management of a waterway on his property. Interest was shown in the Water Plan rules and particularly the schedule 16 thresholds and water testing. Approximately 13 local farmers attended.

1.1.5 Beef and Lamb technology expo - 31 July

Liaison staff attended the Beef and Lamb technology expo held in Balclutha. There were various rural suppliers and industry support groups promoting their products, including nutrient management, farm management, and mapping services.

1.2. Dairy-related activity

1.2.1. South Otago Dairy Working Group - 2 August

The working group meeting featured a discussion around the seasonal overview of compliance. The upcoming winter flyovers and the processes ORC applies when following up on non-compliance found during these flights was also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-September.

1.2.2. Otago Dairy Stakeholders Group - 16 August

Liaison staff facilitated the group meeting, which included representatives of the various stakeholder organisations.

Discussion was had around the ORC annual plan target of achieving 100% dairy effluent compliance by 2018. It was acknowledged that having everyone working together to a common goal is extremely valuable and suggested the target should also reflect the increasing levels of compliance year-on-year, not just the end goal.

1.2.3. North Otago Dairy Working Group - 17 August

The meeting was a great opportunity for the end-of season roundup from both dairy and ORC perspectives. ORC environmental monitoring staff gave an overview of the season from ORC's perspective and the group gave an overview of their season to date.

General consensus was that the group was working well, but is a work in progress and is 'sowing seeds' with farmers to build relationships. So far, 14 farms at-risk of non-compliance with Water Plan rules had been followed up on in some capacity by the group and action plans created or recommendations given. The group felt the one-on-one and tailoring approach between landowners and the group was a valuable way to engage farmers. It also enables the landowner to get support and advice on how to lower their risk of non-compliance and protect the environment. The group felt their involvement has significant value to those at risk farms and will continue their work for the coming season.

1.3. Forestry

1.3.1 Forestry Contractors Forum - 6 July

Staff developed and facilitated a forum for forestry contractors. The Milton-based forum was a joint staff effort across the communications and engagement, science, and environmental monitoring teams. Industry representatives also outlined current best practice for the establishment of roads, control of sediment, and minimising debris in waterways.

The forum aimed to help contractors see why waterways are important and the values associated with them, even though they might not be obvious. The types of rare fish and invertebrate species which inhabit these waterways were discussed and were also on display.

ORC staff outlined key Water Plan rules contractors should be aware of, highlighting industry innovation through a video that communications staff prepared on the winners of the Southern Wood Council Forestry Environmental Management Excellence Award winners Greg Kendall and Paul Hart.

Approximately 80 forestry contractors attended the forum. Participants said they found it interesting and provided them with a lot of information they didn't already have, particularly around waterway values.

Further forums are planned featuring on-site discussions and provision of information and these plans are strongly supported by the forestry industry representatives.

1.4. Other North Otago activity

1.4.1. Kakanui - 4 July

Liaison staff facilitated a meeting between members of the Kakanui Water Allocation Subcommittee (KWAC), and Kakanui Ratepayers and Improvements Society representatives. Fish and Game Central South Island and the Kakanui Community Catchment Project representatives also attended.

KWAC reported on how the past irrigation season went, and the other groups also contributed. The meeting is required as part of the Kakanui River minimum flow Environment Court proceedings in 2002, with the aim of improving communication and relationships between the key parties in the catchment. Over time the meetings have proven to be a positive initiative and are held in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

1.4.2. MOU meeting - 8 July

Staff participated in a meeting between ORC, North Otago Irrigation Company (NOIC), and Waitaki Irrigators Collective (WIC) representatives – held under the banner of the Memorandum of Understanding that these parties signed. Good collaborative discussion was had across a number of topics based around what each organisation is doing and planning in the Kakanui catchment.

Parties agreed to meet again (30th August) when ORC will present a draft project plan for the activity in the Waiareka Creek catchment. All parties are actively looking to find ways link existing and proposed projects run by each organisation.

1.4.3. Kakanui Community Catchment Project - 27 July

Liaison staff participated in the Kakanui Community Catchment Project (KCCP) steering group meeting. Key points from the meeting were:

- There was positive feedback from the group (including farmers and Certified Nutrient Management Advisors) about the Kakanui Overseer information request. It seems generally well regarded and accepted by the community.
- The group is noticing an attitude/culture change amongst the farming community in that there appears to be more of a focus on environmental protection in the community. Evidence of this is the new faces appearing at LEP workshops, field days and other gatherings.
- North Otago Sustainable Land Management Society (NOSLAM) is positioning to take over from the KCCP at the end of this year.

1.4.4. MOU meeting - 11 August

Liaison staff facilitated an MOU meeting between ORC science staff, Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company (LWIC) representatives and Waitaki Irrigators Collective (WIC). Staff presented details of ORC's SOE groundwater monitoring project on the Waitaki Plains. The meeting was valuable in that LWIC and WIC were better informed about the project's purpose and timeframes. LWIC and WIC indicated that the next steps for them will be to initiate discussions with ORC's policy and consents staff around the timing of any future plan change that might affect the Waitaki Plains farmers in terms of N-leaching, and any required resource consents.

1.5 General enquiries

Liaison staff responded to individual enquiries relating to matters including: permitted activity rules regarding culverts; water storage; positioning of infrastructure and willow clearance.

2. WATER QUANTITY

2.1. Priority group meetings

The following meetings were held with priority water management groups during the reporting period:

Groups	Date
Rural Professionals Central Otago	6 July 2016
Teviot Irrigation Company	11 July 2016
Bannockburn Catchment group	9 August 2016
Otago valuers	11 August 2016

2.1.1. Bannockburn meeting - 9 August

Council staff facilitated this first meeting with land users in the Bannockburn area on 9 August with 15 farmers attending. Stakeholders comprised, DoC, Fish and Game and Iwi. The Bannockburn meeting comprised land users from four discrete catchments: Bannockburn, Shepherds, Pipe Clay, and Long Gully.

At the end of the meeting the attendees recognised the need to move to the next step and engage a consultant to begin their global water consent application process while retaining their rapport with stakeholders that had been established at the meeting. The opportunity to meet the combined stakeholders for an open discussion has provided the incentive for the group to move onto preparing their consents.

2.1.2 Manuherikia Engagement

Advertising and promotion was carried out for first series of consultation meetings to inform the minimum flow setting process for Manuherikia catchment. These sessions were held in late August.

2.1.3 Irrigation NZ magazine

Content for our four page feature in the next issue of Irrigation NZ magazine was developed and supplied. This will be distributed in September.

3. NATURAL HAZARDS

Work has been ongoing for the communication programme regarding the natural hazardscape of South Dunedin. This has included finalising the video series, summary publication, printing of the full technical report and advertising of public drop-in sessions. Collaboration with the Dunedin City Council on the series of stakeholder briefings continued with the majority of these completed at the end of August.

4. PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Communication staff have been working closely with the passenger transport team on the Unit 4 changes to the Dunedin bus service. The communications activity started in July in the leadup to the changes going live on August 15. A range of channels were used for this campaign the reach of which is reported below.

4.1 Media

A media release explaining changes to the bus fare structure and transfers, followed by a release summarising the range of changes resulted in three stories in the Otago Daily Times as well as coverage in The Star.

4.2 Advertising

Online advertising had a reach of 419,402 and Facebook advertising had a reach of 26,064. Print media adverts have run in The Critic, Otago Daily Times, and The Star with a combined circulation of 95,000. Radio advertisements ran for three weeks across the main networks, with the ZM Black Thunders giving out promotional GoCards to listeners.

An information flyer was distributed to 24,199 houses in the areas with changes to bus routes.

4.3 ORC Website

The Unit 4 changes were publicised on both the ORC website bus page and an upcoming changes section. Between July 17 and August 15 there were 44,126 views of the bus page, an increase of 21% over the same period last year.

4.4 Other channels

New timetables were distributed in July to all Dunedin residential and business addresses, totalling 51,714. Copies have also been distributed to organisations such as Dunedin City Council, I-Site, libraries and bus companies.

Four temporary staff were employed for two weeks from August 8 as ambassadors on the new routes assisting users with the changes.

4.5 Bus advisories

With the recent snow and ice conditions experienced throughout the region, there were a number of bus advisory notices issued via local radio and social media, and our own website. These advisories outlined delayed or cancelled services due to the road conditions. Good feedback on these advisories was received on social media.

5 **ENGINEERING**

A feature article on the Leith and ORC's flood protection scheme written by science communication student Charlotte Panton, who is undertaking an internship at ORC, will appear in the Otago University student newspaper Critic on September 5.

6. **BIOSECURITY**

Liaison and Environmental Monitoring staff participated in both the Maitua and Oamaru events for the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Velvetleaf meetings. About 40 people were at the meetings, mainly from farm industry support groups, but some farmers also attended. A two-hour presentation covered:

- how to identify velvetleaf
- how prolifically it will spread if left unchecked
- how to dispose of it,
- what MPI and regional councils have been doing, and
- what action landowners need to take.

MPI has developed a management plan template for dealing with velvetleaf and three farmers indicated after the meeting they were keen to do this.

Liaison staff members continue to be well informed enabling landholders to access the support and information they need to minimise the impact of Velvetleaf and work toward eradicating this pest plant.

