

Council Members

Chairman Nicol Horrell
Cr Jeremy McPhail (Deputy)
Cr Neville Cook
Cr Paul Evans

Cr Alastair Gibson
Cr Robert Guyton
Cr Lyndal Ludlow
Cr Peter McDonald

Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Phil Morrison
Cr Maurice Rodway
Cr Eric Roy



Ordinary Meeting of Council Te Huinga Tu

Environment Southland Council Chambers
and via Zoom digital link

10.30 am

31 May 2023

A G E N D A Rarangi Take

1. Welcome | Haere mai
2. Apologies | Ngā Pa Pouri
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga tuku korero
5. Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau korero
 - (a) Ordinary Meeting of Council 3 May 2023
6. Adoption of Committee Resolutions
 - (a) Strategy and Policy Committee 10 May 2023
 - (b) Regional Services Committee 10 May 2023
 - (c) Regulatory Committee 11 May 2023
 - (d) Otago Southland Regional Transport Committees 12 May 2023
 - (e) Finance and Performance Committee 24 May 2023
7. Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi
 - 7.1 Supplementary Reports
 - 7.2 Other

Note: Councillors are reminded to advise the Chairman, at least a day prior to the meeting, of your intention to raise any matters.



8. Questions I Patai
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How many trees have Council/Councillors planted, in the past month?
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Wilma Falconer
Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COUNCIL REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED
AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL



Confirmation of Minutes

- **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 3 May 2023**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Southland
Regional Council, held in Regional House, corner
North Road and Price Street, Invercargill, on
Wednesday, 3 May 2023, at 10.30 am**



Present: Chairman N Horrell (Chair)
Cr N Cook
Cr P Evans
Cr A Gibson – via Zoom Digital link
Cr R Guyton
Cr L Ludlow
Cr P McDonald
Cr J McPhail
Cr P Morrison
Cr J Pemberton – 10.55 am
Cr M Rodway – via Zoom Digital link
Cr E Roy

In Attendance: Mrs W Falconer (Chief Executive)
Ms L Hicks (GM, Policy & Government Reform)
Ms R Millar (GM, Science, Strategy & Engagement)
Ms A Kubrycht (GM, People & Customer)
Mr P Hulse (GM, Integrated Catchment Management)
Mr D Rikiti (Chief Transformation Officer)
Ms G Jefferies (Communications & Engagement Manager)
Ms T Hawkins (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr B Halligan (Consents Manager)
Ms F Young (Integrated Catchment Manager)
Mr L Cleaver (Harbourmaster/Maritime Manager)
Mr D Storey (Corporate Affairs Advisor)
Mrs J M Brown (Executive Officer)

1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairman welcomed members to the May meeting of Council.

2 Apologies | Nga Pa Pouri

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Evans, that an apology for lateness be accepted on behalf of Cr Pemberton.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga tuku korero

There were no Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations.

5 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau korero

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 March 2023

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Ludlow, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 March 2023 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Adoption of Committee Resolutions

(a) Otago Southland Regional Transport Committees – 3 March 2023

Cr McPhail reported on the first meeting of the Committee, which had focused on inducting new members, the Terms of Reference of the committee, and the mid-year review of the 10 year plan.

In responding to questions arising from Item 1 and climate considerations for future transport matters, Cr Morrison noted that it was clear there was a need to take into account climate change and associated adaptation and mitigation responses when dealing with intra and inter-regional transport matters. It was noted that the matter of coastal shipping potentially playing a part in climate change mitigations for impacts on a vulnerable roading network had been discussed at the South Island Regional Transport Chairs' meeting. It was evident that issues of critical transport links were not only South Island concerns but national concerns, and all are wanting to learn from other regions.

Questions were also posed regarding whether the Committee took into account the issue of security of movement of food and matters of localisation of food production. It was noted that this had largely been an induction meeting, but Cr McPhail undertook to raise the issue at the next meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Ludlow, that the resolutions from the Otago Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 3 March 2023 be adopted.

Carried

(b) Strategy and Policy Committee – 29 March 2023

Cr Ludlow highlighted the adoption of the net zero greenhouse gas emission target by 2050, set by the meeting, and that staff were working hard to ensure baseline data was available internally to assist with setting the interim steps to achieve that target.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McPhail, that the resolutions from the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 29 March 2023 be adopted.

Carried

(c) Risk and Assurance Committee – 29 March 2023

Cr Ludlow highlighted the Auditor General’s article that had been circulated to all Councillors, which provided an overview of how important having a Risk and Assurance Committee of Council was. Further, she noted the quarterly risk report, which highlighted the four key focus areas for Council going forward. The committee would be getting a “deep dive” on this as a priority at its next meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Morrison, that the resolutions from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 29 March 2023 be adopted.

Carried

(d) Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 17 April 2023

Cr Cook reported on the work undertaken by this Committee, and responded to questions, including the fact that Council staff had been seconded to work in affected areas following the recent Cyclone Gabrielle weather event in the North Island. As a result there had been debriefings held to allow learnings from those situations to be applied in Southland.

Cr Ludlow commended the group on the approach of appointing a Mana Whenua Emergency Facilitator, noting that local Marae were key support networks for small local communities in the event of an emergency.

The meeting noted the loss of all communications during the recent weather events in the North Island, and highlighted the value of satellite communications in such situations and the need to plan for situations where this might be a possibility. Locally, EMS had also provided radios for use in community hubs around the province to assist in those situations as well. The Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency management was also developing a programme so address the failure of mobile phone systems.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Roy, that the resolutions from the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 17 April 2023 be adopted.

Carried

7 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

7.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

7.2 Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

8 Questions | Patai

There were no questions raised at the meeting.

9 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera

⇒ Chairman's Report

A report outlining the activities the Chairman had been involved in on behalf of the Council since the last meeting had been circulated with the agenda.

⇒ Councillors' Reports

Cr McDonald reported on his involvement with the Dipton Greenhouse Gas project run through Thriving Southland. He also noted that Cr Pemberton and he had attended the Otago Federated Farmers Annual Meeting, and reported it was pleasing to see they have many young farming leaders (especially young female farming leaders) progressing through their Executive.

Cr Ludlow noted that she had attended the LGNZ Zone 5/6 meeting with the Chairman and other councillors, and would be circulating her report under separate cover.

Cr McPhail reported on the successful removal of trees along the stop bank areas in Gore, and thanked Paul Hulse and the catchment management team for their work in this regard, which had been received positively by the community.

[Cr Pemberton attended the meeting at this time.]

Cr Roy reported on his attendance at a Livestrands meeting, where an international spokesperson had discussed artificial intelligence – both the potential and the pitfalls.

Cr Evans reported on his meeting with catchment staff and the Liaison Committee Chair and agency reps at Mararoa, to look at gravel extraction matters. Of particular note was the 50% reduction in flow underneath the Mararoa River bridge on SH1, due to the build-up of gravel. He noted it had been a good meeting, which was likely to lead to action being taken.

Cr Pemberton advised he had spoken to the Dairy Women’s conference this morning, and was involved in a panel discussion focused on positive action on the ground. It had been a positive session, but noted the need to recognise the role women are playing in the rural sector, as they have more involvement in the direction businesses are operating.

10 Staff Report – 23/C/23

⇒ Item 1 – Chief Executive’s Report

The Chief Executive’s report was distributed with the agenda, which provided an overview of pan organisational current matters. The Chief Executive briefly highlighted key matters in her report, and then responded to questions, a summary of which follows:

- it was hoped to have the report on monitoring in the coastal marine area (CMA) undertaken at Tiwai released shortly.
- the need to publicise to the farming community that ES will be looking at winter grazing matters – particularly if there are adverse effects from that activity. Initially the focus is on advice and support; aerial flights and roadside assessments, followed by inspections where issues have been raised. This is a high risk activity and there will be consequences if there is a significant adverse environmental effect from same. Noted there have been news articles, radio publicity and direct communication with consent holders on these matters.
- Outdoor burning issues – noting this is prohibited within the city boundaries. Advice/education is provided, and information from Mr Graves presentation to the Climate Change Subcommittee is to be forwarded to the compliance team for their follow-up.
- Information on the number of sea level monitoring sites in Southland is to be provided to Councillors following the meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council note the report and the delegation of the role of Acting Chief Executive to Amy Kubrycht (General Manager, People & Customer) for the period from midnight on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 to midnight on Thursday,

6 April 2023, and then from midnight on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 through until midnight on Sunday, 16 April 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – 2023/24 Annual Plan Update**

This item provided an update on the 2023/24 Annual Plan and sought approval of the proposed allocation for the marine fee, average rate increase and consultation process for the 2023/24 year. It was noted the report summarised the discussions of Council through the various workshops held to progress this matter to date.

Staff noted that Council was in the third year of its LTP, and that there had been no significant or material changes proposed from the LTP that had set the direction of the organisation. The focus was on building resilience to impacts of climate change, addressing freshwater challenges, and transformation programmes. The recommendation of staff was for an average rate increase of 6.9%. The Chief Executive assured Council that, at that level, the organisation could deliver on the commitments within the Annual Plan. Councillors discussed the report at length, and the following is a summary of the points made:

- Cr McPhail noted Councillors had asked questions and challenged matters put to them; the reality was that life was significantly different to what had been forecast at the outset of the LTP, and inflationary costs were very real. He supported a 6.9% rate increase.
- Cr Roy appreciated the work done to achieve savings that had been proposed. Inflation is a significant issue now, and whilst he was aware of the pressures within the community, it was also important that the organisation was on a secure financial footing to deliver its work. The Chief Executive confirmed it was, but that going forward, there was a need to balance deficit, the repayment of debt, and focus on climate resilience projects. She stated that both Councillors and the community would be involved in discussions as to how that would occur. Mrs Hawkins confirmed that the Annual Plan as proposed would allow for Council to pay for its everyday costs out of its income and was well placed to prepare/investigate future climate resilience projects within the region.
- Cr Rodway asked if 6.9% was agreed to by Council today, would that result in higher increases going forward. The Chairman noted that the LTP would focus on inter-generational borrowing to repay climate resilience projects, but that was different to paying for the everyday work programmes. Staff confirmed that if a higher rate increase was agreed to this year, it would reduce the impact of rate increases next year.
- Cr McDonald supported a 6.9% increase. He noted that the levels of service and long-term discussions required by the organisation to meet the future needs of ratepayers would occur during the LTP development.
- Cr Ludlow advised her concern had been to ensure the decisions made this year did not impact negatively on the organisation going forward. She noted the need to ensure the organisation operated prudently, and was comfortable with there it was sitting, and that levels of service would not be reduced with a 6.9% increase.

- Cr Gibson was concerned to ensure that the rate increase did not negatively impact on future years. He felt the rating system needed change, and that the organisation should be charging more, or getting more funding from central government for the work it was imposing on the organisation. He had favoured an increase at least at the rate of inflation, but recognised the welfare of constituents was important.
- Cr Pemberton supported 6.9% increase, and wanted to ensure that the communication to the community was clear around the impacts of valuation changes on rate accounts.
- Chairman Horrell noted the concerns within the community; that the organisation had faced a significant loss of income; that it had statutory responsibility to complete its functions, and that Council needed to ensure that the team was achieving that. He noted it was a lean team that performed incredibly well compared to its counterparts with larger staff and more resources. He welcomed the return of the marine fee, which had allowed Council to keep the increase at the proposed level. However he noted there would be some difficult conversations ahead, given the need to commence repayment of the climate resilience borrowing. He thanked staff for the work done to keep the budgets down.
- Cr Evans advised he was still undecided as to the size of rate increase required, but was aware of the concerns of those on fixed incomes, and the squeeze that occurred to disposable income for many.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) approve the allocation of the projected \$2.8 million of marine fee income for the 2023/24 year as follows:**

Marine Fee Allocations	2023/24 yr
Transfer to Marine Fee Reserve	\$0.22 million ¹
Contribution to core coastal programmes previously funded by the marine fee (notably Harbour Management and the Regional Coastal Plan).	\$1.8 million
Coastal science programme	\$0.25 million
Fiordland <i>Undaria</i> control programme	\$0.5 million
Community activity allocations	\$0.03 million

- (3) agree the average rates increase for the 2023/24 year be 6.9%;**
- (4) direct the draft Annual Plan to be prepared on the above basis for Council adoption in June 2023;**

¹ Any marine fees received in excess of that budgeted will also be transferred to the marine fee reserve.

- (5) pursuant to Section 95(2A) Local Government Act 2002, not undertake formal consultation on the 2023/24 Annual Plan but instead seek informal feedback.

Carried
Cr Gibson voted against

⇒ **Item 3 – Fees and Charges Schedule 2023/24**

This item sought Council approval of the 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule for consultation.

Staff responded to questions of clarification from Councillors before consideration of the recommendations. Cr McPhail stressed the need for the community to provide feedback on these fees and charges. It was noted that the release of this consultation would occur via the Council's website, a consultation portal, and a variety of media as well as emailing directly to consent-holders.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Cook, that pursuant to Sections 36 and 36AAA Resource Management Act 1991 and Sections 83 and 87 Local Government Act 202, Council adopt the 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule and Statement of Proposal for consultation.

Carried

⇒ **Item 4 – Local Government New Zealand Annual General Conference and Regional Sector Group Pre-conference Tour**

This item sought the appointment of delegates to attend the Local Government NZ Annual Conference and associated Regional Sector Group pre-conference tour, scheduled for July 2023.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council:

- (1) note that the Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference is to be held in Otautahi Christchurch from 26-28 July 2023;
- (2) appoint Chairman Nicol Horrell and Crs Jeremy McPhail and Phil Morrison as its delegates to attend the LGNZ Annual Conference;
- (3) approve payment of conference registration, travel, accommodation and associated expenses for those Councillors attending;

- (4) approve attendance at, and payment of travel, accommodation and associated expenses for Chairman Horrell, Crs McPhail and Morrison, participating in the Environment Canterbury hosted pre-conference tour from 24-26 July 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 5 – Local Government New Zealand – Nominations for President and Vice President**

This item noted that nominations for the roles of President and Vice President of Local Government New Zealand were now open, and provided an opportunity for Council to propose a process to make nominations if it wished.

The Chairman advised he was aware of candidates who were making their interest in standing known to Council, but it was agreed there was not a need for Council to make any nominations at this time.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Roy, that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **Item 6 – Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting and Remit Process**

This item recorded the remit process for lodging remits to the Annual General meeting of Local Government New Zealand for 2023, and sought advice of any remits Council may wish to have lodged.

Cr Ludlow referred to the recent survey undertaken on the hours of work undertaken by Councillors in their role, and further the clear disparities between remuneration for different regional councils, when they all had essentially the same responsibilities. She wondered if the LGNZ Conference remit process was an appropriate avenue for discussion of those matters. However, it was felt that the Remuneration Authority's processes around those matters should be used. No other matters were raised by Council.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **Item 7 – Councillors' Meeting Schedule – May 2023**

Council approval of the meeting schedule, which accompanied the agenda item, and the requested leave of absence set out in the report, was sought. In addition, staff updated the meeting schedule with the following items, and requests:

- Cr Pemberton – leave of absence requests for 8-10, 26 and 29 May and 3-7 July 2023;
- Cr Roy – leave of absence request for 17 May 2023
- Cr Evans – leave of absence request for 7-8 June 2023
- Tuesday, 2 May 2023 – Cr Evans site visit – Mararoa River
- Thursday 4 May 2023 – Project 1225 Museum Presentation @ ICC – Chairman Horrell and Cr Ludlow
- Saturday, 6 May 2023 – Kings Coronation Tree Planting and Official Opening of Kapow Exhibition (both in Invercargill) – Cr Ludlow
- Wednesday 17 May 2023 – Entity J meeting of Councils and Rūnaka @ Dunedin – Chairman Horrell
- The consequent change of time for the Council workshop scheduled for 17 May 2023 to 9.00 am.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Cook, that Council note the planned meetings and:

- (1) **appoint members to represent Council at the meetings marked on the schedule;**
- (2) **approve Crs Gibson, Pemberton, Roy and Evans leave of absence requests;**
- (3) **pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and detailed on the schedule.**

Carried

⇒ Item 8 – Moth Plant Biocontrol Submission

This item reported on the Waikato Regional Council's application to release the moth plant biocontrol agent *Anastrepha australis*. To help northern councils control moth plant and thereby reduce the risk of an incursion into Southland, biosecurity staff has drafted a submission that supported the release of a moth plant biocontrol agent, and Council approval to note this submission was sought.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Evans, that Council note the submission to the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) in support of Waikato Regional Council's application.

