



Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Planning Committee
held electronically on Wednesday 13 May 2020 at 1 p.m. and
livestreamed to the website.

Membership

Hon Marian Hobbs	<i>(Co-Chair)</i>
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(Co-Chair)</i>
Cr Hilary Calvert	
Dr Lyn Carter	
Cr Michael Deaker	
Mr Edward Ellison	
Cr Alexa Forbes	
Cr Carmen Hope	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Bryan Scott	
Cr Kate Wilson	

Welcome

Hon Marian Hobbs welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the electronic meeting at 1 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive)
Nick Donnelly (General Manager Corporate Services and CFO)
Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations)
Sally Giddens (General Manager People, Culture and Communications)
Gwyneth Elsum (General Manager Policy, Strategy and Science)
Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor)
Liz Spector (Committee Secretary)

Also in attendance were Anita Dawe (Manager Policy), Tom De Pelsemaecker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land), Peter Constantine (Consultant), Rachael Brown (Senior Analyst Freshwater and Land) and Alistair Logan (Solicitor).

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was conducted.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Report from Manuherekia Reference Group

Manuherekia Reference Group (MRG) Chair Alec Neill and Andrew Newman updated the Committee members on activities of the group. The briefing was provided to ensure an understanding of the role and purpose of the group, provide clarity on its approach to the plan development process and to detail progress to date and upcoming future work for the group.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1. Minutes of the 22 January 2020 Strategy and Planning Committee Meeting Resolution

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record, with or without corrections.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Wilson
CARRIED

8. ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions on resolutions of the Strategy and Planning Committee.

9. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. Proposed approach for developing a new Land and Water Regional Plan

Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Anita Dawe (Manager Policy), Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land) were available to speak to the report which was provided to outline the proposed approach for development of the proposed new Land and Water Regional Plan.

Several Councillors indicated they weren't certain they wanted the approach to use the word overallocation as it had a negative connotation. Staff explained the word was part of the language used in National Policy Statements and was useful to include in the proposed approach. Cr Deaker moved the staff recommendation and Cr Forbes seconded. The Councillors then moved into discussion around the membership of the proposed Governance Group. At 3:05 p.m. Chairperson Hobbs requested an adjournment and asked that the meeting continue after a short break.

The Meeting returned from adjournment at 3:19 p.m.

The Councillors then moved back into the discussion about the membership of the proposed Governance Group. Councillor Wilson moved an amendment to the staff recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Calvert as follows:

3) The LWRP Governance Group as described in the proposed governance structure, will consist of ORC Councillors (membership to be determined by further report to Council) and rūnaka representatives to ensure a strong link with ORC's governing body through the ORC'S Strategy and Policy Committee, which in turn will provide policy guidance.

Chairperson Hobbs put the amendment to a vote. The amendment carried and was added to the substantive motion. There were no further discussions and Chairperson Hobbs put the motion.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** the proposed approach for developing a new Land and Water Regional Plan
- 3) **Requests** staff to amend paragraph 23 of the staff report to: *The LWRP Governance Group as described in the proposed governance structure, will consist of ORC Councillors (membership to be determined by further report to Council) and rūnaka representatives to ensure a strong link with ORC's governing body through the ORC'S Strategy and Policy Committee, which in turn will provide policy guidance.*

Moved: Cr Deaker

Seconded: Cr Forbes

CARRIED

10. MATTERS FOR NOTING

10.1. Resource Management Amendment Bill and implications for ORC

Rachael Brown (Senior Analyst Freshwater and Land) was present to answer questions on the report which was provided to update the committee on the Government's proposed changes to the RMA through the Resource Management Amendment Bill. She said the bill proposes amendments to the RMA to reduce complexity and increase certainty in decision-making processes and to improve freshwater management and enforcement. She noted the bill was in its second reading at Cabinet. She also indicated there may be a few additional changes proposed under the COVID-19 bill.

Cr Hobbs queried the proposal that a Freshwater Hearings Panel would be created to replace Commissioners. Anita Dawe (Manager Policy) said everything related to freshwater would go to the hearings panel, which meant the ORC Regional Policy Statement and the Land and Water Plan would be heard by the proposed panel.

After further discussion, Cr Hobbs asked for a motion to note the report.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes this report.**

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Forbes

CARRIED

10.2. MfE Freshwater 2020

Peter Constantine (consultant planner) was available to speak to the report which was provided to inform the Committee members of the release by the Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ of the publication titled *Our Freshwater 2020*, and of its key findings. He noted the publication will form part of the suite of publications that will inform ORC policy development and plan making, particularly the revised Regional Policy Statement and the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan.

The Committee members asked questions of Mr Constantine, including whether there were potential gaps in information and science in Otago and what resources might be required to address those gaps. Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive) reminded the Committee that ORC had made extensive increases to its State of the Environment network in the previous financial year and was in a much better position than before. Mrs Gardner said staff is in the process of assessing science needs for each FMU to understand where any additional gaps may be. She also said the Skelton report noted concerns with the science team and lack of resources and this had been addressed in the 2020/2021 Annual Plan. She said ORC is responding and progressing quickly and positively.

There were no further questions. Cr Hobbs thanked staff for the report and comments and asked for a motion.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** that the publication *Our Freshwater 2020* will form part of the suite of publications that informs policy development and plan making, particularly in respect of the revised Regional Policy Statement and the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Forbes

CARRIED

10.3. Otago-Southland Three Waters Investigation: Information for Councils

Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) was available to answer questions about the paper which had been written for distribution to several Councils. Ms Elsum said a technical working group comprised of staff from local territorial authorities had been put together post the Central Government's introduction of Taumata Arowai - the Water Services Regulator Bill, which proposed a new water regulator as a Crown agent and outlined its objectives, functions, operating principles and governance arrangements. Ms Elsum noted she is ORC's representative on the working group that is investigating ways to collaborate on Three Waters work.

Cr Wilson asked who had oversight of the technical group. Ms Elsum said the working group reports to the Otago Mayoral Forum, which is comprised of mayors of Dunedin, Central Otago, Clutha, Queenstown, Waitaki and the ORC chair. Ms Elsum noted that Southland would be participating in the investigation as well.

After conclusion of the questions and discussion, Cr Hobbs asked for a motion.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Notes** that Chief Executives from Otago and Southland councils have applied for Crown funding to investigate the current state of water services in Otago and Southland and whether a collaborative approach to water services delivery could benefit Otago and Southland communities and the environment;
- 2) **Notes** that the Otago Regional Council's contribution to the investigation is estimated to be \$18,750;
- 3) **Notes** that the proposed investigation is in the form of an Indicative Business Case; and
- 4) **Notes** that once the Indicative Business Case is completed, it will be brought back to Councils for information and to consider potential next steps.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Scott

CARRIED

11. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Hobbs declared the meeting closed.

Marian K Hobbs

Councillor Marian Hobbs

8 July 2020

Dated