7. **MEDIA MONITORING SUMMARY**

Over the reporting period, there were 136 mentions of the Otago Regional Council in the print media. Of these, 35 were on transport-related issues (mainly related to changing Dunedin bus services), 10 were on the October local government elections, nine were on governance-related issues, seven were on minimum flows and another seven stories were on the Natural Hazards of South Dunedin report.

In addition, there were nine broadcast media mentions.

8. **ONLINE**

There have been 66,905 visits to the ORC website during this period, up 12% on same time last year.

We had 1,389 followers on our Facebook account at the end of this reporting period. There were 62 new posts or post shares during this reporting period. The reach during July was 237,711, which is a percentage increase of 391% on June. This was largely due to the interest in the Unit 4 bus changes during this time.

We have 631 followers on Twitter. There were 73 tweets or retweets during this period.

The water quality and quantity data on www.lawa.org.nz (Land, Air, Water Aotearoa) will be updated in late September to coincide with a regional sector event for World Rivers Day.

9. RECOMMENDATION

That this report is noted.

Caroline Rowe
Director Stakeholder Engagement

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda for a meeting of the Technical Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday, 7 September 2016, following the Communications Committee

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:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 5 September 2016

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

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

Matters arising from minutes

PART A RECOMMENDATIONS

- Item 1
2016/1020 **Wanaka Basin – Cardrona Gravel Aquifer Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR).** DEHS 23/8/16

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) is a management approach to increase the availability of water in aquifers using surface waters to actively replenish groundwater systems. In 2015, ORC commissioned Golder Associates to undertake a pre-feasibility assessment on artificial replenishment of groundwater in the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer with water taken from the Cardrona River during late-winter and spring. The purpose of the work was to help the community and stakeholders understand the range of options available for water management in the lower Cardrona Valley.

The full report “Pre-Feasibility Assessment, Managed Aquifer Recharge Wanaka Cardrona” is circulated separately with the agenda.

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

- Item 2
2016/1023 **Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek Management Flow.** DEHS, 23/8/16

The covering report summaries the hydrological information and assessment of the ecological flow requirements for the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek. The results from the full technical report will inform the minimum flow setting process for the Manuherikia River.

The full technical report ‘Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek’ is circulated separately with the agenda.

- Item 3
2016/0980 **Lake Snow Update.** DEHS, 3/8/16

The report provides details on the definition, background, causes and issues associated with Lake snow (lake snot) in Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu.

- Item 4
2016/0981 **Director’s Report on Progress.** DEHS, 19/8/16

Topics covered in the report are: Leith Flood Protection Scheme; South Dunedin groundwater monitoring and flood hazard system investigation; Green Island sea level monitoring site; Shotover Delta training line and target profile; Clutha bioenergetics and instream habitat modelling.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

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

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: None

Leave of Absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
 Nick Donnelly
 Fraser McRae
 Scott MacLean
 Gavin Palmer
 Caroline Rowe
 Lauren McDonald
 Jean Luc Payan
 Bishnu Gautam
 Lauren Hunter
 Josh Cumberland
 Ben Mackey
 Dean Olsen (Item 2)
 Sharon Hornblow Item (Item 2)
 Chris Valentine
 Karin Little (notetaker)
 Janice Coldicott
 Emily Hong
 Mel Aiken
 Marc Ettema
 Charlotte Panton

Cr Scott extended a welcome to staff members in attendance as observers.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest noted.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Scott and Cr Robertson.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

PART A RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/0909 **South Dunedin Natural Hazards.** DEHS 6/7/16

The report summarised ORC's work to date on the natural hazards of South Dunedin and provided comment on further work and stakeholder engagement. The full report 'The Natural Hazards of South Dunedin – July 2016' was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Scott summarised the key points from the full technical report and confirmed that the intention of the report was to inform discussion on how the identified natural hazards risks should be managed.

Dr Palmer commented that the covering report summarised a comprehensive programme of work by ORC to improve the understanding of South Dunedin's natural hazards. The issues to be addressed were both physical and social.

Dr Palmer, Ms Hornblow and Mr Goldsmith were thanked for a timely, comprehensive, inclusive and quality report.

Cr Deaker commented that the report could be used to inform and assist with gaining wide spread community involvement in discussion on the way forward for South Dunedin. This could occur via neighbourhood meetings to enable discussion of their concerns and answers to their questions.

A comment was made that the report went beyond just one issue, such as sea level rise. The report was a lot broader and included the low risk/high probability hazards and also the high risk but low probability issues, such as tsunami and dune breakthrough.

Cr Robertson commented that Council needed to endorse further community and stakeholder engagement and moved this amendment to the second recommendation.

A question was raised whether further technical investigations were required. Dr Palmer advised that there was already a substantial body of knowledge held and further technical work was not required at this stage. He advised that the next step was community engagement.

Mrs Rowe, Director Stakeholder Engagement advised that:

- stakeholder engagement has commenced with the release of the Natural Hazards of South Dunedin report this week.
- A stakeholder briefing has been held with the University of Otago, key Government stakeholders and MPs.
- The ministerial offices of Paula Bennett, Nick Smith, Stephen Joyce and Bill English have all received a copy of the report.
- ORC are formally working alongside the DCC for direct communication with the community.
- Agency briefings were being prepared for school Board of Trustees, South Dunedin businesses, support agencies and other stakeholders.
- Staff are looking at ways to take the technical report in a summarised form to the community.
- A video on the three key areas: landscape, groundwater, and sea level rise is being developed and will be published on line and used in social media.
- A six page presentation summarising the key areas of the report would be distributed as an insert in the community star newspaper.
- Public sessions are planned for the end of August, early September in conjunction with the DCC. The intent is for these sessions to be more “one-on-one” conversations rather than a public forum.
- Community meetings will be advertised

Mr Bodeker advised that the DCC and ORC executive are co-ordinating a project team, including technical investigations, communications and senior management. He agreed there was a role for someone with the respect of the community to be included in this group. He confirmed the communication plan is a combined communication with the DCC.

Moved Cr Robertson
Seconded Cr Deaker

That;

1. *This report and the report “The Natural Hazards of South Dunedin” are received and noted, and;*
2. *The committee endorse further community and stakeholder engagement within a timely manner.*

Item 2
2016/0910

Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems of the Pig Burn.
DEHS, 8/7/16

The report provided technical information on aquatic ecosystems to support future water management decisions in the Pig Burn catchment. A management flow report (“Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in Pig Burn”) presented hydrological information, instream values and assesses the ecological flow requirements for the Pig Burn.

Cr Scott advised he had received an email from the Pig Burn Water Users group in regard to a number of concerns they had with the report and he has responded to them as Chair of the Technical Committee. He commented that as the report was already public information, that the staff recommendation was for Council to receive the report. He confirmed ORC was open to working through the issues and to meet with the Pig Burn Water Users Group.

Dr Palmer advised that Dr Olsen was reviewing the list of concerns raised by the Pig Burn Water Users Group and will look at how best to address these with the group.

Mr Bodeker asked that the Committee receive and note the report and that the Committee had his assurance that Dr Palmer's team would engage with the community on the points raised by the group.

It was confirmed that holders of Deemed Permit in the catchment will be provided with these reports and engaged with for any issues (offer of engagement).

Dr Palmer advised that a report will be provided to Committees which will outline what the technical programme would be for minimum flow setting work.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Kempton

That;

1. This report and the technical report 'Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in Pig Burn' are received and noted; and
2. These reports are discussed with the holders of deemed permits in these catchment areas.

Motion carried.

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2016/00893 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 13/7/16

Topics covered in the report: Leith Flood Protection Scheme, Albert Town riverbank stability, Land Drainage Pump Stations Durability and Safety improvements, Historic and Future Climate Change, Weather radar for Otago, Dunedin City District Plan Natural Hazards Submissions, and Waikouaiti Estuary Modelling.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Deaker

That this report be received

Motion Carried

Meeting closed at 11:52am

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A928710

Report Number: 2016/1020

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Dr Dean Olsen, Manager Resource Science

Date: 23 August 2016

Subject: **Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)**

1. Précis

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) is a management approach to increase the availability of water in aquifers using surface waters to actively replenish groundwater systems. In 2015, ORC commissioned Golder Associates to undertake a pre-feasibility assessment on artificial replenishment of groundwater in the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer with water taken from the Cardrona River during late-winter and spring. The purpose of the work was to help the community and stakeholders understand the range of options available for water management in the lower Cardrona Valley.

The pre-feasibility assessment showed that it may be possible to use this approach to artificially recharge the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer and hence supply sufficient groundwater to meet the demand for irrigation water on the Wanaka Flats.

A copy of the report “Pre-Feasibility Assessment, Managed Aquifer Recharge Wanaka Cardrona” is attached.

2. Background

The Cardrona River can be split up into three main sections (see Figure 1):

- a neutral reach upstream of Mount Barker, where the aquifer and river are in equilibrium.
- a losing reach between Mount Barker and the State Highway 6 Bridge, where the river loses up to 700 l/s of surface flow to the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer.
- a gaining reach downstream of SH6, where the river receives a steady input of 300 l/s from the aquifer.