Carried

⇒ Item 9 – Common Seal

This item asked Council to note the application of the Common Seal to documents under approved authorisation.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council note the list of documents to which the Common Seal has been affixed under approved authorisation.

Carried

11 Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Cr McPhail, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary meeting of Council – 8 March 2023
- Adoption of Committee Resolutions – Strategy & Policy Committee – 29 March 2023; Risk and Assurance Committee – 29 March 2023
- Item 10 – Appointment of Hearing Panel for the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland – Proposed Plan change 5
- Item 11 – Appointment of Independent Chair to Risk and Assurance Committee

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)</i>
➤ Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary meeting of Council – 8 March 2023	The matters under discussion are before the Environment Court and therefore Council is authorised to deliberate in private.	S.48(1)(d) as qualified by S.48(2)(a)(i)
➤ Adoption of Committee Resolutions – Strategy &	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for	S.7(2)(j)

<p>Policy Committee – 29 March 2023</p> <p>➤ Adoption of Committee Resolutions – Risk and Assurance Committee – 29 March 2023</p> <p>➤ Item 10 – Appointment of Hearing Panel for the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland – Proposed Plan Change 5</p> <p>➤ Item 11 – Appointment of Independent Chair to Risk and Assurance Committee</p>	<p>improper gain or advantage.</p> <p>To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p> <p>To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.</p> <p>To allow Council to carry on negotiations (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage.</p> <p>To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p> <p>To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p> <p>To allow Council to carry on negotiations (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage.</p>	<p>S.7(2)(a)</p> <p>S.7(2)(j)</p> <p>S.7(2)(i)</p> <p>S.7(2)(a)</p> <p>S.7(2)(a)</p> <p>S.7(2)(i)</p>
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Carried

Resumed in Open Meeting

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.52 pm.



Adoption of Committee Resolutions

- **Strategy and Policy Committee – 10 May 2023**
- **Regional Services Committee – 10 May 2023**
- **Regulatory Committee – 11 May 2023**
- **Otago Southland Regional Transport Committees – 12 May 2023**
- **Finance and Performance Committee – 24 May 2023**

**Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee Rautaki
me Mahere, meeting of the Southland Regional
Council, held in Regional House,
220 North Road, Invercargill, on
Wednesday, 10 May 2023, at 10.00 am**



Present:	Cr L Ludlow	(Chair)
	Cr M Rodway	(Deputy) (via Zoom)
	Cr A Gibson	
	Cr R Guyton	
	Cr P McDonald	
	Cr J McPhail	
	Cr P Evans	
	Cr P Morrison	
	Cr E Roy	
	Mr S Bull	(Mana Whenua appointee)
Chairman N Horrell	(ex officio)	
Staff Present:	Ms L Hicks	(General Manager, Policy and Government Reform)
	Ms R Millar	(General Manager, Strategy, Science and Engagement)
	Mr P Hulse	(General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management)
	Ms K Wilson	(Chief Scientist)
	Mr N DeSilva	(Scientist – Estuaries and Freshwater)
	Mr A Rabel	(Team Leader Aquatic Ecosystems)
	Ms A Habgood	(Senior Strategy Advisor)
	Ms N McRobie	(Mana Whenua support)
	Ms G Jefferies	(Communications Manager)
	Ms L Devery	(Regional Planning Manager)
	Mr P McCarthy	(Communications Contractor)
	Mrs F Young	(Catchment Integration Manager)
	Mrs M Wass	(Personal Assistant)

1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for 10 May 2023, including the wider public via livestream.

2 Apologies | Ngā Pa Pouri

The Chairperson asked that the good wishes of Council be sent to Ann Wakefield and her family.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Cook that apologies be accepted on behalf of Ms Ann Wakefield and Cr Pemberton.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made to the meeting.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga tuku korero

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau korero – 29 March 2023

It was noted that in Item 9, staff had said they would provide a Carbon Farming update to this Strategy and Policy Committee meeting. Ms Millar noted that work was still being done with partner agencies and the update would be provided to a subsequent Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

Cr Cook advised that his leave of absence had not been recorded. This would be amended.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Morrison that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 29 March 2023, be taken as read, amended as discussed, and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Adoption of Climate Change Sub-committee Resolutions – 27 April 2023

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Rodway that the resolutions of the Climate Change Sub-committee meeting, held on 27 April 2023, be adopted.

Carried

A brief discussion took place on the actions from the minutes. Councillors noted that a workshop may be better suited for further into the year when staff had more work to share.

It was noted that Councillors would like to have 'Councillor only' workshops. Cr Ludlow and Cr Guyton are to action this.

7 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

7.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

7.2 Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

8 Questions | Patai

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

9 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Ngā Purongo-a-Tumuaki me ngā Kaunihera

Cr Ludlow advised that she and Chairman Horrell had attended the Rural Women's conference.

Cr Gibson and Cr McPhail had attended a Mataura community group drop in session.

Cr Gibson had attended a Waimea project design group.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McPhail that Council note the Chairman and Councillor reports.

Carried

10 General Manager, Strategy, Science and Engagement and General Manager, Policy & Government Reform's Report – 23/S&P/31

⇒ Item 1 – Science Update – Estuary Monitoring Programme

This item gave an overview of the long-term estuarine ecosystem health monitoring programme. Monitoring of estuary ecological health has been conducted by Environment Southland since 2001. Seven estuaries were regularly monitored across Southland. Mr DeSilva and Ms Wilson gave a detailed presentation which was retained on file. To questions asked Ms Wilson advised that a 10 year science plan was being

developed that would include points such as climate implications and additional monitoring needs.

It was noted that since the last estuary update, work was being progressed with partner agencies on identifying information gaps and future monitoring opportunities for the former landfill site.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Gibson that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Climate Change and Community Resilience Portfolio Update**

The purpose of this item was to update Council on progress being made in the climate change and community resilience portfolio. In addition, a summary of key next steps was provided. Ms Habgood provided updates on the Regional Climate Change Working Group, the Climate Change Sub-committee and Climate Change Perceptions Survey. Ms Millar highlighted the Climate Change Commission's report and advised that staff were working with the Commission to organise a visit to Southland to speak to all interested agencies.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Guyton, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council:

- 1. note the update regarding the ongoing climate change and community resilience work programme and associated progress; and**
- 2. note the inter-agency climate change working group report.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and Policy and Government Reform Group Work Plan including External Agency Reports**

This item provided Councillors with the Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and Policy and Government Reform Group work plan, which was updated for each Strategy and Policy Committee meeting. It also included a summary of recent reports and discussion papers received from external agencies that may be of interest to Councillors.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council note the Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and Policy and Government Reform Group work plan, including External Agency Reports.

Carried

11 Extraordinary and Urgent Business | Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

There were no items of extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business | He hui Pakihi e hara mo te iwi
Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Evans, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- ⇒ Confirmation of Minutes – 29 March 2023
- ⇒ Item 4 – Water and Land Portfolio Update
- ⇒ Item 5 – Tiwai Oversight Update

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)(d)</i>
⇒ Confirmation of Minutes – 29 March 2023	To enable any local authority holding information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	S.7(2)(H)
⇒ Item 4 – Water and Land Portfolio Update	The matter/s under discussion are before the Environment Court and therefore Council is authorised to deliberate in private.	S.48 (2)(a)(i)
⇒ Item 5 – Tiwai Oversight Update	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(j)

Carried

Termination

Mr Bull closed the meeting with a karakia. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:33pm.

**Minutes of the Regional Services Committee, Ropu Tiaki
Waka-a-Rohe meeting of the Southland Regional Council,
held in Regional House, corner North Road and
Price Street, Invercargill, on Wednesday,
10 May 2023, at 1.30pm**



Present:	Cr E Roy	(Chair)
	Cr L Ludlow	
	Cr M Rodway	(via Zoom)
	Cr P Evans	
	Chairman N Horrell	(ex-Officio)
	Mr S Bull	(Mana Whenua Representative)
In Attendance:	Mrs N McRobie	(Mana Whenua Support)
Staff Present:	Mr P Hulse	(General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management)
	Ms F Young	(Catchment Integration Manager)
	Ms E Whalley	(Team Leader Catchment Integration)
	Mr C Smith	(Team Leader Catchment Integration)
	Mrs K McLachlan	(Acting Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations Manager)
	Mr D Burgess	(Team Leader Biodiversity)
	Mr R Beal	(Catchment Operations Manager)
	Mr D Connor	(Team Leader Catchment Operations)
	Mr P Pollard	(Team Leader Catchment Operations)
	Mr D McIntosh	(Property Officer)
	Mr Nick Perham	(Partnerships Manager, ICM)
	Miss B Pickett	(Strategic Communications Advisor)
	Mrs E Kini	(Personal Assistant - Minutes)

1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairman, Cr Roy, welcomed members to the Regional Service Committee meeting for May 2023. Cr Roy advised he was standing in for Cr McDonald who was unable to attend.

2 Apologies | Nga Pa Pouri

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Ludlow, that apologies be recorded on behalf of Cr McDonald, Cr Pemberton, Cr McPhail and Mr Melgren.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga tuku korero

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau korero

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Cr Ludlow that the minutes of the Regional Services Committee meeting held on 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totia Pakihi

(a) Supplementary Report

There were no supplementary reports considered by the meeting.

(b) Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

7 Questions | Patai

Cr Ludlow enquired as to the regular updates of the Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust and when these would occur. Mr Hulse advised an update would be provided at the next Council meeting and regular updates to be scheduled thereafter.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera

Whakamana te Waituna Trust Meeting: Chairman Horrell reported on his attendance at the last Trust meeting, and noted that, the report mentioned by Mr Hulse which would include recommendations regarding Environment Southland representatives on the Trust and future funding, will require consideration by Council. Further information provided by Chairman Horrell included revisiting the Trust's constitution and membership, the Finance and Governance Project finishing on 30 June 2023 and acknowledgement of work completed to date and those involved.

Cr Evans provided an update regarding a meeting held on 2 May 2023 with Environment Southland staff and Waka Kotahi regarding gravel extraction on the Mararoa River.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Roy that Council note the Chairman and Councillors' Reports.

Carried

9 General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management Report – 23/RC/08

⇒ Item 1 – Southern Pest Eradication Society Update

The purpose of this item was to update Council on the planned consultation with the community within the operational boundaries of the Southern Pest Eradication Society (SPES) contract in relation to feedback being sought on the contracted work being undertaken.

Mr Perham advised a correction on Page 12 in relation to community feedback and drop in sessions, which will now not take place.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Evans that Council note the Southern Pest Eradication Society Report.

Carried

⇒ Item 2 – Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations Division Update – 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

This item updated Council on the operational progress of the Biosecurity and Biodiversity team's work programme focusing on key outcomes, current topical issues, emerging issues, co-ordination initiatives and key challenges.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council note the Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations Division quarterly report and instruct staff to investigate options for advising Vehicle Rental Companies of potential pests that could be sighted in Southland and the process of who and when to notify if sighted.

Carried

⇒ Item 3 – Catchment Integration Division Update

This item provided an update to Council on the Catchment Integration division's activities for the period January to March 2023. It was noted the team was leading or supporting a number of projects that demonstrate a shift towards a more integrated approach with internal and external groups, and across the catchments.

Mrs Young advised a correction on Page 20 in relation to Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFP), whereby Southland and Waikato are the first councils where farm plans will be required, not Southland and Otago.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **tem 4 – Catchment Operations Divisions Update**

This item was for Council to note the activity within the Catchment Operations Division, the focus over the period for which had continued to be a mix of annual asset inspections, reviewing and preparing the defects remediation work programme, climate resilience project delivery, gravel management and business as usual. Discussion occurred relating to Tuatapere stopbank ownership, raising sheep in the river berms and high risk tree removal and beautification of Waihopai River.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Rodway that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **Item 5 – Contracts and Progress on Works**

This item was provided to update Council on contracts and progress on works entered into by the Catchment Operations during the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Chairman Nicol, that Council note the update on Contracts and Progress on Works.

Carried

⇒ **Item 6 – Mataura Catchment Update**

The purpose of this item was for staff to provide Council with a presentation and report on emerging issues, projects and meetings attended relating to the Mataura catchment (including Waituna).

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council note the update.

Carried

⇒ **Item 7 – Integrated Catchment Management Group Work Plan**

This item provided Council with an update on the Integrated Catchment Management Group Work Plan, including providing details of the purpose of the plan, identifying key projects on each of the main catchments and regular reporting timeframes.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Evans, that Council note the Integration Catchment Management Group Work Plan.

Carried

10 Department of Conservation Verbal Update

An update from the Department of Conservation was not available, due to the absence of Mr Melgren.

10 Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell seconded Cr Evans, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- ⇒ **Confirmation of Minutes – 22 February 2023**
- ⇒ **Item 8 – Lease Inspection Reports**

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)</i>
⇒ Confirmation of Minutes – 22 February 2023	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	S.7(2)(h)
⇒ Item 8 – Lease Inspection Reports	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	S.7(2)(a)

Carried

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.01 pm.

**Minutes of the Regulatory Committee, Whakaretea,
meeting of the Southland Regional Council, held in
Regional House, corner North Road and Price Street,
Invercargill, on Thursday 11 May 2023, at 2.30 pm**



Present:	Cr N Cook (Chair) Cr P McDonald Cr R Guyton Chairman N Horrell (ex officio)
Also Present:	Cr L Ludlow
In Attendance:	Mr P Hulse (General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management) Mrs N Sharpe (Corporate Communications Advisor) Mr B Halligan (Consents Manager) Mrs D Ferguson (Resource Management Manager) Mr L Cleaver (Regional Harbourmaster) Ms K McLachlan (Acting Biodiversity and Biosecurity Manager) Ms J Hazley (Team Leader, Biodiversity and Biosecurity) Mrs E Kini (Personal Assistant)

1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairman welcomed members to the Regulatory Committee meeting for May 2023.

2 Apologies | Nga Pa Pouri

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McDonald, that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Crs Rodway, McPhail and Gibson.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga tuku korero

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented to the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau korero – 15 February 2023

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Cook, that the minutes of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 15 February 2022 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Cr Ludlow asked for an update on the proposed Bluff Haul-out facility. Mr Hulse advised discussions had commenced with South Port New Zealand Ltd, Invercargill City Council and Iwi to understand the position of each organisation and alignment for the facility. Council will be updated in the near future.

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totia Pakihi

(a) Supplementary Report

There were no supplementary reports considered by the meeting.

(b) Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

7 Questions | Patai

Cr Cook asked the following questions:

- (1) There are few locally qualified commissioners available for consent hearings, with Environment Southland only having two. Other councils have some but they are not as experienced in regional matters and we do not seem to have iwi representatives available to sit on hearings in to Southland regional issues. What actions can we take to encourage Southland people particularly iwi, to become qualified as RMA hearing commissioners?

Mr Halligan provided a written response directly to Cr Cook prior to the meeting and provided a brief verbal response which included information regarding Iwi Commissioners, Making Good Decisions training and utilising qualified local Commissioners as much as possible.

