

Notice is hereby given of the

## Ordinary meeting of Council Te Huinga Tu

**Wednesday, 17 April 2024, at 10.30 am**

Environment Southland Council Chamber, 220 North Road, Invercargill

2024/C/17

### 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

# Agenda

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- 3 Declarations of interest**
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**Wilma Falconer**  
**Chief Executive**

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

# Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Southland Regional Council

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 10.30 am



## Present:

Chairman N Horrell (Chair)  
Cr N Cook  
Cr L Ludlow  
Cr J McPhail  
Cr P Morrison  
Cr M Rodway  
Cr E Roy

## Also Present:

Ms W Falconer (Chief Executive)  
Ms A Kubrycht (General Manager, People & Capability)  
Mr P Hulse (General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management)  
Ms R Miller (General Manager, Science Strategy and Engagement)  
Ms D Gee (Acting Communications Manager)  
Mr L Cleaver (Maritime Manager)  
Mrs T Hawkins (Finance Manager)  
Mr B Halligan (Strategic Regulatory Advisor)  
Ms B Lawrence (Chief Advisor)  
Mr S West (Principal Consents Officer)  
Mr M Trent (Principal Officer Māori)  
Mrs J M Brown (Executive Officer – *Minutes*)

## 1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Council meeting for Wednesday, 6 March 2024.

## 2 Apologies

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr McPhail, that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr McDonald, Cr Evans (Leave of Absence previously granted) and Cr Guyton (Leave of Absence previously granted).**

**Carried**

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 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

### Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 February 2024

**Resolved:**

Moved by Cr Morrison, and seconded, CrGibson that Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday, 8 February 2024, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

### Extraordinary meeting of Council – 28 February 2024

**Resolved:**

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Ludlow, that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 28 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

## 6 Adoption of committee resolutions

### Finance and Performance Committee – 22 February 2024

It was noted that an amendment is required to be made to the minutes of this meeting relating to Item 9.4, which will occur at the next meeting of that committee.

**Resolved:**

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council adopt the resolutions from the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 22 February 2024, with the exception of that relating to Item 9.4.

Carried

### South Port Subcommittee – 16 February 2024

**Resolved:**

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council adopt the resolutions from the South Port Subcommittee meeting held on 16 February 2024.

Carried

### Regional Services Committee – 21 February 2024

Corrections required to be made to these minutes (which did not impact on the resolutions) were noted.

**Resolved:**

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Pemberton, that Council adopt the resolutions from the Regional Services Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024.

Carried

### **Strategy & Policy Committee – 21 February 2024**

Cr Ludlow highlighted key matters discussed at this meeting, before proposing the resolutions be adopted. The meeting also noted amendments required to be made to these minutes before they are submitted for adoption at the next meeting (which did not impact on the resolutions being adopted).

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council adopt the resolutions from the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024.**

**Carried**

### **Regulatory Committee – 22 February 2024**

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Rodway, that Council adopt the resolutions from the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 22 February 2024.**

**Carried**

## **7 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business | He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi**

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## **8 Questions | Patai**

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

## **9 Chairman and councillors reports**

The Chairman's report was noted. In addition to the matters listed, the Chairman commended staff who had supported the Bioblitz event at Tuatapere. He noted the event was very well run, and the children and locals who participated had appreciated it all. The Chairman had been impressed with dedication and enthusiasm of staff, who clearly had put in a very long day.

The Chairman also wished to commend staff who are currently working long hours (and doing two jobs) in supporting the Bluecliffs Emergency event.

Councillors then provided verbal updates – a brief outline of which follows:

*Cr Ludlow* attended Fiordland Marine Guardians Symposium (together with three staff from the ES science team) and provided an outline of what the presentations had covered. She noted the presentations will be available via the FMG YouTube channel in the near future. This had been an excellent symposium, and Cr Ludlow was pleased to see researchers connecting with each other.