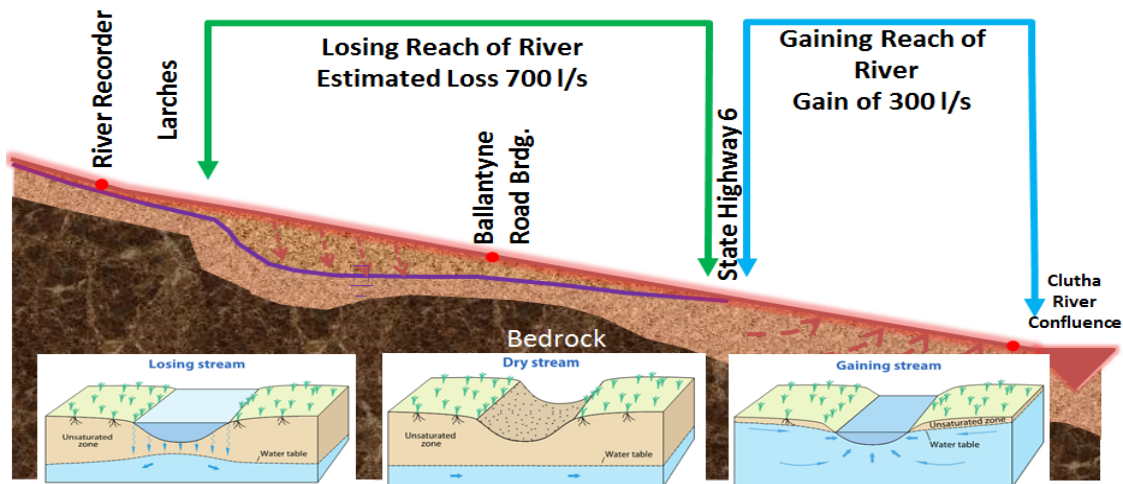


Figure 1: Losing and Gaining reaches of the Cardrona River (from Dale & Rekker 2011)

The total consented primary allocation from the Cardrona catchment is approximately 2,100 l/s, but actual water take is estimated to be less than that (Table 1).

Table 1: Overview of water taking and water use in the Cardrona catchment

	Upstream of the Larches flow monitoring site	Downstream of the Larches flow monitoring site ¹	Total
Consented allocation²	880 l/s	1,260 l/s	2,140 l/s
Estimated water usage³	600 – 650 l/s	500 -750 l/s	1,100 – 1,400 l/s
Estimated size irrigated area	830 ha	820 ha	1,650 ha

In most years the Cardrona River dries up along parts of its lower reaches due to a combination of low natural flows, losses to groundwater and water taking. ORC is proposing to establish a minimum flow on the Cardrona River and has commenced consultation with the community and stakeholders. The Integrated Water Resource Management for the Cardrona River Report (ORC 2011) recommends the following management flows for achieving specific outcomes (Table 2).

¹ Includes water permit 97199, which has a minor point of take upstream of the Larches.

² Includes surface water and connected groundwater takes from the Cardrona River.

³ The estimates shown in Table 1 represent a probable range (rather than a single number) due to the lack of metering data for many of the consented water takes in the Cardrona at the time of analysis.

Table 2: Overview of flow requirements for key outcomes

Outcome	Flow @ The Larches Flow monitoring site	Flow at SH 6 Bridge	Flow @ Clutha Confluence Flow monitoring site
Flow continuity	800 l/s	100 l/s	400 l/s
Instream values (trout spawning)	1,100 l/s	400 l/s	700 l/s

The use of groundwater from the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer as an alternative water source is not currently feasible. The aquifer is currently fully allocated and there is a risk of localised water table decline in the future due to reduced recharge from irrigation losses due to the conversion from flood to spray irrigation and the conversion of formerly irrigated farmland to residential developments.

3. Managed Aquifer Recharge

MAR involves taking water from a surface water source at times of high surface flows and artificially recharging the aquifer via infiltration ponds or soakage sumps. This water is then available for water users to abstract at times of demand. It is also used in some areas to dilute high concentrations of nutrients in aquifers (e.g. Hinds in Canterbury). In Otago, there are some small-scale examples of the artificial recharge of aquifers by surplus water from irrigation races (e.g. Roxburgh Aquifer).

The opportunity to use MAR to resolve the potential conflict between the abstraction of water from the Cardrona River for irrigation and environmental outcomes was identified in early 2015. Potential benefits of MAR in the lower Cardrona catchment are:

- Flow continuity along with current levels of irrigation in the lower Cardrona River becomes possible
- Avoids water loss/wastage associated with surface takes and transport of water from point of take to where it is to be used for irrigation
- Mitigates the risk of reduced flows in Bullock Creek resulting from reduced recharge of the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer
- Improved reliability of water supply for irrigators downstream of the Larches
- Improved access to water for residents on the Wanaka Flats by halting the trend of reducing groundwater levels in the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer

In 2015, ORC commissioned Golder Associates to undertake a pre-feasibility assessment on artificial recharge of groundwater in the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer with water taken from the Cardrona River during late winter and spring. The pre-feasibility assessment showed that it may be possible to use this technology to artificially recharge the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer and hence supply sufficient groundwater to meet the demand for irrigation water on the Wanaka Flats. It also identified a favourable recharge site in the aquifer.

The *MAR Pre-Feasibility Assessment* Report concludes that “*At this initial stage no potentially fatal flaws have been identified facing a Wanaka Cardrona managed aquifer recharge project*”

However, the report also states that some aspects of a managed aquifer recharge project require careful management. Technical risk factors impacting on the ability of MAR technology to deliver on a successful outcome are:

- The water supply and drainage infrastructure must enable the recharge of the aquifer at a rate of no less than 540 l/s for 120 days during late winter and spring.
- Artificially replenished groundwater must be able to be retrieved at sufficiently high rate and in sufficient volumes.
- Downstream effects (risk of raised flows in Bullock Creek).

It is proposed that the report pre-feasibility report is provided to the water users within the Cardrona Valley and other stakeholders.

4. Recommendations

That:

1. *This report is noted.*
2. *The report “Pre-Feasibility Assessment, Managed Aquifer Recharge Wanaka Cardrona” is provided to the water users within the Cardrona Valley and other stakeholders.*

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A928967

Report Number: 2016/1023

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Dr Dean Olsen, Manager Resource Science

Date: 23 August 2016

Subject: **Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek management flow**

1. Précis

The Manuherikia River (catchment area: 3033 km²) located in Central Otago is considered to have the most continental climate in the country. It is characterised by cold winters and warm dry summers. Low rainfall combined with high water demand (maximum consented take: 32 m³/s) means that surface water in the catchment is very heavily allocated. The Manuherikia River supports a regionally significant brown trout fishery and is among the most popular river fisheries in Otago. Nine native fish are present in the Manuherikia catchment including three threatened species of non-migratory galaxias: Central Otago roundhead galaxias and alpine galaxias (Manuherikia) are classified as “nationally endangered” while the Clutha flathead galaxias is classified as “nationally critical”, the highest threat classification in New Zealand (Goodman *et al.* 2014). Koaro and longfin eels are also present in the catchment and are listed as “at risk, declining” in the most recent threat classification (Goodman *et al.* 2014). In addition, koura (freshwater crayfish) are also present and also have a threat classification of “at risk, declining” (Granger *et al.* 2014).

A management flow report (“Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek”) has been prepared presenting hydrological information and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek. This assessment was informed by work undertaken for ORC by the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric research (NIWA) and Golder Associates. NIWA carried out in-stream habitat modelling in the upper (Duncan & Bind 2016) and lower Manuherikia River (Jowett & Wilding 2003) as well as providing modelled low flow statistics for the Manuherikia River at the Ophir and campground flow sites (Henderson 2016). Golder Associates undertook instream habitat modelling in Dunstan Creek (Golder Associates 2008). The report was peer-reviewed by Maurice Duncan (Senior scientist, NIWA), and this review included detailed assessment of hydrological analyses.

The objective of this report was to present information on the Manuherikia catchment that is relevant to inform the setting of minimum flows in the mainstem of the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek including:

- the hydrology and existing water allocation in Manuherikia River
- the aquatic values of Manuherikia River
- presentation, analysis and interpretation of the results of instream habitat modelling undertaken for three sites in Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek to estimate the flows required to maintain aquatic ecological values.

Recorded flows in Dunstan Creek at Gorge and in the upper Manuherikia River at downstream of forks were used as the key reference flow sites for estimating the naturalised low-flow statistics for other locations within the upper catchment, which are summarised in the following table:

Location	Flow data type	7-d MALF ¹ (m ³ /s)
Upper Manuherikia River at downstream of forks	Naturalised (gaps filled)	1.009
Manuherikia River downstream of Falls Dam	Naturalised	1.532
	Existing	1.737
Manuherikia River at Blackstone Bridge	Naturalised	1.779
	Estimated 'existing'	1.513-1.947
Manuherikia at Ophir	Modelled natural	3.200 (±600)
	Existing	2.197
Manuherikia at campground	Modelled natural	3.900 (±800)
	Existing	0.915
Dunstan Creek at Gorge	Natural (gaps filled)	0.692
Dunstan Creek at Loop Road Bridge	Naturalised	0.779
Dunstan Creek at Beattie Road	Naturalised	0.934
	Existing	0.35

Instream habitat modelling was conducted to determine how changes in flow affect habitat for fish, macroinvertebrates and algae at three locations in the Manuherikia catchment: upper and lower Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek. Two flow baselines were used in this analysis: 1) naturalised flows, and 2) existing flows. Naturalised flows estimate what the flow in the river would be in the absence of Falls Dam and without any abstraction. In contrast, existing flows are those currently experienced in the river and are influenced by the management of Falls Dam and current abstractions from the river.

