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**Council  
MINUTES**

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the  
Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 5 November 2025, commencing at 10:30 am.**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/IA3HwOxyVCA?si=9Lpk0-Tlj-iLIB2u>

**PRESENT**

Cr Hilary Calvert	<i>(Chair)</i>
Cr Kevin Malcolm	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
Cr Robbie Byars	
Cr Chanel Gardner	
Cr Neil Gillespie	
Cr Matt Hollyer	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Michael Laws	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Kate Wilson	

## **1. WELCOME**

Chair Calvert welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:30 am. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Dianne Railton (Team Lead Governance), Deb Stuut (Manager Customer and Governance), Andrea Howard (Chief Advisor to the CE and Chair).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for this meeting.

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:**

That the addition of the late paper ORC Consideration of 2025-2028 Decision Making Structure be accepted on the agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises.

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the minutes of the Council meeting of 29 October 2025, are confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6.1. ORC Consideration of 2025-2028 Governance Structure**

[YouTube 15:12] This report sought adoption of a governance structure for the Otago Regional Council for the 2025-2028 triennium. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**At 11:48 pm Chair Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That Council have a 5-minute adjournment.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Cr Somerville moved, Cr Malcolm seconded a procedural motion:**

*That each recommendation is taken separately with a division on recommendation 2.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 8 was also taken as a division.

*Cr Malcolm left the meeting at 12:12 pm.*

*Cr Wilson left the meeting at 12:13 pm.*

*Cr Noone left the meeting at 12:13 pm.*

*Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 12:14 pm.*

*Cr Wilson returned to the meeting at 12:14 pm.*

**Resolution CM25-222: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** *this report.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-223: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 2) Adopts** *the proposed governance model of portfolio areas to complement Council decision making, as attached.*

**BY DIVISION**

For:	Cr Calvert, Cr Byars, Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson.
Against:	Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville.
Abstained:	Nil.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-224: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 3) Approves** *the appointment of portfolio leads, as attached.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-225: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 4) Appoints** *an Audit and Risk Committee, with membership as recommended in the report with the addition of Cr Robertson as a member.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-226: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 5) Agrees** *to appoint Mr Andrew Douglas to a further one-year term as Co-Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, based on the recommendation of the previous Audit and Risk Committee to provide continuity with the committee's workplan (Mr Douglas's CV was circulated separately).*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-227: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 6) Notes** *that more detailed terms of reference for each portfolio area, the role of portfolio leads, and a Council calendar for 2026 will be brought to Council for consideration and adoption on 26 November 2025.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-228: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

That the Council:

- 7) Notes** *that a further list of Council appointments to Joint Committees, external and internal working groups will be presented for consideration to Council on 26 November 2025.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM25-229: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

- 8) Notes** that the Council will continue to consult with Mana Whenua on a mutually agreeable way to incorporate representation into the new portfolio structure.

**BY DIVISION**

For:	Cr Gardner, Cr Hollyer, Cr Calvert, Cr Gillespie, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville and Cr Wilson
Against:	Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws
Abstained:	Nil

**MOTION CARRIED**

**At 12:37 pm Chair Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That Council have a 10-minute adjournment.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6.2. Councillor Remuneration Pool Allocation**

[YouTube 2:30:30] This paper sought consideration of allocation of ORC councillor's remuneration pool, as provided for by the Remuneration Authority's Determination. The report also sought consideration of the updated allowances and expenses policy. Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer), and Deb Stuut (Customer Experience Manager) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM25-230: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Notes** the Chair's remuneration set by Remuneration Authority is \$173,309.
- 3) Notes** the ORC's governance remuneration pool is set at \$863,476 with the minimum councillor remuneration at \$61,677.
- 4) Recommends** allocating the governance remuneration pool using the attached spreadsheet.
- 5) Requests** the Chief Executive to send the attached spreadsheet to the Remuneration Authority by 14 November 2025, to be included in the Authority's pre-Christmas amending determination.
- 6) Adopts** the updated allowances and expenses policy.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6.3. Telecommunications Resilience**

[YouTube 2:44:30] This report sought a review and approval of a letter to Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister for Media and Communications, regarding the need to improve telecommunications resilience during natural events. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions. An updated version of the letter was tabled with corrections to the cc line.

**Resolution CM25-231: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

That the Council:

- 1) Approves** the draft letter to the Minister for Media and Communications highlighting the urgent need to improve the resilience of mobile communications infrastructure subject to any minor edits.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None received for this meeting.

## **8.CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 1:00 pm.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_26/11/2025\_\_\_\_  
Date