*Cr Cook* – noted he had filed a late report on his attendance at the AF8 South Island Conference held in Nelson last weekend. This report is to be circulated via separate cover. He noted that the project had been recognised at the national level. NEMA staff had also attended and updated the conference on a project underway to food sources and distribution networks, in support of a potential event.

*Cr Morrison* – reported on his and Cr Cook's attendance at the recent A&P Show in Invercargill, noting there had been "good foot traffic through the tent, and staff did a good job in connecting re LTP consultation."

*Cr Gibson* – reported on his attendance at the Mataura Fly event, and complimented both Josh Sullivan and Craig Smith on their support at the event. *Cr McPhail* supported this, noting that all of the public engagement this summer had been well organised and worthwhile. He thanked staff involved and encouraged a continuation of this engagement.

## 10 Staff reports

### 10.1 Chief Executive's report

Ms Wilma Falconer was in attendance and spoke to this report, which provided Council with a governance overview of current matters within the organisation. Key matters discussed included:

- Water quality in the Lowburn – is being monitored following the incident involving the recent eel mortality in that area. It was too early to say if the stream health had recovered – monitoring results would be received over the next two or three weeks.
- Eel repopulation – the initial focus was on the investigation, but this topic may be addressed with rūnaka as progress is made, and testing results come back.
- Bluecliffs emergency – the likelihood that houses in this area will eventually need to be relocated, and the possibility of working with the Southland District Council and establishing a recreational area going forward.
- Fish habitat enhancement work in the Waituna Creek – data/information from these trials is to be reported to Council via the Regional Services Committee, and staff will follow-up to ensure this happens.
- The 3D map and contour elevation tools outlined on page 37 of the agenda are an excellent asset.
- Winter grazing tool – the accuracy of the data from LiDAR is excellent, and would be great to have this migrated into this tool.
- Deferral of LTP consultation by TAs locally, and whether this will impact Environment Southland's processes at all. Noted this would not be an issue for ES.
- Dairy discharge permits – clarification sought on whether the reported non-compliance was higher than normal. Staff are to follow-up on this matter and report back under separate cover.
- Discussed time-frames/fast-track consenting processes and potential changes re consenting of marine farm activity.

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Morrison, that Council receive the Chief Executive's report.**

**Carried**

[At this time, the meeting returned to Councillor Reports]

## 9 Chairman and councillors reports

*Cr Gibson* updated the meeting on the Wetlands trip he had organised, which had involved a visit to the Day property. He noted there had been good discussion, which had encompassed a wide range of matters, including the regeneration of native plants from gorse.

[The meeting then returned to the Staff Reports Item]

## 10 Staff reports

### 10.2 Use of the Waituna Leasehold Reserves

This item sought approval to use Waituna Leasehold Reserves – Restricted Reserves – up to \$20,000 to undertake a mechanical opening of the Waituna Lagoon in response to a toxic algae bloom in the lagoon.

The meeting discussed the need to ensure the process outlined in the Leaseland Reserves Policy, including the need to consult with the relevant liaison committee, was adhered to. There was also discussion around how this fund had accumulated, given the nature of the purchase of the lands at Waituna. It was agreed that a workshop should be held to bring all Councillors up-to-date on these issues.

It was noted that should a retrospective consent process be required to be obtained, that will result in a separate conversation as to how that is funded.

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council:**

- 1 receive the report “Waituna Leasehold Reserves”.**
- 2 authorise the use of up to \$20,000 from the Waituna Leasehold Reserve Funds to pay for the contract work undertaken for the mechanical opening of the Waituna Lagoon, in line with Section 4.1.6 of the Delegations Manual; and**
- 3 a workshop is to be scheduled to discuss the structure and use of lease land reserves – in particular as they relate to the Waituna.**

**Carried**

### 10.3 Reporting of expenditure incurred above delegated authority

This item advised Council of invoices that had been paid, above the delegated authority provided to staff, as required by Council’s delegations manual.