¹ 7-d MALF = the 7-day mean low flow, the average of the lowest arithmetic mean of seven consecutive daily values of flows. Values presented were calculated for the irrigation season (October to April).

The outcomes of instream habitat analyses are summarised in the following table:

		Units	Manuherikia at Ophir	Manuherikia at Campground	Dunstan Creek at Beattie Road
Naturalised 7-d MALF		m ³ /s	3.200	3.900	0.934
Existing 7-d MALF		m ³ /s	2.197	0.915	0.350
Flow requirement based on:	Naturalised flow baseline	m ³ /s	2.500	2.500	0.750
	Existing flow baseline	m ³ /s	1.741	0.750	-
Flow providing twice brown trout adult habitat available at existing flow		m ³ /s	-	1.500	-
Flow providing three times brown trout adult habitat available at existing flow		m ³ /s	-	2.000	-

The results of instream habitat modelling for the lower Manuherikia vary markedly depending on the baseline flow used for calculation of habitat retention. The differences between the flow recommendations based on the two baselines highlight the difficulty associated with using the habitat retention approach in a river with such a modified hydrology.

An alternative approach would be to choose a flow that would improve habitat relative to the existing baseline, but may be lower than that recommended based on the naturalised baseline.

The results from the technical report will inform the minimum flow-setting process for the Manuherikia River.

2. Recommendation

That this report and the technical report 'Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek' are received and noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

REPORT

Document Id: A923691

Report Number: 2016/0980

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Dr Adam Uytendaal, Environmental Resource Scientist - Freshwater

Date: 3 August 2016

Subject: **Lake Snow update - Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu**

1. Précis

Lake snow (or more recently termed 'lake snot') is the name given to the material formed by the clumping together of microscopic bacteria and algae with a sticky, mucus-like polysaccharide material excreted by the diatom *Cyclotella bodanica* (aka *Lindavia intermedia*). *Cyclotella bodanica* and associated lake snow is non-toxic and poses no known human health risk.

Algae are a vital component of a healthy lake ecosystem and form the base of the food chain for zooplankton, fish and other aquatic organisms. In Lake Wanaka, prior to 2004, there appears to have been a shift in algal community structure from one dominated by the microscopic Picocyanobacteria (that doesn't produce 'lake snow') to one dominated by diatoms and the 'lake snow' producing *Cyclotella bodanica*.

In May 2016, Otago Regional Council (ORC) received a sample of lake snow collected from Lake Wakatipu. It is our understanding that this is the first confirmed sample of lake snow and the associated diatom *Cyclotella bodanica* being collected from Lake Wakatipu.

For a number of years lake snow has been causing significant problems in Lake Wanaka over summer months. Problems include:

- Fouling of fishing gear and blocking of boat water intake filters,
- Blocking of household domestic devices attached to the reticulated water supply drawn from the lake such as drinking water filters, washing machines and sprinklers.

In the case of Lake Wanaka, QLDC have invested in infrastructure to help alleviate the issues caused by algal material being entrained and reticulated through the domestic water supply. This includes in line filtration systems and the investigation of alternate points of water take such as lake shore groundwater takes.

Lake snow has also been recorded from 2012 in Lake Coleridge. An algae specialist, Dr Phil Novis (Landcare Research), has confirmed that the same species of algae is associated with lake snow in all three lakes.

The likely cause of lake snow may be attributed to one or a number of possible factors including climate change effects, the introduction of the North American water flea (*Daphnia pulex*) that grazes on phytoplankton, and the possibility of increased nutrient loading to the lakes from land use changes and intensification. Each of these factors

may on their own, or in tandem, influence the phytoplankton community structure and lead to a shift in the dominant species, such as has appeared to occur in Lake Wanaka and now more recently, Lake Wakatipu.

There is also growing evidence pointing to the possibility that *Cyclotella bodanica* is a non-native species of algae recently introduced to the lakes. At present there is a lack of knowledge of its colonisation history in New Zealand. Further research, such as DNA analysis of New Zealand and overseas strains as well as lake sediment core analysis, would help establish the colonisation history of *Cyclotella bodanica* in New Zealand.

Previously, ORC has contributed to funding a postgraduate PhD project by Amy Weaver (supervised by Marc Schallenberg and Carolyn Burns of the University of Otago), to study the effect of changing land use on water quality in tributaries of the Lake Wanaka catchment. A small part of A. Weaver's thesis examined whether the addition of nitrogen and phosphorus to water from Lake Wanaka stimulated lake snow production – it did. While the results of this study confirm that nutrient enrichment increased the production of lake snow, it cannot be concluded from this study that landuse change has caused the development of lake snow.

In September 2016, ORC will begin a sampling program on Lake Wanaka, Wakatipu and Hawea. As part of this programme, information will be collected that will help experts better understand our southern lakes and add to our understanding of the lake snow phenomena.

At this point in time there are no definitive management options to address lake snow and further research is needed to understand exactly why lake snow is present in these lakes, particularly as it relates to the history of this organism being in New Zealand.

2. Discovery of lake snow in Lake Wakatipu

On 4th of May, 2016, ORC received an algal sample from a member of the public. The algal sample had accumulated on fishing gear that had been trolled down to a depth of 25 m in the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu. The person who collected the sample was concerned it may have been *Didymo*.

Ryder Consulting were contracted to identify the algae and describe the nature of the material. Ryder's analysis found the sample to be dominated by a species of *Cyclotella* diatom. *Cyclotella* is the diatom that has caused problems in Lake Wanaka with the associated formation of lake snow. Ryder's described the material as being similar in nature to descriptions of lake snow collected from Lake Wanaka.

For identification of the *Cyclotella* diatom down to species level, the algal sample was sent to Phil Novus (Allan Herbarium, Landcare Research). Landcare Research concluded that the lake snow sample collected from Lake Wakatipu was the same species collected from both Lakes Wanaka and Coleridge.

The circumstance that the sample was collected, as well as subsequent photos supplied by the boat operator of algae material blocking the boat's water intake filter (Figure 1), is consistent with the sample taken from Lake Wakatipu as being that of 'lake snow'.



Figure 1. Photo of blocked boat engine water intake filter from Lake Wakatipu, May 2016.

This is the first known sample of *Cyclotella bodanica* and associated lake snow to be collected from Lake Wakatipu.

3. Background on lake snow

Lake snow is a term given to the clumping together of microscopic bacteria and algae with a mucus-like polysaccharide material. It is caused by secretion and aggregation of long strings of polysaccharides released by diatoms, in this case *Cyclotella bodanica*. The diatom secretes the 'glue' like material that then binds with similar material produced by individuals of the same species. This in-turn produces a large sticky 'aggregate' (up to c. 10 mm) that floats mid-water and can collect on fishing lines, in water intakes of boats and also cause problems with domestic water supplies. Particles of sediment and organic detritus can collect in the sticky matrix and bacteria, protozoans, and other microorganisms can grow in the lake snow aggregates, producing a novel microbial ecosystem. Figure 2 and Figure 3 show pictures of lake snow.



Figure 2. Photograph of lake snow aggregate. Note the individual small oval *Cyclotella* diatoms through the complex bound together by strings of polysaccharide produced by the diatom.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94xs81d6w9Q>.

In his 23 years of work on New Zealand lakes, Marc Schallenberg of the University of Otago has personally sampled over 80 lakes and has only found lake snow in lakes Wanaka and Dunstan (in the case of Lake Dunstan, where it was found in February 2015, it is hypothesised that it is likely washed downstream from Lake Wanaka). In February 2015, it was not found in Lake Wakatipu or Lake Hawea. Previous to this survey, a smaller species of *Cyclotella* had been identified from Lake Wakatipu but was not the one associated with the formation of lake snow (MWH, 2011).

More recently, Marc Schallenberg (University of Otago) has been collaborating with Dr Emilie Saulnier-Talbot (Laval University, Canada) on studying historic diatom occurrence in sediment cores from lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu. This type of work is known as paleolimnology and allows the researcher to assess the historic occurrence of particular diatom species based on ageing of sediments combined with the occurrence of well-preserved diatom frustules or ‘shells’ (made of silicate) in the sediment core. The process can allow an accurate insight into changes in diatom community structure going back many thousands of years.

The recent work of Schallenberg and Saulnier concluded “that *Cyclotella* is likely to be a new organism in Lake Wanaka. A microscopic analysis of algae remains preserved in the lake bed sediments showed the first appearance of *Cyclotella* cells in the lake occurred in around the year 2004, around the same time that slime problems were noticed. Prior studies (Reid, 2005) in two other South Island lakes (Aviemore and Hayes) had found this organism to be present in those lakes, but in relatively low numbers. So the research to date indicates that the organism was present in South Island lakes in low numbers, without producing lake snot, before it found a more suitable habitat in Lake Wanaka, where it produces lake snot.”¹ (SCOOP SciTech June 3rd, 2016)

For further background information, the University of Otago released a short video describing lake snow - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94xs81d6w9Q>.