- (2) Revised fees and charges for Environment Southland activities have been released for public consultation. What communication avenues have been used to announce those planned changes? Mr Halligan provided details of the multiple communication avenues that had been utilised for this consultation process, and which had also been outlined at recent workshops.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera

Neither the Chairman nor any Councillors presented reports.

9 General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management Report – 23/RC/08

⇒ Item 1 – Biosecurity Regulatory Report – 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

The purpose of this report was to inform Council of the regulatory activities within the Biosecurity Division during the reporting period from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. Discussions occurred relating to bait stations/bins in Milford Sound and Bluff, organism incursion in the North Island and possible impacts to the South Island, as well as promotion of the Antenno tool.

Ms McLachlan advised two corrections on Page 9 in relation to the Biosecurity Divisional Exemption activities whereby the total current exemptions for the quarter January to March 2023:

- for Bengal Cat is 23, and no new exemptions for the quarter;
- for Undaria is 2 instead 4 as reported.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McDonald that Council note the Biosecurity Regulatory Report for the period January to March and instruct staff to:

- 1) **raise the topic of future organism incursions occurring in the North Island that could impact the South Island at the next BioManagers Forum and provide response to Councillors;**
- 2) **investigate user feedback on Antenno including follow-up of Cr Ludlow's submission.**

Carried

⇒ Item 2 – Consents Team Activity and Performance - 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

The purpose of this report was to inform Council of the activities within the Consents Division during the reporting period from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. Discussions occurred relating to groundwater nitrate levels, intensive winter grazing and Maitara consent holders.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr MacDonald that Council note the Consents Division report for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Environmental Compliance Division Report – 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023**

The Committee received an update of the activities within the Compliance Division during the reporting period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. Discussions occurred relating to proactive monitoring for Intensive Winter Grazing and synthetic nitrogen reporting.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McDonald that Council note the Compliance Division report for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 4 – Integrated Catchment Management Group Work Plan**

Mr Hulse spoke to this report, which discussed details relating to the Integrated Catchment Management Group Work Plan. Discussion focused on the harbourmaster's presence in Fiordland.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McDonald, that Council note the Integrated Catchment Management Group Work Plan.

Carried

10 Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There were no items of extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business

There was no public excluded business considered by the meeting.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.51 pm.

Minutes of the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees Meeting held in Clutha District Council Chambers, Balclutha, on Friday, 12 May 2023 at 10.15 am

Otago:

Cr Kate Wilson (ORC, RTC Chairman) **Meeting Chair**
Cr Alexa Forbes (ORC, RTC Deputy Chair)
Cr Bruce Graham (CDC)
Cr Jim O'Malley (DCC)
Cr Quentin Smith (QLDC) via teams
Cr Jim Thomson (WDC) via teams - left at 1.30 pm
Cr Gavin Bartlett (QLDC) via teams

Southland:

Cr Jeremy McPhail (ES, RTC Chair)
Cr Phil Morrison (ES, RTC Deputy Chair)
Cr Christine Menzies (SDC) via teams
Mayor Rob Scott (SDC)
Cr Ria Bond (ICC)

In attendance:

Mr Russell Hawkes (ES)
Ms Lorraine Cheyne (ORC)
Mr Chris Bopp (CDC)
Mr Russell Pearson (ICC)
Ms Stacey Hitchcock (DCC)
Ms Jeanine Benson (DCC)
Mr Chad Barker (NZTA)
Mr Murray Hasler (GDC)
Mr Hartley Hare (SDC)
Mr Paul Fleet – by teams
Mr Mike Harrison (WDC) – via teams
Mr Chris Ballantyne (Waka Kotahi) via teams
Mr Dean Lowry (ES)
Ms Lesley McCory (ICC)
Mrs Melanie Weston (ES – minute taker) – via teams

1 Welcome | Haere mai

Cr McPhail welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those attending via teams and opened with a Karakia.

2 Apologies | Nga Pa Pouri

Resolved:

Moved by Cr Kate Wilson, seconded by Cr Alexa Forbes that apologies be received from Cr Stuart Duncan Cr Joe Stringer and Mr Peter Brown. An apology for lateness was received on behalf of Cr Kevin Gilbert and Mr James Caygill for lateness.

Carried

3 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga Tuku Korero

Cr McPhail welcomed representatives from Lead and Tracks Network Trust to present to the Committee. A copy of this presentation was circulated and would also be kept on file. The Otago Territorial Authority has the largest network of shared trails in the Southern hemisphere. The desire from Queenstown, Central Otago and the Waitaki is for the trails to connect with the Dunedin Airport to draw people across their regions thereby becoming one of the top cycling/walking destinations in the world. Items briefly discussed included:

- tourism benefits to the region - frequent travellers, accommodation, bike hire and etc;
- cycling safety and placing people/cyclists first.

Cr McPhail thanked the representatives from Lead and Tracks Network Trust for their informative presentation.

4 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau Korero – 3 March 2023

Resolved:

Moved by Cr Kate Wilson, seconded by Cr Alexa Forbes that the minutes of the Regional Transport Committees meeting held on 3 March 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

5 Actions from Minutes of 3 March 2023

No actions were raised at the meeting.

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

6.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

6.2 Other

No other items were raised for discussion.

7 Questions | Patai

No questions were asked at this time.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera

No reports were presented to the meeting.

9 Staff Report – 23/RTC/30

⇒ Item 1 – Regional Land Transport Plan Mid Term Review – Draft Strategic Section

The purpose of this item was to provide the Committees with the opportunity to review the strategic section of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021–2027 as part of the mid-term review. Mr Hawkes spoke to this item and highlighted changes.

Items raised in this discussion included:

- reverting back to the previous version of the ILM problem statement (version 1.3);
- the explanation for the review needs to be clearly outlined;
- the differences between urban and rural areas needs greater emphasis;
- change language to focus on commuter travel not car travel;
- incorporate future population projections and plan for the future (table 2);
- greater focus on innovative transport options;
- incorporate relevant safety statistics;
- change table 3
- references to “Tarras” changed and Figure 1 replaced;
- annexures need to be updated (2 & 8) , RCAs to update.

Mr Hawkes advised that once amendments have been made, this document would be brought back to this Committee for review. Mr Mike Harrison also raised an issue relating to public transport and the aged population in Oamaru (27% of the population over the age of 65).

Resolved:

Moved Cr Morrison, seconded Cr Alexa Forbes, that the Regional Transport Committees:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) provide feedback and direction on the strategic section of the Draft 2021-2027 Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plan, as presented;**
- (3) that the original ILM version (1.3) be used.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Arataki – Waka Kotahi Presentation**

This item provided the group with a verbal update on the activities of Waka Kotahi. Items raised in this discussion included:

- reduction targets for Tier 1s;
- VKT reduction prioritisation and funding;
- speed zones, schools;
- preparation for programmes.

Cr Jim O'Malley raised his concerns that there is potentially insufficient priority provided through the tier system, while Cr Quentin Smith reiterated the importance of alignment with LTP programmes. Cr Kate Wilson raised her concerns about speed reductions not occurring around hospitals.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Kate Wilson, seconded Cr Jim Thompson, that the Regional Transport Committees:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) provide feedback to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on the topics included in the presentation.**

Carried

⇒ Item 3 – Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Update

This item was presented by Mr Chris Ballantyne, who is the Lead Strategic Planner for most of the South Island which includes Otago and Southland. He is currently involved in a national project “Arataki” and was keen for local government to be more involved.

Mr Ballantyne advised the latest version was released at the end of March 2023 and was developed as a shared sector view of how the transport sector needs to plan, develop, invest and operate over the next 30 years. Arataki has a number of components:

- strategic context;
- national directions
- regional directions;
- transport modes and strategic network;
- user lenses;
- interactive maps (represented in a GIS format).

Moving forward the plan will be to develop this further with partners, iwi/Maori, local government and the wider transport sector. The next version is expected to be released in October 2024.

Items also discussed included the importance of incorporating the regional contexts, including emphasising the opportunities and challenges each region faces.

Mr Ballantyne highlighted the importance of integrated planning and how this will bring together transport planning and land use planning. He also added that any further feedback or criticism was most welcome and encouraged the Committees to contact him should they have any further questions.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Jim Thompson, seconded Cr Kate Wilson, that the Regional Transport Committees:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) provide feedback to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on the topics included in the presentation.**

Carried

⇒ Item 4 – Otago Southland Road Safety Update

This item provided an update to the Combined Otago Southland Regional Transport Committees on the management of Road safety programmes and current statistics related deaths and serious injuries on the Regions roads. Mr Hawkes alerted the Committee to the graphs in his report which was circulated in the agenda.

Cr Morrison acknowledged the road safety statistics and highlighted:

- the need to explore some of the data and insights;
- to include a report around freight movements on our roads as their appears to be some dangerous roads in Southland.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Kate Wilson, seconded Cr Jim Thompson, that the Regional Transport Committees:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) provide feedback and direction of future Road Safety Reporting to the Committee.**

Carried

⇒ Item 5 – Regional Speed Management Plan Update

This report provided the Combined Otago Southland Regional Transport Committees with the latest information available and progress on the development of the combined regions Regional Speed Management Plan.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Jim O Malley, seconded Cr Jim Thompson, that Regional Transport Committees:

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) provide any comment or direction they require in respect to the Regional Speed Management Plan.**

Carried

⇒ Item 6 – Next Meeting

By Consensus:

That the next meeting of the Regional Transport committees be held on the week of 21 July 2023, or, if required, earlier at the discretion of the respective Committee Chairs, with a venue to be confirmed.

Carried

10 Extraordinary and Urgent Business | Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

There were no items of extraordinary or urgent business considered by the Committees at this time.

11 Public Excluded Business | He hui Pakihi e hara mo te iwi

There were no public excluded business items raised.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

**Minutes of the Finance & Performance Committee,
Komiti pūtea, ngā mahinga hoki, meeting of the
Southland Regional Council, held in
Regional House, corner North Road and Price Street,
Invercargill, on 24 May 2023, at 10.00 am.**



Present:	Cr M Rodway	(Chair)
	Cr L Ludlow	
	Cr J McPhail	
	Cr P Morrison	
	Cr A Gibson	
	Chairman N Horrell	(ex-officio)
In Attendance:	Ms W Falconer	(Chief Executive) – <i>by zoom</i>
	Mr D Rikiti	(General Manager, Business Services)
	Ms A Kubrycht	(General Manager, People & Customer)
	Mr P Hulse	(General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management) – <i>joined by zoom 11.30 am</i>
	Ms R Millar	(General Manager, Strategy, Science & Engagement)
	Mrs T Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mrs P Toomey	(Information & Support Manager)
	Mr P Le Roux	(Health, Safety & Risk Manager)
	Mrs T Adendorff	(Team Leader Finance Operations)
	Mr L Watson	(Finance Officer)
	Mrs T de Thierry	(Senior Revenue Officer)
	Mr Kenny Lyu	(Digital and Channel Advisor)
	Mrs M Weston	(PA) - <i>by zoom</i>
	Ms M Geldenhuys	(PA)

1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Finance & Performance Committee meeting including those attending the live stream.

2 Apologies | Nga Pa Pouri

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cr Rodway declared an interest in the list of Biodiversity projects which included the Environmental Enhancement Fund. The organisation he volunteers for and receives no financial reward from is the Forest Restoration Trust. The Forest Restoration Trust receives a grant from the Environmental Enhancement Fund of an estimated amount of \$6,000 each year.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations | He Huinga Tuku Korero

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes | Whakau Korero – 22 February 2023

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Morrison, that the minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business | He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

6.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

6.2 Other

No other items were raised for discussion.

7 Questions | Patai

No questions were asked at this time.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports | Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera

There were no reports received from the Chair or Councillors.

9 General Manager - Corporate Report – 23/F&P/36

⇒ Item 1 – Deloitte – Audit Management Letter

The purpose of this item was for Council to endorse the signing of the Deloitte Audit Engagement and Audit Proposal letters by Chairman Horrell. The current Audit Proposal with Deloitte expired at the end of the 2021/22 financial year audit and Council had received an updated Audit Engagement letter and Audit Proposal for the forthcoming three financial years. Management confirmed that all commitment of Council to support the audit can be met and were comfortable with the proposed fee of \$147,571 (excl GST) for the 2022/23 financial year or year 1.

Mrs Hawkins spoke to this item and reminded Councillors that the Auditor General appoints auditors to carry out annual audits and monitor audit fees to ensure that fees are in line with market rates. She also added that the service received from our Auditors was good and that a new audit team will be appointed to the organisation from January 2024.

Cr Rodway commented that at a recent committee meeting the Councillor Interest Register was raised and he encouraged all Councillors to review their interests with the Executive Officer. He noted the importance of this for transparency reasons.

Cr Rodway question the statement "For FY23 there will be increase audit hours related to enhanced audit procedures required in relation to requirements of ISA (NZ) 315 Revised *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*" (on pg. 26 of the agenda) to which Mrs Hawkins advised she would seek clarification from the Auditors.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council:

- 1) **endorse the signing of the Audit Engagement letter by Chairman Horrell;**
- 2) **endorse the signing of the Audit Proposal letter by Chairman Horrell.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Annual Vehicle Report for 2023/24**

This item sought Council approval for the Chief Executive to undertake a vehicle replacement programme, in accordance with Council's Motor Vehicle Policy, and to replace up to 11 vehicles in the 2023/24 financial year. Councillors were informed that a pool booking system "BookIt" was implemented last year, which was designed to increase fleet utilisation. Mr Le Roux commented that after 12 months some good data was expected which will provide information on distances travelled, how these vehicles are being used and could also be used to inform the utilisation of vehicles, including future purchases/reduction of vehicles.

Cr McPhail questioned why all the vehicles were white in colour? Mr Le Roux responded that from a health and safety perspective, vehicles are often parked up on the side of the road thereby making them more visible to other drivers. The white colour also ensures that the organisations' logo is clearly displayed for identification purposes. Cr Morrison thanked Mr le Roux for his report and also emphasised that safety of staff was important.

Cr Morrison raised the issue around supply and demand of new vehicles and whether as a Council they need to be considering replacement of these months ahead for the subsequent year in order for the organisation to have access to the vehicles that are needed? Mrs Kubrycht confirmed that the timelines were changed recently to align to

the annual budgeting process and was happy to review this and would report back on the findings.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council:

- 1) **note the annual vehicle report;**
- 2) **note the outcome of the 2022/23 replacement programme;**
- 3) **approve the Chief Executive undertaking a vehicle replacement programme of up to 11 vehicles in the 2023/24 financial year.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Finance Report to 31 March 2023**

The financial report to 31 March 2023 was presented by Mrs Hawkins. The operating result for the nine months to March 2023 was a surplus of \$276,000 versus a budgeted deficit of \$5.5 million. As a result, the operating deficit for the year ended 30 June 2023 was re-forecast from a \$7.7 million deficit to a \$3.7 million deficit.

The forecast operating result for the year was for an improvement of \$4 million above the original budget which (largely) related to the return of the cruise ship income of \$2.2 million and a net underspend in expenses of \$1.8 million.

Other items highlighted in this discussion included:

- surplus funds to build-up the financial resilience of Council;
- marine fee reserve;
- digital transformation underspend which is set aside;

Resolved:

Moved Cr Gibson, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council note the Financial Report to 31 March 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 4 – Long-term Plan Quarterly Progress Report to 31 March 2023**

This item provided Councillors with an update on the progress of activities that are described in 2021-2031 Long-term Plan. Mrs Millar spoke to this item and confirmed that the organisation was reporting against 56 targets, that there was a high level of confidence although some movement was expected to “amber” towards the end of the year.