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Rodway, that Council:**

- 1 receive the report;**
- 2 note the payment of Fulton Hogan’s Progress Claim #16 in the sum of \$410,634.08 (including GST).**

**Carried**

### 10.4 Councillors’ meeting schedule – March 2024

This item was provided for Council to consider and approve the meeting schedule, as appended to the staff report. Mrs Brown updated the meeting with changes to the meetings marked on the schedule.

Chairman Horrell applied for leave of absence, which was considered as part of the resolution.

The meeting was advised of a request to attend an EDS Conference by Cr McDonald. This led to a request for a report to be provided to the next meeting proposing a policy around professional development/conference attendance by Councillors, to allow formal consideration of this request.



The meeting was also advised that at the LGNZ Zone 5/6 meeting to be held in Christchurch, there was to be a vote taken on the matter of the appointment of a new Chair for Zone 6. As there were two candidates standing for the role, it was agreed that this matter should be the subject of an Extraordinary Meeting of Council, to allow Council to provide its delegates with direction on this matter. In the meantime, the information circulated by LGNZ and the Candidates, is to be provided to all Councillors.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Pemberton, that Council:**

- 1 receive the report;**
- 2 appoint members to represent Council at the meetings as marked on the schedule, and as further amended today;**
- 3 pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and as detailed on the schedule;**
- 4 approve the leave of absence request for Chairman Horrell from 26 September to 8 October 2024;**
- 5 seek a report back to Council on a Professional Development Policy for Councillors at the next meeting, to allow formal consideration of Cr McDonald’s request to attend the EDS conference in Christchurch in June.**

Carried

## 11 Public excluded business | He hui pakihī e hara mo te iwi

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Cook and seconded Cr Morrison, 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:**

- Adoption of public excluded committee resolutions – 2024 February 22 – Finance and Performance Committee;**
- Item 12.1 – Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations.**

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUND UNDER S.48(1)
12.1 Adoption of public excluded committee resolutions: 2024 February 22 – Finance and Performance Committee.	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
	To prevent disclosure or use of	S.7(2)(j)

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUNDS UNDER S.48(1)
12.2 Proposed amendments to Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations.	official information for improper gain or advantage	

It was further agreed that Philip Maw (Council's legal advisor) be permitted to attend the meeting in public excluded session.

Carried

## Resumed in Open Meeting

### 13 Termination

With there being no further meeting business, Chairman Horrell closed the meeting at 11.44 am.

# Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Southland Regional Council

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 1.02 pm



## Present:

Chairman N Horrell (Chair)  
Cr P Evans  
Cr A Gibson  
Cr L Ludlow  
Cr P McDonald  
Cr J McPhail  
Cr J Pemberton  
Cr M Rodway  
Cr E Roy

## Also Present:

Ms W Falconer (Chief Executive)  
Ms A Kubrycht (General Manager, People & Capability)  
Mrs J M Brown (Executive Officer – *Minutes*)

## 1 Welcome | Haere mai

The Chairman welcomed those present to the Extraordinary meeting of Council.

## 2 Apologies

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Rodway, that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr Cook and Cr Morrison (Leave of Absence previously granted).**

**Carried**

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business | He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## 5 Questions | Patai

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

## 6 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui Autaiā hei Totoia Pakihi

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

## 7 Public excluded business | He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

### **Resolved:**

Moved Cr Gibson and 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Item 1 – LGNZ Zone 6 Chair Election

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:

General Subject Matter	Reason for Passing the Resolution	Grounds under S.48(1)
LGNZ Zone 6 Chair Election	To protect the privacy of natural persons.	S.7(2)(a)

Carried

## Resumed in Open Meeting

### 13 Termination

With there being no further meeting business, Chairman Horrell closed the meeting at 1.43 pm.

# Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Southland Regional Council

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 1.04 pm



## Present:

Chairman N Horrell (Chair)  
Cr N Cook  
Cr P Evans  
Cr A Gibson  
Cr R Guyton  
Cr L Ludlow  
Cr P McDonald  
Cr J McPhail  
Cr P Morrison  
Cr J Pemberton  
Cr M Rodway - *via zoom*  
Cr E Roy

## Also Present:

Ms W Falconer (Chief Executive)  
Ms R Millar (General Manager, Science, Strategy and Engagement)  
Mr P Hulse (General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management)  
Mr D Rikiti (General Manager, Business Services)  
Ms A Kubrycht (General Manager, People & Capability)  
Mrs T Hawkins (Chief Financial Officer)  
Mr D Gibbs (Strategy and Partnerships Manager)  
Mrs M Wass (Personal Assistant – *Minutes*)

## 1 Welcome I Haere mai

The Chairman welcomed those present to the Extraordinary meeting of Council.

## 2 Apologies

No apologies received.

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## 5 Questions I Patai

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

## 6 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi

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

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Adoption of Supporting Documents – Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document

This item recommended that the Council adopt a number of key supporting documents for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan ahead of the consultation document being adopted for public consultation. Ms Millar spoke to her presentation (a copy of which was retained on file) which gave an overview of the information contained in the supporting documentation.

It was clarified that, once adopted, the consultation document and supporting documents would be available on Council's website and submissions could be made online or in writing. A rates calculator would also be made available online.

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Morrison that Council:**

- 1. pursuant to Section 93G of the Local Government Act 2002, adopt the following information as the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan supporting information:**
  - a. draft Financial Strategy;**
  - b. draft Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2054;**
  - c. draft Groups of Activities/Performance Framework (including links to strategic direction and levels of service);**
  - d. draft Financial Information (including Prospective Financial Statements, Disclosure Statement and Funding Impact Statement);**
  - e. proposed Financial Reserves Policy;**
  - f. proposed Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (including rates remission and postponement for Maori Freehold Land);**
  - g. draft Statement of Accounting Policies;**
  - h. draft Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO);**
  - i. proposed Significance and Engagement Policy;**
  - j. proposed Treasury Policy;**
  - k. proposed Marine Fee Reserve Allocation Policy; and**
  - l. Significant Forecasting Assumptions.**
- 2. delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any non-material final edits required to the supporting information in order to finalise these for printing and distribution.**

**Carried**

### 7.2 Draft Revenue and Financing Policy and Statement of Proposal

This item sought Council approval of the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy and the Draft Funding Needs Analysis as supporting information for the Long-term Plan consultation, as well as the Revenue and Financing Policy update and rating review 2024 Statement of Proposal for consultation.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow and seconded Cr McPhail that Council:**

- 1. adopt for consultation the:**
  - a. draft Revenue and Financing Policy;**
  - b. draft Funding Needs Analysis;**
  - c. Statement of Proposal.**
  
- 2. delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any non-material final edits required to the above documents in order to finalise these for printing and distribution.**

**Carried**

*The meeting considered item 7.4 at this time.*

#### **7.4 Adoption of Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document**

This item recommended that the Council adopt the 2024-34 Long-term Plan Consultation Document (CD), *Investing in Southland Whakangao ki Murihiku*, for public consultation from 28 March 2024 to 6 May 2024. Mrs Millar noted that hard copies of the documents would be distributed to a number of locations across the Southland region and would also be available online.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Roy and seconded Cr Pemberton that Council:**

- 1. adopt the consultation document, *Investing in Southland Whakangao ki Murihiku*, for the 2024-34 Long-term Plan pursuant to Sections 93B-93F of the Local Government Act 2002, including the final Audit opinion (to be tabled at the meeting);**
  
- 2. make the consultation document and nominated supporting information publically available from 28 March 2024 and call for public views and submissions on the consultation document, with the receipt of views and submissions to close on 6 May 2024 and to be heard by Council later that month; and**
  
- 3. delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any non-material final edits required to the consultation document in order to finalise the document for printing and distribution.**

**Carried**

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman signed the representation letter.