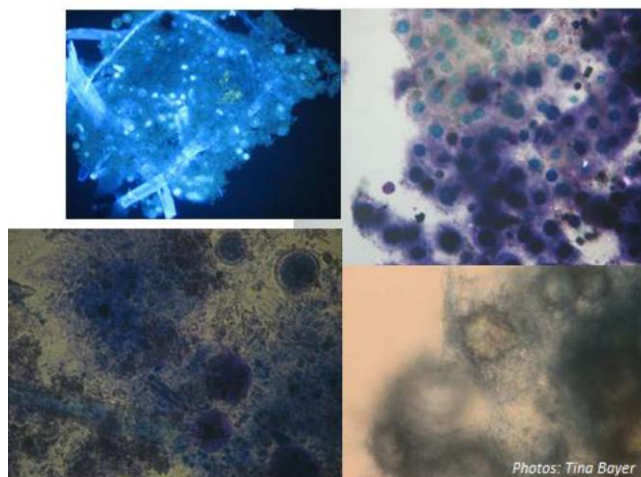


Figure 3. Images of Lake Snow. The individual oval (centric) cells of *Cyclotella* are evident in the mucilaginous material.

Source: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/role/guardians-of-lake-wanaka-seminar.pdf> - Page 6.

¹ <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1606/S00008/lake-snot-spreading-among-iconic-south-island-lakes.htm>

What has caused lake snow to be present?

From limited data collected in Lake Wanaka, it appears there has been a shift in the dominant algae in the lake. In 1994 and 2002 Otago University student research found picocyanobacteria to be dominant in the lake. Picocyanobacteria are an extremely small algal species that typically dominate low nutrient systems. They are also the dominant plankton in nutrient-poor parts of the open ocean. In Lake Wanaka, by 2008 they had largely been replaced by the diatom *Cyclotella* (Schallenberg, 2013). This has resulted in a shift in phytoplankton biomass from an extremely small organism (picocyanobacteria which are 1-2 μm in diameter) to a somewhat larger organism (*Cyclotella bodanica* which is around 10 to 20 μm in diameter; (see Schallenberg, 2013).

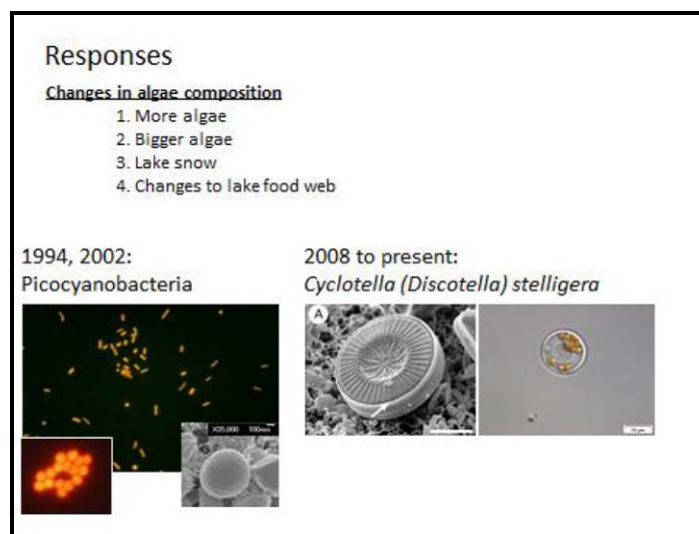


Figure 4. Changes in algal composition of Lake Wanaka. Source: Schallenberg, 2013. Note that subsequent investigation by E. Saulnier-Talbot identified the species present since 2008 as *Cyclotella bodanica*.

There are a number of hypotheses as to why lake snow has become prevalent in Lake Wanaka. Should lake snow become a common occurrence in Lake Wakatipu, then similar environmental pressures may be influencing the observed change in algal community structure in this lake. Possible causes for a change in algal community structure from one dominated by picocyanobacteria to one dominated by diatoms include:

- Climate change effects. Subtle increases in temperature may favour different species of algae and cause a shift in community composition.
- Land-use changes and increased nutrient loading to the lake. Even very slight increases in nutrients in an oligotrophic (nutrient deficient) lake can result in marked changes in algal production and community composition. Picocyanobacteria are known to be very competitive in lakes with extremely low nutrients due to their high surface area to volume ratio making them very efficient at scavenging nutrients for growth and reproduction.

- Grazing pressure from the introduced water flea *Daphnia pulex*, an extremely efficient and high volume grazer that is a more efficient consumer of algae than the New Zealand native water flea, *D. pulex*. The introduction of a North American species of daphnia, *Daphnia pulex*, to South Island New Zealand lakes was first recorded in 2005. This animal has the capacity to exert significant grazing pressure on phytoplankton communities that may result in changes in phytoplankton community composition through size and species selection when grazing. It is possible that increased grazing pressure could favour *Cyclotella* if the formation of lake snow inhibits grazing by *Daphnia*.
- That *Cyclotella bodanica* (aka *Lindavia intermedia*) is a recently introduced, non-native species of algae that has established and become dominant in the Southern Lakes.

4. Issues associated with lake snow

Although *Cyclotella bodanica* and associated lake snow is non-toxic and poses no known human health risk, there are a number of issues associated with lake snow being present in a lake. The list below is documented from Lake Wanaka. Should lake snow become prevalent in Lake Wakatipu, then similar issues would be expected there also:

- Fouling of fishing gear. Some charter operators have stopped fishing Lake Wanaka due to fishing gear being continuously covered with lake snow. Commercial fishing operators have reported progressively worsening conditions of lake snow fouling gear since 2003.
- Blocking of boat water intake filters (see Figure 1).
- For domestic water supplies, clogging of water filters, washing machines, water pipes and sprinkler systems. QLDC have been recording customer complaints from 2008 for clogged filter systems from homes that they provide water to. The water is drawn from Lake Wanaka. The complaints typically occur between December and March (warmer months) when algal productivity in the lake is at a peak due to warmer water temperatures and high light availability. At significant cost, QLDC are trialling infrastructure to reduce the possibility of ingress of lake snow to the domestic water supply system.
- There have been anecdotal reports that lake snow has been observed attached to multisport athlete swimmers and to boat hulls (affecting boat performance) in Lake Wanaka.
- The presence of lake snow is likely to affect the aquatic food web of the lakes it is found in and probably alters the transfer of phytoplankton food to higher trophic levels (e.g., fish). This will probably impact fisheries in the lake, although it is not yet known what the outcome for fisheries will be.

5. Where to from here?

There is still no clear understanding as to what is causing lake snow to form in Lake Wanaka and now, Lake Wakatipu. The hypotheses discussed above remain untested.

The spread of lake snow through our Southern Lakes has economic implications in terms of domestic and industrial water supplies, recreation and tourism. Lake snow also raises questions around the potential roles of biological invasions and environmental change.

The possibility that *Cyclotella bodanica* is an invasive species poses significant biosecurity implications to Otago and elsewhere across New Zealand. This question is central to understanding appropriate management responses to lake snow. ORC intends to approach Biosecurity New Zealand to discuss the possibility that this algae is an invasive species.

In collaboration with Landcare Research and the University of Otago, ORC will investigate options to further our understanding of the history of *Cyclotella bodanica* in New Zealand. Comparison of the DNA of *Cyclotella* collected from Otago's Southern Lakes to the DNA of *Cyclotella* collected overseas would allow experts to determine how long this alga has been present in the country. Should suitable samples be available from overseas, DNA analysis could be completed within 4 to 6 months. The findings will be shared with QLDC and Biosecurity New Zealand.

In September 2016 Otago Regional Council are due to begin the Trophic Lake Studies on lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea. The previous sampling round was carried out from 2006 to 2009 (lakes Wakatipu and Wanaka). The current sampling round provides an opportunity to collect additional information to help inform our understanding of lake processes, algal community structure, the occurrence of lake snow, and the overall trophic status of the Otago Southern Lakes.

ORC are currently reviewing the planned Trophic Lake Sampling program, with support from the University of Otago, to ensure, that the most appropriate data is collected during the course of the sampling program.

6. Recommendations

That this report be received and noted

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards & Science

7. References

Schallenberg, M. 2013. 'Lake Wanaka – Past, Present and Future'. **Seminar hosted by Guardians of Lake Wanaka titled “Lake Wanaka – for better or worse? Planning for the future”**. <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/role/guardians-of-lake-wanaka-seminar.pdf>

Reid, M. 2005. Diatom-based models for reconstructing past water quality and productivity in New Zealand lakes. *Journal of Paleolimnology* **33**: 13-38

Additional references

The University of Otago released a short video describing lake snow -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94xs81d6w9Q>

In March 2013, The Guardians of Lake Wanaka hosted a seminar on the future of the lake. The seminar was titled “LAKE WANAKA – FOR BETTER OR WORSE? PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE” and includes a number of articles on lake snow. The proceedings of the seminar are published online at:
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/role/guardians-of-lake-wanaka-seminar.pdf>

In October 2010 QLDC published a self-help leaflet for domestic water users titled “Managing Algae in the Lake Wanaka Water Supply”:
http://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/OldImages/content/council_services/Water_Services/Managing_Wanaka_Alga_Brochure.pdf

MWH produced a report on behalf of QLDC looking into lake snow in Lake Wanaka and potential solution for the domestic (potable) reticulated water supply. Previously this report was available online.