Cr Rodway raised a question (pg.74) relating to the target “deliver management programmes designed to improve regional biodiversity, human health and economic prosperity”. He added that there were proposals in the organisation, working with farmers to raise sheep on river berms whilst the biodiversity team was thinking about different types of vegetation which could be affected by that activity. Cr Rodway wanted to know what the role of the committee was to ensure that what we were trying to do in one area was not in conflict in another – and if so how this would be resolved? Ms Millar agreed to raise this with the relevant directorates and would report back to the Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council note the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 5 – Investment Report to 31 March 2023**

Councillors were asked to note the Investment Report to 31 March 2023 which was presented by Mrs Hawkins. The market value of the portfolio increased by \$400,369 (before taxes and charges). Over the nine-month period, the portfolio increased in value by \$1,277,115. As at 31 March 2023, the total of Council’s managed funds investments was \$27,945,240. The overall result for the 12-month period to 31 March 2023 is 1.09%. As at 26 April 2023, the managed funds investment market value had increased to \$28,291,747.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council note the investment report to 31 March 2023.

Carried

⇒ **Item 6 – Information Management, Systems, Technology and Data Update**

This item provided Councillors with an update on activity to progress information management and information systems projects within the organisation. Mrs Toomey spoke to her report which was taken as read. Highlights in her report included:

- the pilot project for the digitisation of physical records is underway and should be completed by 30 June 2023;
- council is to review a draft version of the list of protected records with explanatory notes and to provide feedback to Archives NZ by 30 July 2023;
- the Objective Document Management System upgrade was successfully completed;
- the Information and Support team reviewed privacy webinars.

Mrs Toomey also provided highlights for Mrs Carroll’s report in her absence which included:

- “bringing data to life” – photographic examples were provided of the river cameras which were recently installed.
- over a quarter of customer contacts have been verified and this project continues;
- the draft technology strategy will be presented to the Executive during May 2023 and once endorsed the final Technology Strategy will be presented to the committee at its next quarterly meeting.

Cr Rodway commented that the LiDAR information on lower Mataura was published and although it was good to see, was unable to see the digital elevation of the lines. He thought this would be useful for the public to see and asked if this would be made available? Cr Morrison also agreed and asked if additional GIS information was required to make this available? Mr Rikiti and Ms Kubrycht acknowledged that they were not in a position to respond and were to investigate and report back to Councillors.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Gibson, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note the activity and progress in delivering information management, systems, and technology within Council.

Carried

⇒ **Item 7 –Annual Activity Plan**

The Finance and Performance Committee were presented with the annual plan of items to be delivered on by the Committee and to obtain ongoing input on the proposed plan.

Mrs Hawkins drew Councillors attention to the changes which were indicated in blue and included:

- the Draft Annual Plan is to be reviewed on 21 June 2023 and will include the fees and charges schedule;
- a new Government Funded Project Report will be presented on 23 August 2023;
- Financial Delegations Review is scheduled for 23 August 2023;
- The Strategic Asset Review and SIPO have moved to the September meeting.

Cr Ludlow questioned if the Iwi Charter of Understanding’s review was completed in 2022, and was advised that Te Ao Marama Inc were engaging with Rūnanga and that she would follow-up and provide feedback on progress at the next meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Gibson, that Council note the Annual Activity Plan.

Carried

10 Extraordinary and Urgent Business | Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

There were no items of extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

11 Public Excluded Business

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McPhail, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Item 8 – Bad Debt to be Written Off**
- **Item 9 – Climate Resilience Projects**

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)</i>
→ Item 8 – Bad Debt to be Written Off	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	S.7(2)(a)
→ Item 9 – Climate Resilience Projects	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(j)

Carried

Resumed in Open Meeting

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.44 pm.



Chairman and Councillors' Reports



Chairman's Report

Activities undertaken by the Chairman since the last meeting

May 2023

- 3 Ordinary meeting of Council
Council Workshop – Annual Plan
Council Workshop – Beyond 2025 Project
Agriculture PAG meeting – via Zoom
- 4 Project 1225 Museum Presentation
- 5 Great South Joint Shareholders Committee
Southland Mayoral Forum
- 6 Witness briefing – pre-trial
- 8 Rural Women's Conference, Riverton
- 9 Trial – F Kidd
- 10 Strategy & Policy Committee
Council Workshop – Freshwater Farm Plans
Regional Services Committee
- 11 Regulatory Committee
- 15 Entity J Mayors & Chairs Zoom
- 16 Great South Strategy Session with the Board
- 17 Council TAMI Workshop – Plan Change tuatahi engagement
Council workshop – Compliance Annual Priorities
Debrief re Waituna application
Entity J meeting – via Zoom
- 18 Climate Change Working Group
- 20 Guardians of Lakes Manapouri, Monowai & Te Anau 50 year celebration
- 23 Murihiku Regeneration Wānanga – Day 1
- 24 Finance & Performance Committee
- 25 LGNZ Combined Sector meeting, Wellington
- 26 LGNZ Combined Sector meeting, Wellington
NZ Farm Environment Trust National Sustainability Showcase



Item 1 Chief Executive’s Report

Objective ID: A909848	Strategic Direction: Governance
Report by: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	Approved by: -
Executive Approval: -	

Purpose

To provide Council with a governance overview of pan organisational current matters.

Summary

This is the Chief Executive’s report for the month of May 2023. It provides an update from all direct reports to the Chief Executive, on topical matters.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to note the report.

Report

Report - Office of the Chief Executive

Region-wide planning in response to climate change, including transport matters, continues to be a focus for Council and Te Uru Kahika (the secretariat that supports the Chief Executives and Chairs of the Regional Councils and Unitary Authorities). The Inquiry Panel into woody debris (including forestry slash) and sediment in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne and Wairoa brought this into sharp focus with the recent release of its report, which emphasises the responsibilities of councils in relation to regulation and infrastructure failure in significant weather events. It is noted that the Government included a new National Resilience Plan in Budget 2023 to address infrastructure deficit with an initial \$6 billion investment starting with the cyclone rebuild. The scale of the cyclone recovery cannot be overstated.

Southland is in good position with the current Climate Resilience Projects either complete or well underway. Work is progressing on the Stead Street pump station replacement and the project is on-track for the scheduled completion date later this year. The Waimumu riverbank stabilisation and the upgrade of the Boundary Creek and Waimumu Stream stopbanks (that protect the town of Mataura) is complete. The bulk earthworks for the Waihōpai and Wyndham stopbank projects has ceased due to the construction material being too wet, but will recommence in November 2023. Lastly, the South-East Gore stopbank realignment project has started, with site preparation underway. Discussions on other significant resilience projects in the region continue at a local and national level.

Freshwater Farm Plan regulations, which are a key component of the Government’s Essential Freshwater reforms, are expected to go to Cabinet late May/early June. Following this, Southland is scheduled to be one of the first regions to have regulations apply and staff are working closely with Iwi, the Ministry for the Environment and Te Uru Kahika to ensure the roll-out goes smoothly. The turning on of the regulations will be done through an Order in Council approximately from August 2023.



I continue to be involved in the Milford Opportunity Project Board, which meets approximately every six to eight weeks. The May meeting was held to provide the Ministers with an update on key policy issues for the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee.

Report – Strategy, Science & Engagement Group

Communications

Promotional winter campaigns are underway. There is publicity across a range of channels promoting good domestic burner practice to reduce smoke and help improve air quality. The team is promoting good winter grazing practice and letting people know that the compliance team is out and about monitoring the situation. There was also a media release to remind duck hunters to check for toxic algae, which may be harmful to dogs if ingested.

The team is providing communications support for high river watches, of which there were two following high rainfall events in May. A wealth of planning and work is underway around the development and roll-out of farm plans, Plan Change Tuatahi, and the progress of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

The 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule consultation, which has some inflation-adjusted changes, is due to close on 4 June 2023. Planning is underway for the next Environment Southland Community Awards with the securing of sponsorship, revision of policies and documents, and setting timeframes.

Media enquiries this month have focused on willows on the Waimea Stream, winter grazing, cruise ships and the marine fee. Work on the next edition of Envirosouth is underway, with story topics chosen and interviews being arranged and/or underway.

Strategy & Partnership

With a number of key Council decisions regarding the 2023/24 Annual Plan made at the meeting on 3 May 2023, the focus for the Strategy and Partnership team is now on the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan. The team is also focusing on work programmes such as the Te Mahi planning and reporting system (demonstrated at a recent Council workshop) and work in the climate change space. The new Strategy and Partnership Manager, Dave Gibbs, commences with Council on 30 May 2023.

In terms of the climate change work, the regional climate change inter-agency governance group has tasked the staff group to develop principles and aspirations that the agencies can align on as the basis for progressing a regional climate change strategy and informing the long-term planning of the individual agencies. Internally, following on from the recent setting of an organisational net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal of 2050, research continues into how to best achieve emissions reductions and what interim organisational targets could be recommended to Council.

A climate change perceptions survey has also recently been internally tested as a pilot. This survey is now being refined and will be rolled-out externally in June to gain a baseline of the community's understanding and perceptions of climate change as an issue for Murihiku Southland. In addition, research is being undertaken to determine potential recommendations on the shape of the "youth mechanism" for engagement in the climate change space. This will be discussed at a Council workshop to be held on 22 June 2023.



Science Strategy & Investigations

In preparation for winter, an expanded network of air quality monitoring sites has been installed across smaller towns of Southland to better understand the impacts of wood smoke on smaller communities. The Te Anau and Mataura primary schools have agreed to host air quality sensors, which will measure PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (small airborne particulate matter) this winter. The data will be shared with the schools and follow-up engagement with students will occur later in the year. Staff are also working with NIWA to install almost 40 air quality sensors across Invercargill and up to 15 sensors across Gore over winter. The data from this study will improve understanding of spatial variation of air quality across two key airsheds and will allow staff to determine the degree to which the current monitoring sites meet legislative requirements.

Staff are also working on a baseline state assessment for freshwater and estuaries in Murihiku Southland. This work incorporates the last 10 years of monitoring data and will report against the national objectives framework in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2020), as well as the numeric attributes identified in the draft freshwater objectives. This assessment will inform Plan Change Tuatahi and will determine which sites and attributes are below national bottom lines. In addition to the baseline state assessment, staff are supporting other Plan Change Tuatahi workstreams, including the Freshwater Farm Plan work.

Field work has commenced to ground-truth areas of ecological significance in the coastal and marine environment, as part of the development of a marine science programme. The work seeks to verify spatial and desktop studies conducted over the last few years and clarify the locations, extent and character of locations of interest, as well as providing information for locations where data has not previously been available. The data from this work will help inform policy development and management decisions on our coastal and marine environments.

Science Informatics & Operations

Hydrological Response

Following some high flow radar measurements on the Lill Burn, the team has developed rainfall-based flood models for the Lill Burn, the Wairaki River and Orauea Stream, which will provide predicted flows for the Waiau River downstream at Clifden and Tuatapere.

A STIV (space time image velocimetry) camera has been installed on the Waikaia River at Mahers Beach to measure high flow events. The web server provides a user friendly interface for staff to look at the camera network and remotely move the camera at Lumsden to view the gauge board and the upstream and downstream river sections. An android app has been deployed to allow staff to have remote access to the river cameras.

Data Ecosystems

The team has received and serviced 22 data requests since last update (3 May 2023). Most of these are for long-term monitoring data e.g. groundwater or freshwater. The requests are often associated with resource consent applications or research.

Staff have installed the Hilltop software update with the air quality data source and are in the process of the air quality refresh for Land and Water Aotearoa ([LAWA](#)). Documentation for the annual LAWA refresh has been received, and planning and work for this is underway. The team has been working with the Compliance Technical team on training and improving its data set-up within Hilltop. Work has been ongoing developing the groundwater portal, which will be available for testing soon.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Surface and lakes water quality sampling, hydrology/flood warning station inspections and site checks have been undertaken. Groundwater level network site upgrades and drone operational training are in progress.

Report – Policy and Government Reform Group

Regional Planning

The Environment Court is reconvening on the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan appeals on 29 May 2023 for the next hearing on the Appendix N – Farm Environmental Management Plan provisions, to discuss the outcomes from the cross-party sense-check.

The Plan Change Tuatahi policy discussion papers are being drafted, in partnership with Te Ao Marama Inc (the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku natural resource management agency), in preparation for the public engagement to commence in the next couple of months.

Final stages of preparation are underway for the hearing on Plan Change 5 – Surface Water Activity to the Regional Coastal Plan, commencing on 26 June 2023, in Te Anau.

Policy and Government Reform

Council has responded to the Minister’s letter relating to Council’s intentions to provide for vegetable growers as part of its NPS-FM 2020 implementation following the Councillor workshop on this topic.

The Ministry for the Environment has been continuing the development and engagement with staff on the National Planning Framework (NPF) – the secondary piece of legislation that will accompany the “new” RMA Bills. The NPF is due to be released by the middle of the year and will then go through a Board of Inquiry process.

Report – Integrated Catchment Management Group

ICM Partnerships

Bluff Biosecurity Haul-out Facility

In 2017 Environment Southland adopted the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan (see link below). One of the components of the plan is the requirement to adhere to a “clean hull standard”. At the time, concerns were raised over the “inadequacy” of the facilities in Bluff for boat-owners to comply with clean hull standards. The only relevant facility was the syncrolift owned and operated by South Port New Zealand Limited. The main concern was around the lack of accessibility to the syncrolift and the lack of biosecurity compliance within the syncrolift operations and the public boat ramp (adjacent to the causeway leading to South Port), especially around the disposal of waste.

<https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/plans-and-strategies/regional-plans/fiordland-marine-pathway-plan>



In March 2023 Environment Southland met with Invercargill City Council and South Port New Zealand Ltd staff to re-establish discussions around the need for a haul-out facility. All agreed to continue to progress this project.

Next steps will be to undertake a current needs analysis to determine what facilities and/or services are required. This will provide options around what haul-out facilities are needed while also exploring funding options. We will work with key partners and stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to address the needs, including location(s), capacity, services provided, target customers and a business model.

ICM Partnerships

The Whakamana te Waituna funding deed came to an end on 10 May 2023. Staff are now in the process of completing close-out requirements. The Whakamana te Waituna Trust is currently considering options around next steps – see separate report.

The Reimagining Maitara Project was set-up by a number of agencies including Hokonui Rūnanga, Fonterra and Land Information New Zealand, with the purpose “to reimagine the Maitara River system by bringing together catchment by design methodologies and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) in order to build cultural, environmental and economic resilience in the catchment.” Many of the aspirations align well with Council’s work and future focus. Staff are in the process of developing a framework for working with the Group and supporting the initiatives of mutual interest such as environmental education, wilding conifers management, fish passage and farm plans.

Catchment Operations

Gravel management

The Bathymetric survey data for the Maitara and Waikaia Rivers and the Tomogalak Stream is still undergoing the quality assurance process. Council has received the first tranche of data for the priority area that is needed for the Gore and Maitara 2D Hydraulic model, which shows the complex interactions between waterways and structures.

Issues have been identified with some of the original data collection and some additional data collection is required, particularly around river mouths. A data validation report will also be completed before the full dataset will be accepted for use.

Consents for Catchment Operational Activities

Consultants have been engaged to prepare consent renewals for the removal of willow and erosion protection in the coastal marine area, extraction and redistribution of gravel in the Maitara and Waikaia districts, Titiroa flood control gates, Waihōpai Dam and the Opio sediment traps.

Annual Dam Inspections

Work is underway to meet the new regulations of the New Zealand Dam Safety Regulations (that were announced in May 2022) that come into effect in May 2024. Council will be required to have a Dam Safety Assurance programme that includes specific roles of Dam Manager and Dam Safety Manager, which will be assigned to staff. The Potential Impact Classifications (PIC) for each dam (Low, Medium or High) that were assessed five years ago will be reviewed as part of this process.