*The meeting then considered item 7.3.*

#### **7.3 Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25**

The purpose of this item was to seek Council approval of the Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25 for consultation. Staff advised that, primarily, the changes proposed were to keep up with inflationary costs as well as to better reflect the services being provided and how they are charged. Mr Hulse noted that the changes in the document were highlighted in yellow.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Gibson that Council, pursuant to Sections 36 and 36AAA of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Sections 83 and 87 of the Local Government Act 2002, adopt the Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25 and Statement of Proposal for consultation.**

**Carried**

## 7.5 Consultations running concurrently with the Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document

The purpose of this report was for Council to approve the consultation material for the concurrent and separate consultations on the proposed policies, which were required to support the Long-term Plan (LTP) development process.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Cook and seconded Cr Roy that Council:**

- 1. pursuant to Section 102, Local Government Act 2002, adopt the proposed Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (including for Maori Freehold Land) and proposal for consultation concurrently with the LTP Consultation Document;**
- 2. pursuant to Section 76AA, Local Government Act 2002, adopt the proposed Significance and Engagement Policy and proposal for consultation concurrently with the LTP Consultation Document.**

**Carried**

## 13 Termination

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Horrell closed the meeting at 2.05 pm.



## 6 Adoption of Committee Resolutions

Attached are the minutes from each of the Council Committee meetings held over the past six weeks. Council is asked to adopt the resolutions from each of these meetings.

- 6.1 South Port Subcommittee – 16 February 2024
- 6.2 South Port Subcommittee – 11 March 2024
- 6.3 Risk and Assurance Committee – 20 March 2024
- 6.4 Strategy & Policy Committee – 27 March 2024
- 6.5 Emergency Meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 13 March 2024
- 6.6 Extraordinary Meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 25 March 2024

# Minutes of the South Port Subcommittee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Friday 16 February 2024 at 1pm



## Present:

Cr Eric Roy (Chair)  
Chairman Nicol Horrell (ex officio)  
Cr Alistair Gibson  
Cr Lyndal Ludlow  
Cr Jeremy McPhail  
Mr Dom Rikiti (General Manager Business Services)  
Miss Mariette Geldenhuys (Meeting Secretary)

## 1 Welcome I Haere mai

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the South Port Subcommittee meeting for 16 February 2024.

## 2 Apologies

Apologies received from Cr Rodway.

Moved by Cr McPhail and seconded by Cr Ludlow, **and resolved:**

**That Council accept the apology.**

**Carried**

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huiuga tuku korero

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

## 5 Confirmation of minutes

Moved by Chairman Horrell and seconded by Cr McPhail **and resolved:**

**That the South Port Subcommittee confirms the minutes of the meeting held 7 December 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**Carried**

## 6 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## 7 Questions I Patai

There were no questions asked by the membership.

## 8 Chairman and councillors reports

No reports were tabled by the Chair or councillors at this meeting.

## 10 Staff reports

### 9.1 South Port Investment – update January 2004

Mr Rikiti was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to provide an update to the South Port Subcommittee on matters relating to South Port. Philip Cory-Wright (South Port Chair) and Nigel Gear (South Port Chief Executive) were also present for this discussion, and presented on South Port half yearly results.