Thesis on the production of polysaccharide (EPS) secretions by diatoms and the role they play in the ecology of the species:
https://kops.uni-konstanz.de/bitstream/handle/123456789/6836/Bahulikar_Diss.pdf?sequence=1

REPORT

Document Id: A923945

Report No: 2016/0981
Prepared For: Technical Committee
Prepared By: Dr Dean Olsen, Manager Resource Science
Dr Jean-Luc Payan, Manager Natural Hazards
Chris Valentine, Manager Engineering

Date: 19 August 2016

Subject: **Director's Report on Progress**

1. Leith Flood Protection Scheme

Construction work is essentially completed on the Dundas Street to St David Street reach of the Leith Flood Protection Scheme and the site has been reopened to the public (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Dundas Street to St David Street Reach of the Water of Leith, St David Street pathway (left) and looking towards Dundas Street (right), on 19 August 2016.

Detailed design work for the flood protection works between Union Street and Leith Street Footbridge is underway. The design has been broken into three work packages.

The 1:25 scale physical hydraulic model for the section of Water of Leith between the Union Street Bridge and the Clyde Street that has constructed by the University of Auckland (School of Civil and Environmental Engineering) is now in the calibration phase (Figure 2). During this phase, the model is run and adjusted to match observations and measurements collected during recent past high flow events such as June 2015 and May 2016 (peak flow of approximately $100\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ and $30\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ respectively).



Figure 2: Progress on the construction of the physical hydraulic model for the Water of Leith between the Union Street Bridge and Clyde Street Bridge (left: model during the construction phase on 4 August 2016; right: model at the beginning of the calibration phase on 7 August 2016).

The model will be used to test the hydraulic behaviour of this section of Water of Leith with the design flow for this reach ($202\text{m}^3/\text{s}$) and to test and adjust, if required, the proposed flood mitigation works. The modelling complements similar physical modelling undertaken in 2005.

2. South Dunedin groundwater monitoring and flood hazard system investigation

Groundwater level data collected at the four bores in South Dunedin (Bathgate Park, Tonga Park, Kennedy Street and Culling Park) is now all telemetered and available to the public on real-time at the ORC WaterInfo webpage. This allows the public and stakeholders to be informed of the latest groundwater levels around South Dunedin.

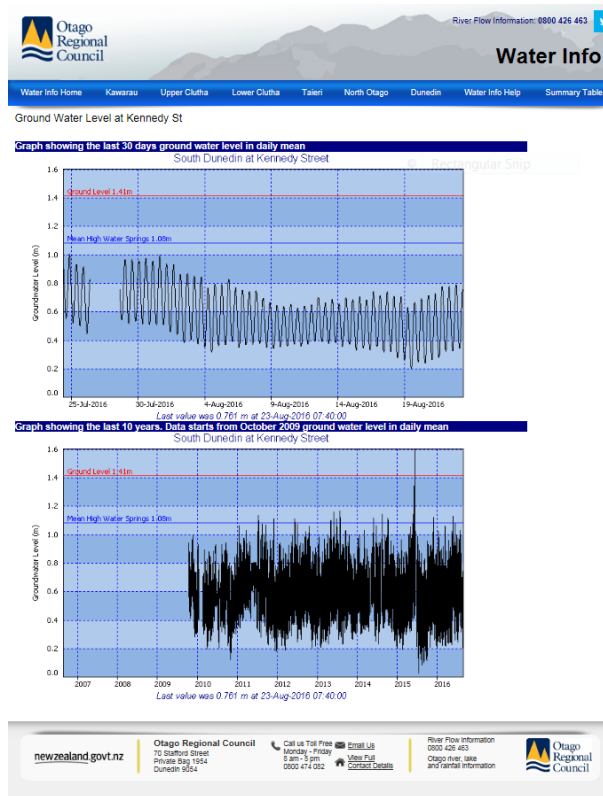


Figure 3: Kennedy Street (South Dunedin) groundwater levels displayed on WaterInfo in real-time

Investigations aiming at establishing a flood-hazard assessment system for South Dunedin using observed or forecast rainfall observations are also underway. An initial workshop between ORC and DCC staff has been held to discuss the approach and data availability. The purpose of the system, if proved feasible, is to complement the real time data currently available (rainfall and groundwater levels) by giving a longer warning time for possible flooding at the onset or during heavy rainfall events. It will help staff distinguish combinations of rainfall and groundwater levels that are unlikely to cause surface flooding from combinations that have the potential to cause flooding.

3. Green Island sea level monitoring site

A global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver and antenna were purchased by the ORC. The equipment was tested by the University of Otago (School of Surveying) and will be installed at the Green Island sea level monitoring site during the first week of September. Data collected by this equipment will be used to monitor and determine the tectonic stability (i.e. long-term ground level changes) of the monitoring site and long-term trends in absolute sea level.

4. Shotover Delta training line and target profile

Dr Payan and Dr Hornblow recently accompanied 32 Natural Resources Engineering students and staff from the University of Canterbury on a visit to the Shotover delta. ORC has hosted similar visits for the past three years, which involve explaining the sedimentation issues associated with the delta and ORC's training line and delta management works. Those works include commercial operators extracting gravel using

the consents held by ORC, to help achieve the target delta profile. Approximately 440,000 cubic metres of gravel has been removed from the delta by commercial operators over the past 18 months.



Figure 4: Shotover Delta from the road to The Remarkables ski fields on 23 August 2016

5. Clutha bioenergetics and instream habitat modelling

NIWA took advantage of recent low flows in the upper Clutha to undertake the final surveys in the upper Clutha River to calibrate the 2-dimensional hydraulic model they are developing as part of the Clutha bioenergetics modelling project. The surveys were undertaken on 26 August. This work was possible due to Contact Energy Ltd agreeing to reduce outflows from Lake Hawea so that the Clutha dropped to the target flow range ($>150 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$).

Bioenergetics modelling will ultimately predict the number of trout that the upper Clutha River can support at different flows. The bioenergetics model sits on top of a more traditional instream habitat model, which is being developed for the upper Clutha by NIWA. The first surveys for physical and habitat modelling were completed early in the year with the data collected during the first survey being used to develop a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the study reach (Figure 5).

Aquatic invertebrate drift sampling to be carried out by Cawthron was delayed due to unfavourable flows and large volumes of willow leaves being present in the drift (which clog the drift nets) and it is now scheduled to take place in September/October when water temperatures rise, daylight hours are sufficient to undertake the work and flows are low. As previously advised to committee the delay will have no effect on the programme for setting a minimum flow.

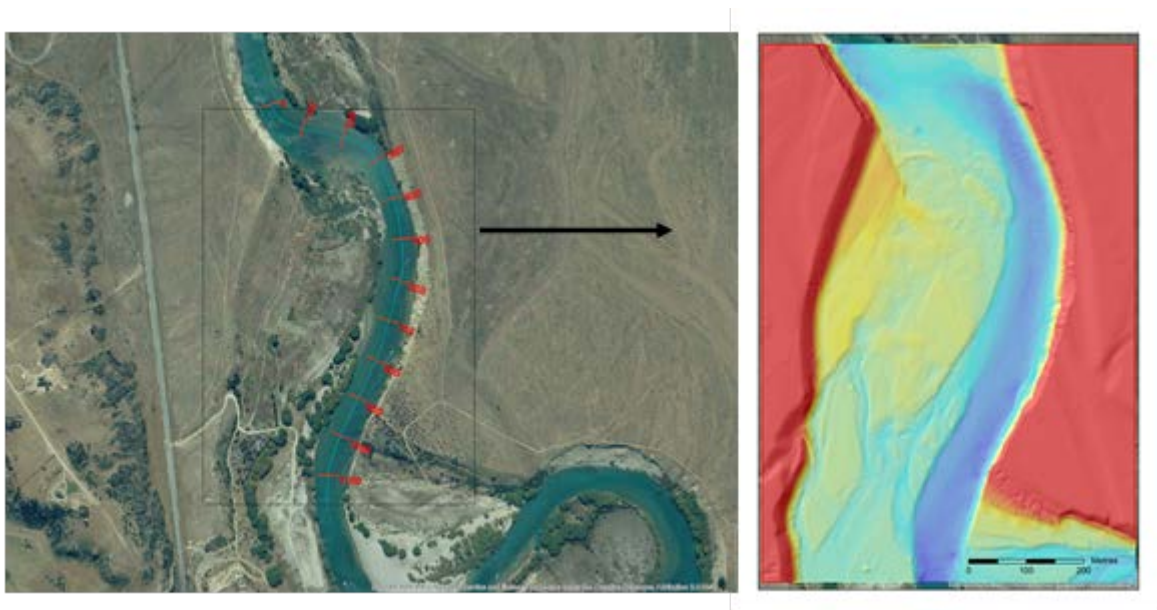


Figure 5: Aerial photo including survey transects and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the Clutha / Mata Au Bioenergetics study reach. The DEM forms the basis of the hydrodynamic model.

6. Recommendation

That this report is noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

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 Technical 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:

In attendance:

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Monday 5 September 2016.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

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

Matters arising from minutes

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/1019 **Annual Return of Inactive Subsidiaries.** DCS, 23/8/16

The report outlines the inactive subsidiaries of ORC owned companies: Regional Services Ltd; Regional Pest Services Limited; Regional Monitoring Services Limited and the requirement under the Companies Act for an Annual Return to be completed.

Item 2

2016/1026 **Executive report.** DCS, 24/8/16

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: 2015/16 Annual Report; rates; Kuriwao Endowment land, and account payments.

PART B – FOR NOTING

Item 3

2016/1028 . **12 Month Review to 30 June 2016.** DCS, 25/8/16

The report summarises the project progress for the 12 months to 30 June 2016. The full financial position of Council for the year ended 30 June 2016 will be presented in the Annual Report to the Council at its meeting on 28 September 2016.