Climate Resilience Projects

Work is progressing well on the Stead Street pump station replacement. This project is on-track for the scheduled completion date later this year. The next phase of work will require reducing the traffic to one lane. The Waimumu construction work to undertake riverbank stabilisation and the



upgrade of the Boundary Creek and Waimumu Stream stopbanks (that protect the town of Mataura) is complete and this project is in the close-out phase. The bulk earthworks for the Waihōpai and Wyndham projects has ceased due to the construction material being too wet to use. The work is planned to recommence in November 2023.

The South-East Gore project has started, but early site preparation work identified historic landfill issues though parts of the planned alignment of the new stopbank along the Mataura River. The landfill material has been assessed for contamination by a contaminated land specialist. The testing undertaken only identified asbestos at one sample site. The materials with the asbestos will be encapsulated as part of the project, in accordance with the BRANZ (2017) guidelines which require capping of at least 0.5 m for “soft” fill. An asbestos removal/management control plan is not required for this site.

The steel culverts for accessing the Mataura “gravel island” have been received and the installation of these culverts will commence when the river flows allow this to be done safely.

Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations

The Biodiversity team has been focusing on supporting landowners to complete applications to the 2023/24 Environmental Enhancement Fund. The fund has received 38 applications seeking \$550,000 in funding, which exceeds the amount that is available for 2023/24 (\$500,000). An objective prioritisation process, in partnership with Te Ao Marama Inc, is now underway to assess the applications.

The summer season for pest plant work is wrapping up. Unfortunately, there have been new Old Man’s Beard and wilding conifer sites discovered recently. A new Possum Control Area has been set-up in Balfour this month, equating to two new additions for the season. A successful joint-agency compliance trip to Fiordland was undertaken by the marine team. No marine pests were found at the sites inspected and a high level of clean vessel pass compliance was observed.

The two Department of Conservation Jobs for Nature funded projects (Fiordland *Undaria* Control and Weeding Fiordland’s Buffer) are in their final quarter and transition work planning is ongoing.

Consents

The Consents team continues to keep on top of processing timeframes and workloads. There have been 66 applications lodged in the April/May 2023 period. There are several more complex applications anticipated in the next quarter, based on recent pre-application discussions and other enquiries.

There has been a slight reduction in incoming consents compared to the previous period, and associated reduction in the amount of work outsourced for external processing. Eight of the 203 consents currently in progress (4%) have been outsourced for external processing, to maintain timeframe compliance and ensure workloads are manageable for in-house staff, noting there are also two vacancies in the team currently.

Staff continue to receive intensive winter grazing (IWG) consent applications, and a smaller number of applications for deemed permitted activities (available on land between 10 and 15 degrees slope, where all other permitted activity criteria are met). As at 12 May 2023, 68 landowners had either registered their intensive winter grazing permitted activity status through the online portal or used



the application process to obtain a resource consent or deemed permitted activity approval for their IWG activities.

Staff have been liaising with Contact Energy on its recently announced proposal to develop a wind farm east of Wyndham. A staff workshop was scheduled with Contact Energy for 24 May 2023 to discuss this in more detail.

Environment Court appeals

An Environment Court appeal has been lodged by Alpine Group in relation to a decision in early 2022 to decline consent to the group. The Alpine Group sought changes to its existing floating facility in Cascade Cove, Milford Sound. A meeting to discuss this appeal between the parties took place on 5 December 2022 in Dunedin. There has been recent further constructive discussion on this appeal between the parties in late April and early May, however the appeal still remains live at the time of writing.

Fast track application – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

An application was lodged in December 2019 for consent for the Hananui open ocean aquaculture proposal. The applicant opted to withdraw from the RMA process with Environment Southland and lodge through the fast track legislation with the EPA. The EPA invited comments from Environment Southland in relation to the project application. Commentary on the application was provided to the expert consenting panel on 14 February 2023, which was within the 10 day requirement. Comment was also received from various other parties, and the application is progressing through the fast track process, with the panel having also undertaken a physical site visit. The relevant documents can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/referred-projects/hananui-aquaculture-project/>

The EPA panel issued a minute on 12 May 2023 extending the timeframe for its issue of a decision from 26 June to 1 August 2023.

Hearings

A hearing is being re-scheduled for early July 2023 for Capil Grove Limited for a dairy farming proposal before a panel made-up of independent commissioner Bianca Sullivan and Cr Ludlow.

Consents Consultants Forum

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 May 2023. This remains a useful forum for exchange of information and feedback. At the March 2023 meeting a presentation was provided by the Catchment Integration team on progress on certified freshwater farm plans, which was well received. The April meeting was postponed to May.

Applications under action/in progress:

There are 203 (including 31 Maitai Water Conservation Order review applications) applications currently in progress.

The following applications are currently progressing via a publicly notified or limited notified process:

1. **Suelen Properties Limited** – two applications to establish and operate a marine farm for the cultivation of oysters at two sites situated in Horseshoe Bay, Stewart Island and Nathans Island, Stewart Island. The hearing timeframe has been extended, due to the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) involvement. The applicant is considering options for its operation following recent discussions with MPI. A hearing date has yet to be scheduled.



2. **Sean Ellis & Maria Kuster** – to undertake commercial surface water activities in Fiordland. Submissions closed on 11 August 2021. Two submissions were received. The application process is on hold awaiting a hearing deposit payment.
3. **Gravity Fishing Limited** - commercial surface water activities in the coastal waters from Yates Point to Dusky Sound - publicly notified. Submissions closed on 25 August 2022. The processing of the application is currently on hold awaiting a hearing deposit.
4. **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20221951)** – commercial surface water – limited notified. Submissions closed on 1 July 2022. Two submissions received. Submitters withdrew their right to be heard. Application progressing for decision.
5. **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20221947)** – commercial surface water – limited notified. Submissions closed on 28 June 2022. Two submissions received. The processing of the application is currently suspended under s91A by the applicant. A pre-hearing has been requested for scheduling by the applicant.
6. **Fulton Hogan Limited** – gravel extraction, Maitaurua catchment – limited notified. Submissions closed on 27 September 2022. One submission received and subsequently withdrawn. Application granted under delegated authority.
7. **Capil Grove Limited** – dairy farming and land use - publicly notified. A hearing is being re-scheduled for early July 2023 – see hearings section above.
8. **Kanadale Limited** – dairy farming and land use – publicly notified. Submissions closed on 8 November 2022. One submission received. The processing of the application is currently suspended by the applicant under s91A.
9. **Blue Sky Meats** – industrial related activities – publicly notified. Submissions closed on 20 February 2023. Two submissions received. The processing is on hold pending provision of further information by the applicant.
10. **Pahia Dairies Limited** – dairy farming related activities – publicly notified. Submissions close on 22 March 2023. One submission received. A pre-hearing meeting was held on 8 May 2023. The applicant is continuing to engage with the submitter before a hearing is scheduled.
11. **Fiordland Discovery Limited** – commercial surface water activity – limited notified – Submissions closed on 18 April 2023. No submissions received. Application granted under delegated authority in May 2023.
12. **South Pacific Meats** – industrial related activity – limited notified. Submissions closed on 17 April 2023. No submissions received. Application granted under delegated authority in May 2023.
13. **Triflor NZ Limited** – irrigation water take – limited notified. Submissions closed on 24 April 2023. No submission received. Application granted under delegated authority.
14. **Roger & Marilyn Olsen** – coastal protection – limited notified. Submissions closed on 23 March 2023. One submission received. The processing of the application is currently suspended under s91A by the applicant.
15. **Mount Linton Station** – intensive winter grazing – limited notified. Submissions closed on 3 April 2023. No submissions received. Application granted under delegated authority.
16. **Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust** – discharge treated wastewater to CMA. Limited notified. Submissions closed on 16 May 2023. No submissions received.

Timeframe compliance

Compliance with statutory processing timeframes for resource consent applications for the period 4 April 2023 to 15 May 2023 was 99%. This includes instances where the applicant has agreed to a timeframe extension (one application was processed outside of the statutory timeframe).

It is noted that 10 applications remain on hold, due to linkages with the Maitaurua Water Conservation Order over-allocation issue, which is being worked through at present. Thirty-one s128 review notices have been issued for consents that have a review notice deadline period requirement of



July and September 2022. This is to create an overall alignment of the timing of review of all consents. The affected consent holders were contacted prior to the issue of the notices.

Compliance

Monitoring

Staff are completing winter inspections, which include winter grazing consents, winter barns and feed/stand-off pads. An audit of the deemed permitted activities for winter grazing will also be carried out over the winter months.

Winter grazing

The resource management team completed its roadside monitoring in early May 2023 and found no breaches on the monitoring days. Staff identified a number of sites which had crops in place, but no stock on the paddock. As a result, letters of advice will be sent. Phone calls were made to those with high risk properties. The purpose for the letters and phone calls is to ensure that the landowners are aware of the winter grazing rules and the three avenues they have to be compliant.

Incident response

While incident numbers have slowed over the last few weeks, those received via the pollution hotline have had some complexities to them. Current trends for calls are outdoor burning, domestic burner burning and discharges to water of oil.

Synthetic nitrogen reporting

From 31 May 2023, it is anticipated that the three online tools (MfE, Ballance and Ravensdown) will be available for data to be entered, compiled and sent weekly to regional councils. There are a number of changes being made to the reporting tools following customer and council feedback received last year, which should make it easier for customers to use.

Tiwai

Staff are awaiting the final report of the independent monitoring undertaken earlier this year on the coastal marine area around the Tiwai smelter site. In the meantime, discussions have continued with New Zealand Aluminium Smelters (NZAS). Staff and Department of Conservation representatives attended a site visit at Tiwai on 22 May 2023, which was a useful opportunity to familiarise the team and members of the Tiwai Oversight Group with the site.

The six-weekly senior management meetings with Chris Blenkiron (NZAS Site Manager), Simon King (Director of External Affairs) and Nicole Atherton (General Manager Closure Readiness) continue and the last meeting was on 22 May 2023. These discussions cover topics such as the end-to-end waste management of contaminants at the site; including removal of Ouvea from the site for export; NZAS's remediation plans; its MoU with Awarua Rūnaka; and its progress with the closed landfill consent application.

Harbour Management

The vessel grounded on the mudflats of Jacob's River Estuary, due to the significant weather event that swept through Southland on 20 March 2023, was salvaged on 24 April 2023. The removal of the vessel was a complex operation for all involved, however it was successfully removed intact, with minimal environmental damage or cost to the community.



The South Port dredging programme to deepen the channel into Bluff Harbour has commenced. The Maritime team was involved in the examination process for the skipper of the dredge so that it could safely operate in the Bluff Harbour confines without the need for a South Port pilot.

Applications for funding from Maritime New Zealand are being finalised for the 2023/24 recreational safe boating season, which, if granted, will provide the Maritime team with extra resources to undertake annual surveys and engage with boating safety education.

The Maritime team is supporting the Science, Consents, Compliance and Biosecurity teams with coastal marine workstreams in Foveaux Strait, Rakiura/Stewart Island and Fiordland.

The 2022/23 cruise ship season has concluded, with the last ship (Ovation of the Seas) visiting Fiordland on 8 April 2023. Of the 111 post-Covid cruise ship bookings there were 96 actual visits and 15 cancellations (13 NZ Biosecurity, 2 weather). At the time of writing, there are 135 cruise ship bookings for the 2023/24 season, which is the largest number of bookings for any season.

The annual Deed of Agreement consultative meeting with the cruise industry was held on 26 May 2023. Included in the items considered were the adjustment of the Marine Fee to the CPI, which happens every two years, as per the Deed of Agreement and the cruise ship gross tonnage cap removal for the 2023/24 season.

Report – People and Customer Group

People & Capability

The quarterly induction day for all new employees was held in April 2023, and was attended by 23 new employees. This was the first induction for 2023. A follow-up survey has enabled the team to make some changes to the programme in response to attendee feedback.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi training has been scheduled for all employees for 2023. Each employee will undertake the two day training between July and November 2023, which will be facilitated by Treaty Education.

The People and Capability Manager continues to be involved in the Retention and Attraction Working Group as part of the Beyond 2025 Southland Regional Long-term Plan process. This is due to wrap-up in May 2023.

Health, Safety and Risk

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

The Health and Safety team has been involved in two incident investigations involving an injury to an employee (not requiring further medical attention) and contractor striking an overhead cable with mobile plant (no injuries). Neither incident was required to be reported to WorkSafe. The immediate causes have been identified and remedial actions are being implemented.

Normal training activities have continued through the reporting period, which include CERT (Situational Safety and Tactical Communication) and First Aid training.

Annual flu vaccinations are being offered to staff as part of the organisation's preparation for the winter flu season.



Risk Management, Internal Audit and Business Continuity

One-on-one meetings are progressing with the Executive team to review risk analyses undertaken using the bowtie methodology and to undertake associated assessments of those risks. Four out of the 13 top risks have been completed, with further meetings scheduled for the coming month. The consequence table in the Risk Framework is also being refined at these meetings to ensure the correct level of consequence is being applied to the risk assessments. It is planned to have the top risks reviewed by the end of May 2023.

As part of the Business Continuity Plan development, seven Business Impact Analysis workshops were held in April 2023. A total of 62 critical processes requiring contingencies were identified.

Democracy Services

The focus for the Democracy Services team since the last meeting has been on:

- agenda preparation of Committee and Council meetings;
- agenda preparation for workshops and briefings;
- Chair and Councillor administrative support, including travel arrangements, strategy sessions, field trip, Making Good Decisions training and LGNZ Conference attendance;
- Annual Plan support work (meetings, agendas etc);
- Plan Change 5 for the Regional Coastal Plan hearing (formatting, collating and distribution);
- Consent hearing report (formatting, collating and distribution);
- Chief Executive and Executive support.

Information & Support

The Information and Support team continues to focus on operationalising the Information Management Strategy.

The Information Management Stewards Group has met and will continue to meet monthly. This is a cross-divisional group. The group's focus for the next quarter includes:

- drafting a project plan for the data quality assurance project;
- review of the data repository and ownership document.

The digitisation project continues, with preparation of files for transport to the vendor's site, ensuring appropriate storage and security of the material. Scanning of the 300 physical files commences in June 2023.

With the Objective ECM upgrade completed, the team has provided training drop-in sessions for end users, covering the functionality of AEC (automatic email capture) and co-authoring.

Report – Business Services Group

Finance

The Finance team continues to work with ratepayers and debtors, following up on outstanding rates debt and putting new payment plans in place for ratepayers.



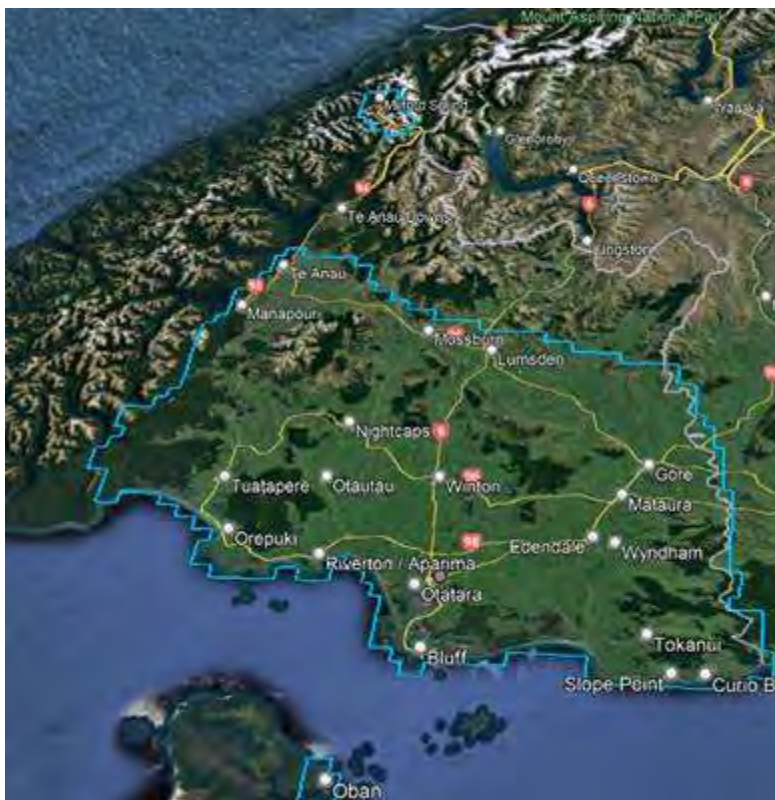
The Corporate reporting team is busy with the Annual Plan and recently completed the quarterly reporting to the Finance and Performance Committee. Conversations around the Annual Report have commenced.