Moved Chairman Horrell and seconded by Cr Gibson **and resolved:**

**That the South Port Subcommittee**

- 1 Receive the report “South Port Investment – update January 2024”.**

**Carried**

## 11 Public excluded business I He hui pakihī e hara mo te iwi

Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Ludlow, 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

**Confirmation of public excluded minutes – South Port Subcommittee 7 December 2023**

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUND UNDER S.48(1)
Confirmation of public excluded minutes – South Port Subcommittee 7 December 2023	To protect information which, if public, would (i) disclose a trade secret, or (ii) unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	S.7(2)(b)

**Carried**

## Termination

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 1.42 pm

# Minutes of the South Port Subcommittee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Friday 11 March 2024 at 3.00 pm



## Present:

Cr Eric Roy (Chair)  
Chairman Nicol Horrell (ex officio)  
Cr Alistair Gibson  
Cr Lyndal Ludlow  
Cr Jeremy McPhail  
Cr Maurice Rodway  
Mr Dom Rikiti (General Manager Business Services)  
Miss Mariette Geldenhuys (Meeting Secretary)

## Also Present:

Scott Hamilton (online via Teams)

### 1 Welcome I Haere mai

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the South Port Subcommittee meeting for 16 February 2024.

### 2 Apologies

No apologies received for this meeting.

### 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huiuga tuku korero

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

### 5 Confirmation of minutes

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved by Cr McPhail, seconded by Cr Ludlow that the South Port Subcommittee confirms the minutes of the meeting held 16 February 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**Carried**

### 6 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

### 7 Questions I Patai

There were no questions asked by the membership.

## 8 Chairman and councillors reports

No reports were tabled by the Chair or councillors at this meeting.

## 9 Reports

No reports presented.

## 10 Public excluded business I He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

### **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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

**Confirmation of public excluded minutes – South Port Subcommittee 7 December 2023**

**Item 11 - South Port Investment – March 2024 update**

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUND UNDER S.48(1)
Confirmation of public excluded minutes – South Port Subcommittee 16 February 2024	To protect information which, if public, would (i) disclose a trade secret, or (ii) unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	S.7(2)(b)

**Carried**

## Termination

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 3.57 pm.

# Minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 10.00 am



## Present:

Mr Andrew Douglas (Independent Chair)  
Chairman N Horrell (ex officio)  
Cr Lyndal Ludlow  
Cr Jeremy McPhail  
Cr Maurice Rodway  
Cr Jon Pemberton  
Cr Alistair Gibson  
Cr Phil Morrison

## Also Present:

Cr Eric Roy  
Cr Peter MacDonald

## In Attendance:

Ms Wilma Falconer (Chief Executive)  
Ms Amy Kubrycht (General Manager, People & Customer)  
Mr Mike Trent (Chief Advisor Māori)  
Mrs Rachael Millar (General Manager Strategy, Science & Engagement)  
Mr Dominic Rikiti (General Manager Business Services)  
Mr Paul le Roux (Health, Safety & Risk Manager)  
Ms Paula Toomey (Information & Support Manager)  
Mr Gary Andrews (People & Capability Manager)  
Mr Dave Gibbs (Strategy & Partnerships Manager)  
Ms Andrea Garcia (Team Leader, Consents)  
Ms Tania Cribb (Risk Assurance & Internal Audit Officer)  
Mr Anthony Smith (Consultant)  
Mr Scott Hawkins (Consultant)  
Mr Miles McConway (Consultant) – by Zoom  
Mr Stephen Halliwell (Consultant) – by Zoom  
Mrs Helen Hart (Personal Assistant – *Minutes*)

## 1 Welcome | Haere mai

Mr Douglas welcomed everyone to the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting for 20 March 2024, and opened the meeting with a karakia.

## 2 Apologies | Ngā pa pouri

No apologies received for the meeting

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 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 – Risk & Assurance Committee meeting – 16 November 2023

### Resolved:

**Moved by Cr McPhail, and seconded, Cr Ludlow that Council confirms the minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on Thursday, 16 November 2023, as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**Carried**

## 6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business | He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## 7 Questions | Patai

There were no questions asked by the committee.

## 8 Chairman and councillors reports | Ngā purongo-a-tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

Mr Douglas provided a verbal update to the committee, reflecting on sessions attended since the last meeting. The first being a Treasury presentation talking about the headwinds everyone is facing in the country such as high inflation, staff shortages, forecast reductions in government spending and climate resilience. He referred to the OAG focus on public sector transparency as well as performance accountability.