The report '12 Month Review to 30 June 2016' is circulated separately with the agenda.

Item 4

2016/1030 **Passenger Transport Update – August 2016.** DCS 26/8/16

The report provides a brief cover of the Unit 4 services and fare zone structure changes implemented on 15 August 2016, including the implementation of the Unit 4 service; fare zones and same zone free transfer; the Bus hub/interchange and Total Mobility.

Item 5

2016/1034 **Queenstown Lakes District Council – Park and Ride Trial Wakatipu.**
DCS, 29/8/2016

This report outlines the proposed trial of a park and ride service between the Frankton area and the Queenstown CBD, which is being considered by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). The intention of the trial is to assist in evaluating whether there is a long term need for such as service within the network.

PART C - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

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

The general subject of each matter to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each 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 of each matter to be considered	Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution	Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution
Item 6	Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee meeting held on 16 June 2016	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out negotiations, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. S7(2)(h)	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 to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 20 July 2016, commencing at 9:02am

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

Leave of absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Nick Donnelly
- Fraser McRae
- Scott McLean
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Gerard Collings
- Lauren McDonald
- Gerard Collings (Items 2,3,4)
- Dave Faulkner (Chair Port Otago Ltd) Item 1
- Geoff Plunket (CE, Port Otago Ltd) Item 1
- Emily Hong
- Cher Da Rin
- Mel Aicken.

Cr Shepherd welcomed staff members to the meeting and they were introduced to Councillors.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum

MINUTES

Minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 8 June 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Shepherd and Cr Kelliher with the noting of a typing error on page 8.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/0935 **Port Otago Ltd – Draft Statement of Corporate Intent.** DCS, 8/7/16

The report set out the Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago Ltd and its subsidiaries for the three years to 30 June 2019.

Cr Shepherd summarised the draft statement including the key activities.

A question was raised on progress on community consultation in regard to Te Raone Beach and if this would be included in 1.11 or 1.12 of the Port Otago Ltd's operations section of the statement.

Mr Faulker advised that Te Raone Beach was still under consultation with the community group. A meeting was to be held on Monday 26 June as the next step to work towards an end result. He advised that Port Otago Ltd were looking for a solution that will work, however, coastal engineering work was not the easiest and was taking time.

Cr Woodhead noted in regard to Chalmers Properties 1.18, the construction was for two office/warehouse buildings and in the development there is a mix of selling bare land, as well developing of a couple of sites.

Mr Faulkner commented that the Hamilton site was originally going to be all ground leased but this was found not to be effective long term. It was now proposed to sell and develop sections as they were reasonably able. He advised that Chalmers Properties would be developing sites like the Steel and Tube office/warehouse development, retaining the leasehold, to gain income in the future.

Cr Woodhead commented it was good to understand the activities outlined including the potential of the inland port detailed in the report.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Croot

That the Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for Port Otago Limited and its subsidiaries and associates for the three years to 30 June 2019, be endorsed.

Motion Carried

Mr Faulkner and Mr Plunkett left the meeting at 9:16am

Item 2

2016/854 **Unit 5 Southern Routes – Concord – South Dunedin Investigation.**
DCS, 7/7/16

The report provided information on the options investigated in regard to the Unit 5 Southern Routes service changes and the petition received by Council on 23 March 2016 to “*extend the Brighton-Abbotsford-Green Island bus service to Dunedin via Concord, Corstorphine, Caversham and South Dunedin as a local service in addition to the present express bus service*”. Maps for the route options were circulated separately.

A concern was expressed that the options tabled only referenced gross cost and did not attempt to model potential income and that Council will only consult with the group affected – i.e. Concord / Green Island residents.

Mr Donnelly advised that any change would be implemented in February 2017 and consultation would occur prior to that. Under the Regional Passenger Transport Policy (RPTP) Council was only required to consult on the change being made rather than consulting on the whole RPTP. He confirmed that anyone is able to make a submission, not just those residents in the area directly affected by the change.

Regarding potential income Mr Donnelly noted that comment had been made in the report on patronage and the likely impact on other services. He advised to estimate income for each of the options was quite complex as it depended on patronage, impact across other services and was therefore difficult to quantify.

Cr Woodhead confirmed that when Unit 5 was put in place last year (2015), Council became aware of this issue for the South Dunedin, Concord, Green Island link. He commented that the South Dunedin connection was covered from 15 August 2016, with a free transfer within the zone. He advised that Council is endeavouring to consolidate the routes, make them more direct and timely, and this was a key objective of the RPTP. He thanked staff for the report which provided a lot of analysis of various options.

A request was made that the information contained in the report be provided to the public who have an interest, so they can see the complicated mass of data and projections involved in making changes to public transport services.

Mr Donnelly confirmed there is public access to the information Council has received.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Deaker

- 1) *That the report be received.*
- 2) *Council confirm option 2 as its preferred option.*
- 3) *Staff to prepare a consultation plan for an amendment to the Regional Public Transport Plan for consideration at the next Finance and Corporate Committee meeting.*

Motion carried

Item 3

2016/0939 **Passenger Transport Update – July 2016.** MCS, 8/7/2016

The report provided an update on the new Unit 4 services and fare zone structure, community awareness campaign, update on the concept designs for the Dunedin Bus hub/interchange, Super Gold card funding and the new total mobility system.

Cr Shepherd confirmed that staff are in the process of informing the public of the Unit 4 changes effective from 15 August 2016. He advised discussion on the Bus hub design was to be held in Council workshop.

Moved Cr Scott
Seconded Cr Croot

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 4

2016/0937 **Insurance Renewals 2016/17.** DCS, 7/7/16

This report outlined the Council's insurance renewals for the period 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Mr Donnelly noted the overall cost of insurance is only slightly higher than last year due to the inclusion of Statutory and Employer's Liability cover. This has been added in response to the new Health & Safety legislation as defence costs could be significant and it was therefore deemed prudent to put this additional cover in place.

Moved Cr Kelliher
Seconded Cr Croot

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 5

2016/0938 **Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2016.** DCS, 8/7/16

The report outlined the key provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No 2), introduced in June 2016.

The Bill's purpose is to implement a set of reforms to enable improved service delivery and infrastructure provision arrangements at a local government level. It contributes to the delivery of key government priorities to deliver better public services and build a more productive and competitive economy.

Cr Shepherd confirmed that SOLGM have prepared a submission on the Bill.

Discussion

Cr Woodhead advised there is also some joint work being undertaken by SOLGM and LGNZ on this Bill and that it was quite a complex amendment to the Act, requiring a lot of work to pull all the information together and get clarity on what it means. He confirmed the Amendment Bill will be discussed at the LGNZ conference next week, with submissions closing on 28 July.

Cr Woodhead outlined his concerns including:

- the strengthening of the Local Government Commission's ability to put in place a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)
- the lack of requirement or the ability for electors to petition for polls for support of both amalgamation or controls around CCOs.
- An existing clause around community support has been removed.
- Potential impact on ability for Council to meet needs and preferences of communities is potentially taken out.
- The proposal allows the Minister of Local Government to direct the Local Government Commission.
- It provides for very little discretion for multiple owned CCOs. Individual shareholder Council limited to levels of service and funding mechanisms. Things could be imposed on Council against the wishes of local communities.

Cr Woodhead suggested that ORC submit to this amendment in addition to supporting the SOLGM and LGNZ submissions to the Bill and moved that "ORC submit to the Local Government Act 2002" be added to the recommendation.

Cr Deaker seconded that motion and commented it was important for Council to submit on the amendment to provide a local region point of view.

A concern was raised that the Amendment Bill would increase the powers of the Minister of Local Government and restrict the ability "for local people to make local decisions".

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Deaker

That:

1. *the report be received.*
2. *ORC put forward a submission to the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No. 2) by 28 July.*

Motion carried

Cr Woodhead confirmed he will undertake to circulate the submission to all councillors for comment.

Item 6

2016/0940 **Halo Project application to the Environmental Enhancement Fund.**
DCS, 7/7/16

The report summarised the funding request by the LandCare Connections Trust to fund the capital contributions to the HALO project, which is part of a major initiative - "Beyond Orokonui" being undertaken by the Trust.

Cr Shepherd confirmed this project first came to the attention of the Annual Plan panel as part of a presentation to the panel and the recommendation was made to apply to the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF). Subsequently Mr Bodeker has discussed the application with the HALO project team and the executive team have provided the recommendations in the report

Cr Robertson commented that the HALO project application was exactly the type of initiative she hoped would come forward to the Environmental Enhancement Fund, as it had the key ingredient to successful biodiversity and that it should make a noticeable impact on native landscape and species. It also fitted with the Council's strategic direction and would fit with future strategies as well. She commented that there was a need to ensure big projects are monitored on their effectiveness to control pests, that pests are being tracked and that future funding is going to right places and targeting where it needs to be targeted.

Mr Bodeker advised that in terms of monitoring for projects Council fund through the EFF that those projects in excess of \$50,000, are required to provide a six monthly report to Council, less than \$50,000 requires a 12 monthly report (including detail of pest destruction methods and progress).

Cr Woodhead suggested a further recommendation be added as:

That the HALO project undertake annual independent monitoring of the success of their pest control.