Projects to replace the “TM1” budgeting programme and a systems upgrade to the accounting and rates software are underway. These will bring new features and benefits to the team and the organisation.

Information Systems

The Geospatial team continues to focus on aerial imagery (new photography of the region), used on the Council’s website and in the Beacon and LiDAR applications.

Since March 2023, Landpro has flown more of the rural areas and captured 73% of the region (up from 51% in March). As previously reported, 100% of the urban areas are completed. The remaining 27% (upper parts of the region) will be flown in October/November 2023 once the sun is higher for the right angle. This will mean the overall project delivery will be delayed by two months, however, most of the new imagery (blue outline areas) will be available to the public by October 2023.



Report – Emergency Management Southland

Emergency Management Southland (EMS) has been training staff from the four local councils in readiness for an emergency event. Induction training has been completed at Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council and Environment Southland offices. There have also been two recent CIMs courses, one in Invercargill and one in Gore.



The team is now identifying the Council staff availability to ensure a faster response to an emergency event.

The AF8 programme is funded by the six South Island Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, National Emergency Management Agency, QuakeCore and the Earthquake Commission (EQC). EMS runs the programme on behalf of funders. The AF8 roadshow (which is specifically funded by EQC) has been completed in Southland, with attendance numbers exceeding previous years. It was noted that the majority of the attendees had never been to a roadshow before. The roadshow team provided preparedness messaging and teaching in the schools close to where there were public talks – “Being prepared for the Alpine fault means that you will be prepared for most emergencies”. The roadshow team is now presenting in Timaru and Fairlie.

The EMS Resilience Team Leader presented the Southland Community Hub model to the Wellington Emergency Management Team. The Wellington team was impressed with the information provided, and is considering adopting the same model for Greater Wellington.

The team has also spoken to a number of community groups, including Hokonui Focus, Bupa, Enliven and the Gore Dinner Group, on preparedness and recovery messaging.

Attachments

None



Approvals Required Whakaengia

Item 2 Whakamana te Waituna – The Next Phase

Objective ID: A904188	Strategic Direction: Refer to outcomes in table shown in body of this template.
Report by: Nick Perham, ICM Partnerships Manager and Fiona Young, Catchment Integration Manager	Approved by: Paul Hulse, General Manager, Catchment Integration Management
Executive Approval: Paul Hulse, General Manager, Catchment Integrated Management	

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for Council to determine Environment Southland’s future commitment to the Whakamana te Waituna project.

Summary

The Whakamana te Waituna project is a significant project that has been underway since 2017. The project represents a long history of working collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for the catchment and lagoon.

As the funding for this project is coming to an end, the Trust has been discussing the next steps and future structure of iwi and agencies to continue working in this catchment and to find more effective ways to connect and work with the community.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. have continued representation on the Whakamana te Waituna Trust for the purpose of developing and delivering Whakamana te Waituna Phase 2 workstream opportunities;
2. support the Whakamana te Waituna Trust’s recommendation to restructure its membership prior to commencing Phase 2 work streams so that:
 - (a) appointers to the Trust appoint one appointee;
 - (b) two Co-Chairs are retained and appointed by Awarua Rūnanga and Environment Southland as their respective appointees;
 - (c) one independent trustee is appointed by the Co-Chairs; and
 - (d) co-patrons are appointed by the Co-Chairs;
3. instruct staff to formally advise the Whakamana te Waituna Trust of Environment Southland’s support of these recommendations;
4. instruct staff to recommend to the Whakamana te Waituna Trust that a review of the Waituna Strategy and Action Plan be undertaken;



5. **support the next steps for the Waituna catchment and work programme, which include:**
 - (a) **scoping out the approach to work with landowners, community, iwi and agencies for the Waituna aspects of Plan Change Tuatahi;**
 - (b) **working on the Waituna Creek Erosion Plan.**

Report

Background

Waituna Lagoon is part of the internationally recognised 20,000 ha Awarua Wetland. The 1,350 ha lagoon and immediately surrounding wetland, known as the Waituna Wetland Scientific Reserve (an area of 3,500 ha) was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 1976, with the wider wetland complex being included in 2008. A key commitment under the Ramsar Convention is to maintain and enhance the ecological health of the wetland.

Waituna Lagoon is one of the largest remaining wetland systems in New Zealand and is made up of a number of nationally significant ecosystems. Its cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu was recognised by a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The lagoon and wetland have also been a source of food and recreation for the wider community over many generations e.g. fishermen, hunters and trampers.

Waituna Lagoon sits at the bottom of a small (approximately 20,000 ha), intensively farmed catchment. Because of many years of land development in the catchment, and changes in lagoon water levels, its health and that of its tributaries is under stress. Land development has included drainage of wetland areas, clearance of indigenous vegetation and more recent land use intensification since the 1950s when the main tributaries to the Waituna Lagoon were straightened, and government schemes cleared and developed land and encouraged other people to do so as well.

Environment Southland has been involved in working with landowners, stakeholders, government agencies and iwi over the past 20 years. It should be noted that work and activities relating to the lagoon and catchment were happening prior to this time.

Current situation

In 2015, the Strategy and Action Plan for Waituna built on the work that was done leading up to it with the community, iwi, stakeholders and agencies and was designed to enable further progress to be made on defining, prioritising and reaching agreement on the next steps for improving the condition of the catchment and lagoon. This Strategy and Action Plan informed the development of the Whakamana te Waituna work programme.

In 2017, Environment Southland, with support from its partners, applied for, and was approved, funding through the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The project was headed Whakamana te Waituna, to restore the mana of the Waituna Lagoon and catchment.

The total funding for this project came to \$13.3 million. The partner organisations agreed to put forward approximately \$7 million between them, with the remainder coming from the Freshwater improvement Fund.



The Whakamana te Waituna project is based on a partnership (and co-governance) model using the principles of integrated catchment management, to:

- re-establish a hydrological regime protecting the ecological, cultural, scientific and recreational values associated with Waituna Lagoon's status (Ramsar site, scientific reserve, taonga of Te Rūnanga o Awarua and Southland);
- provide alternative land-use options for the land adjacent to the lagoon, re-establishing the hydrological regime and protecting the lagoon's values;
- demonstrate the scalability of alternative drainage system design/management and farm system interventions to reduce impacts of ground and surface water contaminants on Waituna Lagoon and its tributaries;
- re-establish Te Rūnanga o Awarua's connection to the lagoon and surrounding land, and role as kaitiaki.

Environment Southland was the primary applicant for this funding, in agreement with and support from the following partner agencies:

- Te Rūnanga o Awarua;
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu;
- Southland District Council;
- Living Water (DOC/Fonterra);
- Department of Conservation.

The Whakamana te Waituna Trust was set up in February 2018 to co-ordinate activities of the partners involved in working to restore the mana of the Waituna Lagoon and Catchment.

The current make-up of the Trust includes two Councillor trustees from Environment Southland (including one co-chair), two trustees from Te Rūnanga o Awarua/Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (including one co-chair), two trustees from Southland District Council, one trustee from Fonterra, and two independent trustees. There is also a dedicated advisor from the Department of Conservation.

Currently, the Trust does not have charitable status and has no budget allocated or transactions associated with it. All financial transactions for the Whakamana te Waituna project (including any associated with the Trust) are currently through Environment Southland in a separate project budget.

Next steps

The Freshwater Improvement Fund project Whakamana te Waituna draws to a close in May 2023. The work involved with the constructed wetland near Currans Creek, and the bridge construction will continue beyond the project close with approval confirmed by the Ministry for the Environment. Participants in the project at governance and delivery levels have been reviewing the outcomes sought by the project and the next steps to come. An evaluation report that outlines the key lessons, benefits and insights is being prepared and will be shared with Council when available.

As part of the project, "kitchen table conversations" with local community members will be held later in May 2023, and a community meeting is intended for June 2023. The focus of these discussions is to update community members on project progress and signal ongoing interest after the Whakamana te Waituna project finishes. There is also an intention to share and discuss the



recommendations of the Regional Forum report. There are a number of recommendations that are relevant to the next steps for the people with an interest in the catchment and lagoon.

Work is underway to develop an Erosion Management Plan for the Waituna Creek and tributaries. Scoping has commenced, and staff will work with farmers, iwi and agencies, and also engage geomorphology expertise as well as utilising existing knowledge to develop the plan. It is a pre-cursor to the type of catchment planning anticipated by the Regional Forum, albeit starting on a specific issue.

From an Environment Southland perspective, future considerations for work relate to designation of Waituna as a Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) by the Environment Court. The policy development and community engagement elements of these will be included in the Plan Change Tuatahi programme, along with the processes attached to Freshwater Farm Plans. When Waituna gains the status of FMU, it is well placed with the investment made by landowners, iwi and agencies, in terms of farm plan implementation.

Upon agreement and support for the recommended future work and structure from each partner agency, the new structure of the Trust would consist of:

- Environment Southland – 1 x Trustee (Co-chair);
- Te Runanga o Awarua/Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu – 1 x Trustee (Co-chair);
- Southland District Council – 1 x Trustee;
- Independent – 1 x Trustee (appointed by the Co-chairs);
- Fonterra – 1 x Trustee;
- Department of Conservation – 1 x Advisor.

In addition, the Trust would look at appointing two “patrons” to help promote Whakamana te Waituna.

It is intended that these changes to the Trust would occur following the upcoming Trust meeting scheduled for the last week of June 2023.

Based on discussions with the Project Steering Group and wider workstream leads, there is ongoing support for the Trust to continue and support for the proposed more nimble Trust structure, from among the partner organisations.

Other considerations

From the management of Waituna, as an integrated catchment, the Whakamana te Waituna Trust has been a success story in a number of areas and it makes sense for this partnership approach to continue. There are still areas where improvements could be made, specifically around local community involvement/engagement.

There is a need for some continuation of the Trust, therefore the decision by the Trust to review its structure is timely.

It is recommended that a review of Strategy and Action Plan is undertaken. The review would focus on what has been achieved via the Whakamana te Waituna Trust. Such a review should involve the Trust and its supporting organisations, as well as the local community.



Given that it is likely that Waituna will become its own Freshwater Management Unit, the implementation of the Regional Forum recommendations, which cover a number of similar topics to that of the Trust, need to be considered, and possibly incorporated into the workings of the new Trust. An holistic approach, using principles such as hauora and catchment context, need to be incorporated to clearly inform future work programmes for the Trust.

The review of the Strategy and Action Plan and the development of a hauora plan are intrinsically linked, and together would provide a clear basis and foundation (i.e. “the why”) to inform what work/projects the Trust should be focusing on.

Implications/Risks

Consideration of cost associated with the next phase of the Waituna work programme to be undertaken.

Fit with strategic framework

Outcome	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Managed access to quality natural resources	x		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	x		
Communities empowered and resilient	x		
Communities expressing their diversity	x		

Considerations

Financial implications

The financial implications have yet to be determined. The work programme framework has yet to be developed. Once completed, this will inform potential overall costs. The Trust would be seeking funding from the signatory partners, but will also be seeking alternative funding streams. In addition to funding, there is also the resource commitment, which will not be fully understood until the work programme is fully developed.

Attachments

None



Item 3 Environment Southland Community Awards – Appointment of Judges

Objective ID: A908703	Strategic Direction:
Report by: Jane Brown, Team Leader Digital & Channel	Approved by: Gail Jefferies, Communications and Engagement Manager
Executive Approval: Rachael Millar, General Manager, Strategy, Science and Engagement	

Purpose

For Council to appoint judges for the 2023/24 Environment Southland’s Community Awards.

Summary

Planning for the 2023 Environment Southland Community Awards is underway. The awards will be held on Thursday, 19 October 2023.

Council is asked to appoint two Councillor judges for this year’s awards.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. appoint Cr XX and Cr XX as judges for the 2023 Environment Southland Community Awards.

Report

Background

This year will be the 27th Environment Southland Community Awards. The awards are held annually to recognise environmental excellence and achievement in our region. They are viewed positively and received with pride by people, organisations and businesses who are working hard to do the right thing and who do not necessarily see their contribution as special. The awards uphold the Council’s vision and mission and reflect its work and relationships with the Southland community.

Judges can be selected for up to three years to coincide with the electoral term. In the past, judges have been selected each year.

Current situation

Planning is well underway for the 2023 Environment Southland Community Awards.

The judging policy requires the Council to nominate two Councillor judges. A third Councillor may be selected as a replacement judge to provide cover should a judge have to step down within their term for any reason.

The Councillor judges will be joined by a senior staff member, appointed by the Chief Executive.



The judging roles require a commitment of time to the full process so availability is an important factor for Councillors interested in selection. Judging visits are usually on weekdays and can take up to six/seven full days over a four to five-week period, usually during August/September.

Judges are also required to attend briefings on the criteria and the nominations, to become familiar with the judging criteria for each award and nomination information for each nominee. Further time is required to debrief on the judging visits and to make decisions about winners.

One of the councillor judges will be required to speak at the awards ceremony.

Fit with strategic framework

Outcome	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Views of affected parties

There are no matters in this report which require consideration under this heading.

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Considerations

Financial Implications

The awards are managed within existing budgets.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Attachments

1. Judging policy



Judging policy – Environment Southland Community Awards

This judge selection policy contains information about how judges are selected and the commitments required of the roles.

1. Contents

1. Contents
2. Selection and term
3. Expectations and commitment
4. Judging
5. Review

Policy No.	Policy Sponsor	Approval Date and Date of Next Scheduled Review	Approved By	MORF Reference	Related Standards
CP 12.1	Executive	Approved – 21 April 2021 Reviewed – 1 June 2022 Reviewed -	Council	A650623	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff attendance policy – Environment Southland Community Awards

2. Selection and term

Two councillors are required on the Environment Southland Community Awards judging panel.

Councillor judges will be selected by councillors. Where more than two councillors are interested in the roles, selections will be made by voting.

A third councillor may be selected as a replacement judge to provide cover should a judge have to step down within their term for any reason.

The councillors will join a senior staff member, appointed by the Chief Executive.

Ideally, judges will serve a three-year term, to run in conjunction with their term of office, although a shorter term can be negotiated.

Diversity on the judging panel would be preferred including, but not limited to, gender and constituencies.

3. Expectations and commitment

Availability is an important factor for councillors considering selection. Judges need to commit to timeframes, including for judging visits.

Judging visits are usually on weekdays, but can be on weekends when required. Judging can take up to six/seven full days over a four to five-week period, usually during August/September. Dates are subject to change from year to year.

Judges will also need to dedicate time prior to visits for: briefings on the criteria and the nominations, to become familiar with the judging criteria for each award, and to read through the nomination information for each nominee. Further time is required to debrief on the judging visits and to make decisions about winners.

All councillors are expected to attend the awards and at least one of the councillor judges will be required to speak at the awards ceremony.

By accepting the Council's nomination, judges are committing to seeing the whole process through to the awards ceremony. This commitment remains, even if during an election year one or both of the presiding councillor judges is/are not re-elected or chooses to retire.

4. Judging

Judges are required to follow the judging criteria to ensure consistent judging practice. Consistent judging in any one year and across years is essential for maintaining the mana of the awards.