He believed this would assist the HALO project by giving them formal information around their performance but also something tangible to report back to ORC.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Deaker

- (1) *That Council receives this report.*
- (2) *That funding be made available from the Environmental Enhancement Fund to the value of up to \$134,000 plus GST to the Landcare Connections Trust for its work in the HALO project.*
- (3) *That the project report annually to Council on the progress of the effectiveness of pest control project.*
- (4) *that the HALO project undertake an annual independent monitoring of the success of their pest control*

Motion carried

Mr MacLean advised monitoring progress is a sound approach but that it required a baseline to start with and that this needed to be done either at the end of the first 12 months, or at the early stages of the project. He confirmed that OSPRI undertake their own trap catch monitoring and that this data would be available to Council.

A question was raised in regard to discussion with management over the long term gain of the project.

Mr Bodeker advised he believed the project group proposal would engender local community involvement to continue on with work, i.e. moving the vision and passion for pest control further and further out into the communities as people see the results e.g. in Wellington the Karori wildlife sanctuary.

Item 7
2016/0932 **Executive report.** DCS, 8/7/16

The report described significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee, including the key dates for the local body elections and account payments.

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Kelliher

That this report be received.

Motion Carried

Meeting closed at 10:29 am

Chairperson

REPORT

Document Id: A928701

Report Number: 2016/1019
Prepared For: Finance and Corporate
Prepared By: Manager Projects
Date: 23 August 2016

Subject: **Annual Return of Inactive Subsidiaries 2016**

1. Précis

Due to the significance and profile of the Regional Services Business Unit, the Council, solely for name protection purposes, registered the following companies in April 2006:

- Regional Services Limited;
- Regional Pest Services Limited;
- Regional Monitoring Services Limited.

The companies are inactive, and do not have constitutions. The companies are owned 100% by the Otago Regional Council, with a share issue of 100 shares in each company. We consider it important to retain these companies, as this will ensure that the names cannot be used by any other party. The use of these names would suggest a linkage to the Otago Regional Council.

Section 214 of the Companies Act 1993 requires that an Annual Return be completed for each of the above companies each year by 30 September. The Annual Return includes providing information on shareholding, auditors and Annual General Meetings.

2. Annual General Meeting

Under the Companies Act each company is to have either an Annual General Meeting, or under Section 122 of the Companies Act the shareholders may pass a special resolution that it shall not be necessary for a company to hold an annual general meeting, if everything required to be done at that meeting is done by resolution.

At an Annual General Meeting, the company must decide whether or not to appoint an auditor. A company need not appoint an auditor if a unanimous resolution is passed by all the shareholders.

Given that the companies are inactive, it is recommended that Council pass two resolutions for each of the companies, the first to not hold an Annual General Meeting, and the second to not appoint auditors.

3. Recommendations

1. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
2. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.
3. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Pest Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
4. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Pest Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.
5. That it shall not be necessary for Regional Monitoring Services Limited to hold an Annual General Meeting under section 120 of the Companies Act 1993.
6. That no auditors be appointed for Regional Monitoring Services Limited under section 196 (2) of the Companies Act 1993.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A929370

Report Number: 2016/1026

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate

Prepared By: Director Corporate Services

Date: 24 August 2016

Subject: **Executive Report - August 2016**

1. 2015/16 Annual Report

Council's auditors (Deloitte) commenced their audit work on the 2015/16 Annual Report and Financial Statements on Monday 22 August. The Annual Report and audit are scheduled to be completed and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 21 September for their review prior to presentation to Council on 28 September.

2. Rates

Rates assessments for the 2016/17 period will be posted in the first week of September. These invoices will be due on 31 October 2016.

3. Kuriwao Endowment Land

At the Council meeting on 10 August a question was raised regarding the freeholding of Kuriwao Endowment Land and an update on activity was requested. There were no freeholding transactions in the 2015/16 or 2014/15 financial years however there are currently three applications to freehold land being in progress.

4. 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	July 2016
Trade and general payments	2,663,534.10
Payroll	753,938.66
Investments	-
Total	3,417,472.76

5. Recommendations

- 1) *That this report be received.*
- 2) *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the payment schedule, totalling \$3,417,472.76, be endorsed.*

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A929842

Report Number: 2016/1028

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate

Prepared By: Manager Projects

Date: 25 August 2016

Subject: **12 Month Review to 30 June 2016**

1. Précis

Formal reviews of progress on all projects are undertaken at four, eight and 12 months, and reported to Council. The attached report summarises the project progress for the 12 months to 30 June 2016. The full financial position of Council for the year ended 30 June 2016 will be presented in the Annual Report to the Council at its meeting on 28 September 2016.

2. Background

Council's Long Term Plan includes levels of service to be met for the significant activities undertaken by Council, and specific areas of work for projects within each significant activity. Progress in achieving the levels of service and specific areas of work are reported against in each year's Annual Report.

A report showing financial and non-financial results compared with the Long Term Plan levels of service, specific areas of work and budgets for the 12 months to 30 June 2016 is circulated with the agenda.

The report also provides some commentary on variations between actual and estimated expenditure and revenue.

3. Recommendations

That this report and the "12 Month Review to 30 June 2016" report be received.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A929952

Report No: 2016/1030

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee

Prepared By: Manager Support Services

Date: 26 August 2016

Subject: Passenger Transport Update – August 2016

1 **Précis.**

The new Unit 4 services and fare zone structure were implemented on 15 August 2016. A brief overview of these changes is provided and staff will report back on the feedback received through the next committee round.

Work on the design for the Dunedin Bus hub/interchange in Great King Street is continuing.

Staff are working with operators and client agencies on the implementation of the new total mobility system which is expected to go live early in 2017.

2 **Unit 4 service implementation**

Service changes associated with the Unit 4 contract commenced operating on 15 August 2016. Unit 4 provides services to Belleknowes, Brockville, Halfway Bush, Ocean Grove, Ross Creek, St Kilda, and Waverley. In addition to the services contained within the Unit 4 Contract additional week day evening, Sunday, and public holiday services for Shiel Hill, Balaclava, and Concord (servicing Bradford), all of which will travel on the daytime routes, also commenced on the 15 August 2016.

The community awareness campaign which commenced on 11 July 2016 created significant awareness of the changes well in advance of the service changes taking effect. As expected with changes of this scale there has been a mix of positive and negative feedback and a high level of media interest. The media interest has assisted in improving the community's awareness of the changes. Staff will review the feedback over the next period and will provide an overview for Council at the next committee round.

3 **Fare zones and same zone free transfer**

The new fare zone structure and free transfer system also came into effect on 15 August 2016. Some issues were identified with the free transfer over the first few days of operation and these were fixed by the supplier during the first week. Again we have received both positive and negative feedback regarding the fare zone changes with some customers finding that because of their specific journey

they have an increase in fare. The opportunity for the free same zone transfer has been well received.

4 Bus hub / interchange

Our consultants are progressing the concept design for the proposed hub in Great King Street through to the preliminary design stage for the Dunedin Bus Hub / Interchange. Feedback from a workshop held with DCC and NZTA staff on 13 July 2016 has been received and where appropriate is being incorporated into the design.

Council were given an overview of the concept design at a workshop on 21 July 2016. Staff are currently briefing immediate landowners and tenants to ensure where possible that their concerns are addressed. The current briefing is part of an ongoing commitment by staff to keep them engaged through the design process. It is expected that the design will be at a sufficient level of detail for community engagement in late October / early November.

The modelling work to identify traffic behaviour changes resulting from the hub and route changes is being undertaken in direct consultation with DCC staff. We expect this work to be completed in late September / early October.

5 Total Mobility

Preparation for the introduction of the new total mobility system is well underway. As part of the implementation process we are taking the opportunity to upgrade our commercial agreements with the client agencies and the taxi providers. We expect the new system to be fully operational early in 2017.

6 Recommendation

That this report be received.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services

REPORT

Document Id: A930551

Report No: 2016/1034

Prepared For: Finance and Corporate Committee

Prepared By: Manager Support Services

Date: 29 August 2016

**Subject: Queenstown Lakes District Council – Park and Ride Trial
Wakatipu**

1 Précis.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is considering undertaking a trial of a park and ride service between the Frankton area and the Queenstown CBD. Staff have agreed to work with QLDC staff on various matters pertaining to the proposed service including but not limited to the statutory framework.

2 Background

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) have indicated a desire to trial a park and ride service between the Frankton area and Queenstown CBD in advance of any network changes that might result from the current network review. In addition to the trial QLDC are implementing some changes to parking arrangements in and around the Queenstown CBD to encourage the use of the park and ride and public transport service. QLDC have just undertaken a short market survey to assist in assessing the need and some general parameters for the service. Staff have advised QLDC that neither the ORC nor NZTA have funding allocated in the current National Land Transport Programme for the proposed trial.

The Wakatipu Transport Officers Technical Working Group consisting of officers from the ORC, NZTA, QLDC and the Queenstown Airport met on 26 August in order to progress the necessary work for the integrated Programme Business Case for the Wakatipu. The trial was discussed at that meeting and it was agreed that the Manager Support Services would work through various matters pertaining to the trial including, but not limited to, the statutory and contractual framework associated with the trial in order to assist QLDC staff to confirm the feasibility and if necessary the implementation of the trial.

If implemented, the trial will assist in evaluating whether or not there is a long term need for such a service within the network, and the impact of the pending parking changes in Queenstown on patronage.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That this report be noted.

Nick Donnelly
Director Corporate Services