Visits to nominees will be capped at 25 visits. If nominations exceed this number, judges will have discretion to implement a two-tier judging process to select a shortlist of up to 25 nominees to visit, or, agree to visit more than 25 nominees, if this can be achieved within the timeframes.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2026.



Item 4 Councillor Attendance at the Sustainability Challenge Wānanga

Objective ID: A913426	Strategic Direction: Governance
Report by: Jan Brown, Executive Officer	Approved by: Amy Kubrycht, General Manager, People & Customer
Executive Approval: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	

Purpose

To seek Council direction on the provision of support for Cr Guyton to attend the Sustainability Challenge Wānanga, in Christchurch on 21-22 June 2023.

Summary

Cr Guyton has expressed an interest in attending the Sustainability Challenge Wānanga in Christchurch, on 21 and 22 June 2023, and has sought support from Council for same.

As per Council policy, formal approval for attendance, registration costs, travel and associated costs, are required via a Council meeting – hence this report. Council may support (or not) this attendance, and if supportive, may consider partial or full contribution of costs for attendance.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. note the report.
2. approve Cr Guyton attending the Sustainability Challenge Wānanga in Christchurch on 21 and 22 June 2023 on behalf of Council;
3. provide direction on the level of support to be provided for Cr Guyton’s attendance at the Wānanga.

Report

Background

Cr Guyton has expressed an interest in attending the Sustainability Challenge Wānanga in Christchurch on 20-21 June 2023, and indicated this to his fellow Councillors via email. The Chairman has directed that this matter be addressed via formal report to Council, as per past practice.

It is noted that Council has in the past, contributed towards Councillor attendance at events of this type, in the form of registration costs and/or travel and/or accommodation costs. It is noted that there is no cost to register for this event, but there will be travel and accommodation costs to be met by Cr Guyton for his attendance at the Wānanga, which Council could contribute to.

The Wānanga is an international event hosted by Kā Waimaero|Ngāi Tahu Centre at the University of Canterbury, and the Carleton Centre for Community Innovation (3ci), based in Ottawa, Canada.



The following is provided from the programme for the event:

“The state of the environment requires urgent action, particularly in agriculture, where achieving carbon neutrality, addressing water quality concerns, and enhancing biodiversity are crucial. This transition, however, poses significant risks as agriculture is the backbone of the national economy. Māori also face this challenge as they aim to improve te mauri o te taiao (health of the environment) while holding significant assets in the agricultural sector.

Through a series of panels and facilitated discussion Day 1 of the wānanga (June 21) will explore the transition challenge, bringing together diverse and innovative thinkers, leaders and practitioners from various fields, including Indigenous development, governance, science, environment and farming. The goal is to facilitate collective learning and encourage an exchange of experience and knowledge between Indigenous and other perspectives to create insights into how the agricultural sector can successfully tackle the environmental challenges it faces.

Day 1 - Panels, Presentations & Discussion - will include a keynote presentation by Professor Frances Abele from Carleton University, Ottawa and Amsey Maracle (Mohawk and Plains Cree) located at the Centre for First Nations Governance. Frances and Amsey will speak about the role of collaborative research between academic institutions and Indigenous peoples to strengthen Indigenous self-determination and governance in Canada.

Day 2 - Academic International Research Initiative - (morning of Thursday June 22nd) – will bring together those interested in establishing an international research initiative between Aotearoa and Canada. It will involve a round table representing a range of collaborative research projects working on the transition challenge. Following a facilitated process, we will identify research needs and opportunities (both within Aotearoa and internationally) for further collaboration moving forward.”

Views of Affected Parties

There are no matters in this report which require consideration under this heading.

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Legal Compliance

This report and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements placed upon the Council.

Consistency with Council’s LTP/Annual Plan/Policy/Strategy

Attendance of Councillors at courses and conferences is provided for within Council’s Annual Plan and budget.



Financial and Resource Implications

Council's direction on the level of support to be provided, is required. The course and conference attendance budget for the 2022/23 financial year is over-expended. This is due to the recent registration of new Councillors to attend the Making Good Decisions courses, the number of which were not foreseen at the time budgets were prepared. However, the overall budget for Council support, which is underexpended, could accommodate this cost, given the relatively small amount involved.

Attachments

None



Item 5 Update to Staff Delegations Manual

Objective ID: A906661	Strategic Direction: Council Policy
Report by: Jan Brown, Executive Officer	Approved by: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive
Executive Approval: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	

Purpose

To seek Council approval to make further amendments to the Staff Delegations Manual.

Summary

Following on from the report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 8 March 2023, the Staff Delegations Manual needs to be further updated to reflect recent changes to job roles.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to approve that the delegations previously held by the General Manager, Strategy and Engagement now be held by the General Manager, Policy and Government Reform, as discussed in the report below, effective immediately.

Report

Background

Due to changes to the staff structure, the role of General Manager, Strategy & Engagement was disestablished, and two new roles of General Manager, Strategy, Science & Engagement and General Manager, Policy and Government Reform were established.

The original role of General Manager, Strategy & Engagement had the same delegation powers as the Chief Executive and General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management.

It has been determined that the role of General Manager, Policy and Government Reform requires the powers of delegation set out in the Staff Delegations Manual that were previously held by the General Manager, Strategy and Engagement. This item seeks that change be made.

The manual is to be kept up-to-date with role changes in order that staff have the ability to make the required decisions to undertake their duties, and to ensure that those decisions have the requisite authority and legal standing.

The exercise of delegation comes from the Council through the Chief Executive to staff, with the various job descriptions for each role stipulating the scope and nature of the delegated authorities that the role is expected to deliver on. Those staff take on the role knowing that delegations will be in place and available in order that they can carry out their roles.

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

None of the proposed amendments come into conflict with the provisions of the Significance and Engagement Policy.



Legal Compliance

The amendments being made are to ensure delegated decisions have legal integrity and have legitimate status.

Consistency with Council's LTP/Annual Plan/Policy/Strategy

The changes being proposed are consistent with the Strategic Plan directions and with the levels of service set out in the Long-term Plan for delivery of programmes and projects.

Financial and Resource Implications

None of the adjustments have any significant financial or resourcing implications.

Attachments

None



Item 6 Councillors' Meeting Schedule – May-June 2023

Objective ID:	Strategic Direction: Council Policy
Report by: Jan Brown, Democracy Services Executive Assistant	Approved by: -
Executive Approval: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	

Purpose

For Council to approve the meeting schedule, as shown on the following pages.

The schedule has been prepared in accordance with current Council policy under the Remuneration provisions contained in Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council note the planned meetings and resolve to:

1. appoint members to represent Council at the meetings marked on the schedule;
2. pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and detailed on the schedule.

Councillors Meeting Schedule - May-June 2023

Leave of Absence Requests (dates inclusive):

Cr P Evans – 7-8 June 2023

Cr A Gibson –9 June 2023 to 16 July 2023

Cr P McDonald – Thursday 8 June 2023 to Sunday 18 June 2023

Cr J Pemberton – 8-10 May, 26 and 29 May 2023 – 3-7 July 2023

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Retrospective							
King Charles III Coronation Planting	@ Ron Petrie Gardens	Saturday 6 May 2023	11.00 am	Cr Ludlow	-	✓	
Opening of Kapow: The Great Comic Art Show	34 Forth Street Invercargill	Saturday 6 May 2023	6.00 pm	Cr Ludlow	-	✓	
Growing plants for the Waihopai	@ 185 Grant Road Otatara	11 May 2023	12.30 pm	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Balance Farm Environment Awards Open Day etc	65 Otamita Valley Road, Hokonui Hills	11 May 2023	12.00 noon	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Great South Strategy Session with Great South Board	@ Langlands	16 May 2023	8.00 am	Chairman Horrell	-	✓	
Council Workshop with TAMI – Plan Change Tuatahi Engagement	@ ES	17 May 2023	11.00 am	All Councillors & TAMI Board	-	✓	
Debrief re Waituna application	@ ES	17 May 2023	Followed other Mtgs	Crs Horrell, McDonald, Pemberton, Roy	-	-	

Please note, those items with shading or with ~~strikethrough text~~ – indicate changes that have occurred since the last meeting schedule was approved by Council *T = Transport (mileage/air fares/etc) *A = Accommodation costs *R = Course/Conference registration costs E = Expenses incurred in association with visit

Councillors Meeting Schedule - May-June 2023

Leave of Absence Requests (dates inclusive):

Cr P Evans – 7-8 June 2023

Cr A Gibson –9 June 2023 to 16 July 2023

Cr P McDonald – Thursday 8 June 2023 to Sunday 18 June 2023

Cr J Pemberton – 8-10 May, 26 and 29 May 2023 – 3-7 July 2023

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Mataura Over-allocation Group meeting	@ Riversdale	17 May 2023	11.00 am	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Guardians of Lakes Manapouri, Monowai & Te Anau 50 Year Celebration	@ Te Anau	20 May 2023	5.30 pm	Chairman Horrell & Ptnr	-	✓	
Murihiku Regeneration Energy & Innovation Wānanga – Day 1	@ Transport World	23 May 2023	9.00 am	Crs Horrell, Ludlow, Morrison, Rodway	-	✓	
Chair's Business Meeting	@ ES	24 May 2023	9.30 am	Crs Horrell, Ludlow, McPhail	-	✓	
Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust Field Day	From Dipton	24 May 2023	9.30 am	Cr McDonald	-	✓	
Cr Morrison speaking to Maximum Profit Farm Discussion Group	@ Waikiwi	25 May 2023	3.00 pm	Cr Morrison	-	✓	
Meeting with Dan Gordon – Mayor Waimakariri District Council	@ ES	29 May 2023	2.30 pm	Chairman Horrell, Crs Morrison, McPhail	-	✓	
Pre-hearing meeting – Real Journeys Ltd	@ ES	30 May 2023	10.00 am	Cr Cook	✓	✓	

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Councillors Meeting Schedule - May-June 2023

Leave of Absence Requests (dates inclusive):

Cr P Evans – 7-8 June 2023

Cr A Gibson –9 June 2023 to 16 July 2023

Cr P McDonald – Thursday 8 June 2023 to Sunday 18 June 2023

Cr J Pemberton – 8-10 May, 26 and 29 May 2023 – 3-7 July 2023

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
May 2023							
Council caucus opportunity Executive team meet with Council <i>Morning tea break</i> Ordinary meeting of Council <i>Lunch break</i> Council Workshop – Portfolios	@ ES	Wednesday 31 May 2023	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
NZAS Community Forum	@ Ascot Park Hotel	31 May 2023	5.30 pm	Crs Horrell, Evans, Gibson, Ludlow, McPhail, Morrison & Pemberton	-	✓	
June							
Re-opening of Murihiku Marae	@ Marae	2 June 2023	11.00 am	All Councillors	-	✓	

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Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Council Workshop – LTP Strategic Direction	@ ES	7 June 2023	10.00 am	All Councillors	-	✓	
Southland Mayoral Forum	@ ES	8 June 2023	9.00 am	Chairman Horrell Cr McPhail	-	✓	
Reimagining Maitua Stakeholder Wānanga	@ Gore	15 June 2023	9.00 am	TBC	-	✓	
Te Rōpu Taiao hui	@ SDC	16 June 2023	1.00 pm	Chairman Horrell, Crs McPhail & Rodway	-	✓	
OSPRI Stakeholder Council meeting	@ Wellington	20 June 2023	9.30 am	Chairman Horrell	-	✓	T/A
Finance & Performance Committee Risk & Assurance Committee	@ ES	21 June 2023	10.00 am 1.30 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	

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Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Strategy & Policy Committee Council Workshop Southland Regional Leadership Group	@ ES Via TEAMs	22 June 2023	10.00 am To follow 1.30 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Fiordland Surface Water Activity hearings	@ Te Anau	26 and 28 June 2023	All days	Crs Cook & Ludlow	✓	✓	T/A
Making Good Decisions Training Course	@ Auckland	28-29 June 2023	All day	Cr Pemberton	-	✓	T/A//R
Climate Change Working Groupi	@ ES	29 June 2023	10.00 am	Crs Morrison & Rodway	-	✓	
Extraordinary meeting of Council – adopt AP	@ ES	29 June 2023	1.30 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting	@ ES	30 June 2023	9.00 am	Cr Cook	-	✓	

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Councillors Meeting Schedule - May-June 2023

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Cr A Gibson –9 June 2023 to 16 July 2023

Cr P McDonald – Thursday 8 June 2023 to Sunday 18 June 2023

Cr J Pemberton – 8-10 May, 26 and 29 May 2023 – 3-7 July 2023

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
July							
Resource Consent Hearing – Capital Grove Ltd	@ ES	4 July 2023	9.00 am	Cr Ludlow	✓	✓	
Council Workshop	@ ES	5 July 2023	10.00 am	All Councillors	-	✓	
Catchment Liaison Committee Chairs meeting	@ TBC	6 July 2023	9.00 am	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Council caucus opportunity Executive team meet with Council <i>Morning tea break</i> Ordinary meeting of Council <i>Lunch break</i> Council Workshop – Portfolios	@ ES	Wednesday 12 July 2023	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	

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**Matters for Information/Noting
Kaupapa Whakamohiotanga/Tuhingia**

Item 7 Hydrological Effects of Wilding Pines

Objective ID: 916135	Strategic Direction: All outcomes
Report by: Karen Wilson, Chief Scientist	Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager, Strategy, Science & Engagement
Executive Approval: Rachael Millar, General Manager, Strategy, Science & Engagement	

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to respond to a query raised at the 8 March 2023 Council meeting on the hydrological effects of wilding pines.

Summary

There is a substantial amount of science to draw on when it comes to the impact afforestation has on water yield, but more so nationally than regionally. The report below outlines both national and regional information on this topic.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to note the report.

Report

National information

References to key national information on this topic, as well as a series of relevant extracts, are appended.

Any analysis of water yield requires consideration of the water balance. This fundamental equation underlying much of hydrology is:

$$Q = P - E \pm DS$$

- Q* is a general term for runoff that incorporates streamflow and groundwater movement
- P* is precipitation (rain, mist or snow)
- E* is evaporation/transpiration
- DS* is the change in storage. Storage is a term that may account for soil moisture, a snowpack, groundwater, wetlands, or lake water

The relative importance of each of these is dependent on the time period studied and the geographical location, and, of course, the number of pines that have taken hold in any areas.



In the wrong place, certain species of conifers are a major threat to New Zealand's ecosystems, land and farms. The key impacts are:

- their seeds can be blown many kilometres by wind, and quickly infest vulnerable landscapes in affected regions;
- they spread into farmland, the high country (including above the native bush line), and public conservation land;
- if not contained or removed, these wilding conifer trees compete with native plants and animals for sunlight and water;
- within a few years they can severely alter natural landscapes and obscure the views New Zealand is famous for.

Wilding conifers can have significant impacts on native ecosystems by shading out low-stature native plants (beech for example); the drying of wetlands and riparian areas, and resulting impacts on native fauna through the loss of habitat; soil and soil fauna are also altered when wilding conifers replace native ecosystems.



Images showing how wilding conifer can spread if left unchecked – Mid Dome, Upper Tomogalak catchment, from 1998 to 2015. Image credit: Richard Bowman.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/exotic-pests-and-diseases-in-new-zealand/long-term-biosecurity-management-programmes/wilding-conifers/#theproblem>

So what happens when a pine takes hold? If we take Figure 1 as an example and refer to the hydrology equation, the 1998 light spread of rewilding pines (left picture) would start to dry the land, very slightly. However, this process would increase with tree numbers (middle picture). For the equation, the middle picture would markedly increase E and lower DS, much reducing the value of Q. This explains the drying “balance” of wilding pines. The right-hand picture where the pines have taken over the area would continue to significantly reduce Q by the same mechanism.

An interesting factor with rewilding pines is that the drier the conditions the more cones these wilding pines produce, therefore, they increase seeding and propagation. This implies a “tipping point”, where a once moist landscape can be taken over and continually dried by wilding plants, all the time increasing the seeding potential by the drying process.

Scion has, over the past decade, tried to model this effect and resultant impacts. Their model is provided as a link, below. Should the climate become drier it would be likely that the issue might become more acute should the soil dry, therefore some attention should be given to preventative methods to stop pine proliferation.



Another consideration is that some pines are more favourable than others for cattle to graze out. Radiata Pine and Ponderosa Pine are both most favourable for grazing and therefore farmers could preference grazing as a controlling method. Douglas fir and Corsican Pine are the two least palatable species for grazing out. Douglas fir also has reach far above typical bush lines on mountains meaning more expensive controlling mechanisms. Of course, pines at the top of mountains would seriously reduce water flow down the mountains, leaving valleys prone to drought soil conditions in valleys, again helping pines propagate these areas

Hillsides are particularly vulnerable to pine takeover. This is due to the slope topography affecting wind flow. Once a stray pine takes hold, it acts as a barrier to the wind causing an “eddy” in the flow which allows seeding to occur quite close to the original seeding pine. This then allows denser occurrence of pines across a smaller area allowing the pines to outcompete native species increasing their chances of survival and propagation. This “indensification” of pines will ultimately dry the soil out further and faster, triggering increasing coning in the process mentioned previously.

Under the soil, roots will continue to absorb moisture, drying the underlying soil and most likely changing its chemical composition. The drier the soil, the less likely it would be to be able to absorb initial rainfall, therefore increasing surface run-off, especially during sudden, heavy rainfall. In addition, the leaf/needles would act to slow the surface impact and the fallen pine needles form a sponge-like layer over soil substrate. This not only forms a resistive barrier to water percolating downwards, but also increases the acidity of the soil. This will ultimately completely change the fauna ecosystem. Again, the density of the wilding pine coverage is the controlling factor in this.

Regional information

While there has been very little Southland-specific research on this topic, the Strategic Water Study for the Maitara catchment undertaken in 2011 includes a useful summary. The full report can be accessed from [Maitara Catchment Strategic Water Study - Environment Southland \(es.govt.nz\)](https://www.environment.govt.nz/our-services/strategic-water-study) with a relevant extract below:

The potential impacts of afforestation of tussock catchments has been extensively studied in a number of New Zealand catchments (notably the Glendhu catchment in upland east Otago). Results of these studies indicate that runoff in forested catchments can decrease appreciably compared to catchments retaining native tussock cover, primarily as a result of increased canopy interception. In the Glendhu catchment studies, planting of 66 percent of a single catchment in pinus radiata resulted in a 27 percent reduction in annual water yield from the catchment compared to an adjacent catchment retaining the original tussock landcover (Fahey and Jackson, 1997).

Based on results of a range of New Zealand catchment studies, a model (WATYIELD) was developed by Landcare Research to enable prediction of potential effects of afforestation on catchment yields (Fahey et al, 2004). Application of this model to a nominal catchment in the Upper Maitara catchment (Environment Southland unpublished data) suggests that afforestation is only likely to have a significant effect on catchment yield when the proportion of the total catchment area converted to plantation forestry increases above 20 percent of the total catchment area.

Although this work is somewhat dated, it is useful for understanding the relative difference from variables such as tree species, age and type. More detailed outputs from this study have previously been provided to Councillors.



Next steps

A separate report is being prepared for the next Strategy and Policy Committee on current issues and risks around forestry in the region and potential policy responses.

Attachments

1. Key references
2. Relevant extracts



Key References

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/19124-Guidelines-for-the-use-of-the-Decision-Support-System-Calculating-Wilding-Spread-Risk-From-New-Plantings>

[file:///C:/Users/nickt/Documents/Air%20Quality%20work/Forestry&water%20yield-the_NZ_example%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/nickt/Documents/Air%20Quality%20work/Forestry&water%20yield-the_NZ_example%20(1).pdf)

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/national-environmental-standards-plantation-forestry/wilding-tree-risk-calculator/>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355020605_Long-term_effects_of_water_stress_on_hyperspectral_remote_sensing_indicators_in_young_radiata_pine

Murray, D.L.; Jackson, R.M. 1998: The impact of vegetation changes on evaporation and runoff. *New Zealand Geographer* 54: 1518.

Mark, A - 2008 - Maximizing water yield with indigenous non-forest vegetation

Relevant extracts

The following are extracts from articles on water yield forestry and wilding conifers from Keith Briden, Department of Conservation in 2018.

Executive Summary

1. Pines and wilding conifers have significant impact on water yields. Data from a number of catchment studies have showed that where pasture has been replaced by radiata pine forest, there was a reduction in annual surface water yields of 30-81%. One study at Glendu forest in Otago measured the effects of converting tall tussock grassland to radiata pine. Results showed a water yield reduction of 40-45% 22 years after the trees were planted. It is expected wilding conifers will have similar impacts on water yields compared to planted trees. Most wilding conifer infestations are currently sparse and do not yet have a significant impact on water yields. As wilding conifers grow and spread they will form dense stands and there will be increasing impacts on water yields over time. Most impacts on water yield is in small and medium size catchments and in water sensitive regions. Climate change is likely to increase wilding conifer spread and reduce water yields in regions that are experiencing hotter and drier conditions, and water shortages. Water is a valuable commodity and can be valued in a number of ways, As well, water quality and water quantity are required to sustain native plants, animals and ecosystems. Controlling wilding conifers to maintain water yield is a compelling argument and raising awareness on this topic will be useful.

Pine impacts on water yields

4. Most research carried out on this topic was to inform RMA decisions on water impacts resulting from afforestation with radiata pine. Much of this research is described in chapter 33 of "Freshwaters of New Zealand" – Impacts of Forestry 2004 (Barry Fahey, Maurice Duncan



and John Quinn). The paper also provided information about the benefits of commercial forestry to support afforestation and inform RMA decisions around land use. A number of studies carried out in different parts of New Zealand showed reductions in water yield when pasture was converted into production forest:

- Mangatu forest north of Gisborne reduction in runoff was 30%.
- At the Waiwhiu catchment near Wellsford in Northland, water yield reduction was 25% when 47% of the catchment was converted to forest,
- Berwick forest east Otago runoff was 43% lower than that from pasture.
- Purukohukohu in the central North Island the average annual reduction in water yield over 23 years was 30%
- Kakahu forest near Geraldine was yielding 45% less runoff approximately 20 years after trees were planted.
- Small catchments in the Moutere hills near Nelson were 81% less water yield than expected for pasture.
- Groundwater recharge at Moutere could be reduced by as much as 70% under full forest cover.
- Small ephemeral Moutere catchments. Days without flow increased from two months to five months when pines replaced pasture.
- Afforestation of 28% of the 900 km² Tarawera catchment in the central North Island caused a 13% reduction in the mean annual water yield. (This would equate to a 46% reduction if 100% was afforested).

One study at Glendu in Otago (near Te Papanui) measured the hydrological effects of converting tall tussock grassland to plantation forestry. Results showed water yield reduction of 40-45%.

5. The reasons why pines reduce water yields are:

- Interception of rain in the canopy and subsequent evaporation.
- Higher evapotranspiration rates (pines use more water than pasture grass or shrubland).
- Sometimes trees have a greater rooting depth that allows them to obtain water lower down the soil column.

6. Catchment size matters:

- In very small catchments creeks can dry up for long periods and may only flow when sufficient rain falls. Under conifer cover more rain is required to recharge soil moisture levels (especially after dry spells) before there is runoff. In the Moutere study, small ephemeral streams had an increase in the months without flow from two months to five months when pines replaced pasture. Appendix 1 shows a small creek near Twizel that has been invaded by wilding conifers and no longer flows unless there is a significant rain event.
- Medium-size catchments are where most of the studies have been focused. Impacts ranged from 30-81% reduction in water yields.
- In large catchments, the impacts of wilding conifers on water yields will be the same as for smaller catchments. However percentage reduction in water yield will be less. This is because large catchments have large areas in alpine rock and bare areas that continue to produce runoff, and, snow melt and melting glacier ice maintain a level of water flow.



7. Tree age matters. Pine impacts on water yield increase as the trees get older. In *Pinus radiata* there is no significant impact on water yield for the first 6-7 years. The impacts on water yield increase significantly when canopy closure is reached and then the impact increases steadily over time until trees reach 20+ years (see graph 1 below). When trees are harvested, water yields are restored for a short period while a new crop of trees establish. While no specific studies on wilding conifers and water yield have been conducted in New Zealand it is expected the impacts will be similar to planted pines. If anything, wilding conifers will have worse impacts because commercial forests with normal harvest regimes will have 20% of forest areas in young age classes that do not significantly impact water yields. Once wilding conifer forests establish, they are generally of no commercial value and won't be harvested. Most wilding conifers in New Zealand are sparsely distributed (see graph 2) and as yet do not impact current water yields. As these trees establish and reach canopy closure impacts on water yield will increase over time.
8. Impacts are worse in water sensitive catchments. The impacts are worse during summer months and worse again in drought years. Catchments on the east coast of the South Island (Otago, Canterbury, Nelson Marlborough) and Hawke's Bay in the North Island are considered water sensitive regions. Catchments in these regions, where there are long-term seasonal soil moisture deficits, can be reduced to levels that affect in-stream aquatic ecosystems and water users (irrigation, trout fishing, rafting).
9. The impacts of wilding conifers on water yield and water quality will get worse with climate change. In the future we can expect wilding conifer spread to increase. This is because we can expect more wind, which will spread seed further. As well, we can expect more droughts, fires, and more storm events leading to more disturbed sites. So we have more seed being spread further onto more disturbed sites. There will be an increased wilding conifer spread and thus increasing impacts on water yields over time. In dry eastern areas we can expect more droughts and record temperatures resulting in water shortages and less irrigation days due to low stream flows. In areas where wilding conifers reduce water yields, there will also be an effect on water quality. With the same amount of contaminants entering a waterway there is a resulting increased concentration of contaminants.
10. Loss of water yield has economic implications. MPI are currently awaiting a cost benefit analysis of wilding conifer management in New Zealand. An aspect of the CBA will be the cost of reduced water availability for irrigation in Southland, Otago, Canterbury and Marlborough due to wilding conifer spread. This will be the first study to quantify and value the impact on surface water irrigation impacted by predicted wilding conifer spread
11. There is much debate about the value of water. Various valuations/estimations are based on:
 - The cost to produce the water for use.
 - The cost to replace water with new infrastructure and extraction costs when an existing water source is no longer available.
 - Short term costs of replacing water when its availability is reduced due to low flows (water tankers so horticultural crops survive, farmers destocking).
 - Value added to farmland when irrigation is available for intensive farming.
 - Value added to the New Zealand economy when water is used.
12. One report that demonstrates the value of water was a DOC commissioned report titled "Economic Benefits of Water in Te Papanui Conservation Park" Butcher Partners Ltd, 2006.



Te Papanui Conservation Park (22,000 ha) is managed as a conservation area and water catchment for Dunedin City. Surrounding land is used for farming or forestry which has measurable economic value. Te Papanui provides ecosystem services (natural capital) such as recreation and water. The report assesses the value of water from Te Papanui for city water use, hydro electricity generation and irrigation. The value of water discounted at 7.5% gave a net present value of the water of \$136 m. The report looked at water being valued at the cost of getting it to the consumer or the cost of replacing it. The cost of replacement would be expensive because new regional infrastructure would be required. Changing land use from tussock, which captures water, to forestry/pasture could reduce water yields by 30% generally and 50% during dry summer months. If water flows were reduced by 30%, losses to electricity generators could exceed 30%. Loss to irrigation is variable and often depends on the number of days minimum flows require irrigators to stop water abstraction. It is estimated 3,800 ha of the Taieri is irrigated from water coming from Te Papanui. Irrigated land has increased in value by \$6,000/ha i.e. \$22.8m.

13. Another report written for DOC in 2011 by Tom Heller, Environmental Associates Ltd. This study estimated the increased restrictions on the number of irrigation days if tussock land was converted to commercial forestry or forest cover via wilding conifer spread. This study took into account previous catchment studies of conversion of snow tussock grasslands into exotic forest and demonstrated how existing water users could be affected in the Kakanui and Manuherikia catchments in Otago. The study benefited from good hydrology records being kept where the catchments are used for irrigation. The head catchments contain areas of snow tussock that could be converted to pasture or exotic forest. Wilding conifer invasion is currently estimated to be 2-3% cover in the Kakanui headwaters and if uncontrolled could affect 50% in the future. The Manuherikia catchment had less than 1% cover in wilding conifers and, if uncontrolled, could exceed 50% in the future. For the Kakanui (Mill dam) the current frequency of minimum flow days is 50 days. With 10% forest cover this increases to 67 days, with 20% forest cover 107 days, and 50% forest cover to 210 days. For the Manuherikia (Ophir irrigation scheme) the current frequency of minimum flow days is 49 days. With 10% forest cover this increases to 66 days, with 20% forest cover 75 days, and 50% forest cover 114 days. For the Manuherikia (Hawkdum-Idaburn irrigation take) the current frequency of minimum flow days is 34 days. With 10% forest cover this increases to 39 days, with 20% forest cover 54 days, and 50% forest cover 74 days. The predicted number of minimum flow days can be reduced by water committees managing or rostering irrigation takes to avoid minimum flow exceedances. Any conversion greater than 20% may be of significant risk to base flows (water yields) and would likely impact upon the reliability of water supply to existing water users.



Item 8 Reporting of Commitments entered into above Delegated Authority

Objective ID: A908720	Strategic Direction: People & Capability
Report by: Jan Brown, Executive Officer	Approved by: Amy Kubrycht, General Manager, People & Customer
Executive Approval: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to advise Council of contracts entered into which commit Council to expenditure above the delegated authority provided to staff, as required by Council’s Delegations Manual.

Summary

Council is advised that expenditure has been incurred, on behalf of Council as fund manager for the National Wilding Conifer Programme and the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust, which exceeds the delegated authority of the Chief Executive and General Manager together, to approve. In accordance with Council’s Delegations Manual, the invoice has been paid, and this item is reporting on that expenditure.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to note the payment of an account amounting to \$301,185.25, for the completion of recent spraying/control work as part of the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust programmed work.

Report

Background

Council’s Delegations Manual provides, at page 28, that the Chief Executive and a General Manager jointly, may approve accounts for payment that total up to \$300,000.

For amounts in excess of that sum “to implement programmes approved by or decisions made by Council may be signed by them but the amount of the contract must be reported to the next meeting of the relevant Committee or of Council”.

Current situation

An invoice totalling \$301,185.25, has been received from Council’s contractor Boffa Miskell, in relation to contract labour (and associated travel and accommodation costs), herbicide purchase and security to undertake programmed work contracted by Council, and largely funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Council has previously approved this contract, and reports on progress with the work are regularly received by the Regional Services Committee.



Staff are able to confirm that the account is within the budget of the work programme, and the funding has been received for this work by Environment Southland as a regional fund holder for the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme.

Views of Affected Parties

There are no parties affected by the recommendations in this report.

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Considerations

Financial Implications

Note this work is within the budget of the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Programme.

Legal Implications

This report complies with Council's Delegations Manual requirements.

Consistency with Council's LTP/Annual Plan/Policy/Strategy

This report is consistent with Council policy.

Attachments

None



Item 9 Common Seal

Objective ID: N/A	Strategic Direction: Council Policy
Report by: Jan Brown, Democracy Services Executive Assistant	Approved by: -
Executive Approval: Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive	

Purpose

For Council to note the Common Seal has been applied to the following documents under approved authorisation:

16 May 2023

- ⇒ Warrant to act as Enforcement Officer - Lucy Hicks

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to note the list of documents to which the Common Seal has been affixed under approved authorisation.