## 9 Staff reports

### 9.1 Risk Management Reports

The purpose of this report was to update the committee on organisational risk, the risk management programme, and the business continuity programme.

Ms Cribb was in attendance to speak to this item drawing attention to work continuing on the risk framework. Further focus points discussed included an update on our business continuity work, training for the business response team and their roles and responsibilities.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Horrell that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Risk management report for March 2024”.**

**Carried**

## 9.2 Organisational risk deep dive – Te Tiriti and relationships of mutual benefit with tangata whenua of Murihiku

The purpose of the report was to inform the committee on key areas of organisational risk.

Mr Trent was in attendance to speak to this item which was about the Te Tiriti of Waitangi integrated as part of the fabric of our organisation. Discussions took place about the Charter of Understanding and the capacity of iwi to support the work programme, clarity about relationships between iwi and the Crown, roles and confidence when discussing these matters. The unique and good relationship we have through the Charter of Understanding was discussed and the opportunity we have through our recruitment process to reflect the values around Te Ao Māori. Ms Falconer referred to the fact that the relationship is at the heart of our work, she referred to page 15 of the Agenda containing a very important statement about relationship commitment from a risk perspective.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow and seconded Cr Morrison that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Organisational risk deep dive – Te Tiriti and relationships of mutual benefit with tangata whenua of Murihiku”.**

**Carried**

## 9.3 Internal Audit report

The purpose of the report was to update the committee on the internal audit programme and more specifically the current internal audit being undertaken.

Ms Cribb was in attendance to speak to this item. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) have completed the first internal audit and presented their findings, highlighting 11 actions. Ms Cribb noted that there were no high-risk findings, they were all in the moderate category. Cr Ludlow suggested it would be useful for PWC to give a presentation as part of the next meeting and Ms Kubrycht was in agreement.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Horrell and seconded Cr Ludlow that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Internal audit report for March 2024”.**

**Carried**

### 9.4.1 Health, safety and wellbeing management report

The purpose of the report was to update the committee on the operation of the health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) management system.

Mr le Roux was in attendance to speak to this item, drawing attention to the external audit by Robyn Bennett last year, who undertakes the biennial review of our H&S management systems. Progress on 2021’s audit findings was noted. A work plan for this audit’s findings is being developed and will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. Mr le Roux referred to an increase in speeding across the organisation and spoke in further detail about how this was being addressed.



**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Pemberton and seconded Cr Ludlow, that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Health, safety and wellbeing management report”.**

**Carried**

### 9.4.2 Health and Safety Critical Risk Deep Dive - People

The purpose of the report was to provide a “Deep Dive Discussion” on a health and safety critical risk – People.

Mr le Roux was in attendance to speak to this item. He talked about concerns and issues around abusive behaviour directed towards staff by the public. Recorded incidents have been coming through on a regular basis. After a series of incidents last year, an internal task force was formed to work through a bowtie analysis of the risk. Mr le Roux outlined a suite of controls, including technology (i.e. GetHomeSafe), CCTV, bodycams and training. Discipline in using these controls and tolerance levels of staff to incidents vary. Cr Ludlow requested a deep dive on similar issues related to internal staff, particularly around racial abuse and sexual harassment.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Rodway and seconded Cr Morrison, that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report of Paul le Roux, Health, Safety and Risk Manager, titled Health and Safety Critical Risk Deep Dive – People.**

**Carried**

### 9.5 Audit engagement letter – March 2024

The purpose was for the committee to endorse the signing of the Deloitte audit engagement letter dated 4 March 2024 by the Chairman.

Mr Rikiti was in attendance to speak to this item. This engagement is standard across the sector. Mr Douglas highlighted that the auditors are our eyes and ears to making sure the content of the LTP is correct.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow and seconded Cr McPhail that the Risk and Assurance Committee**

- 1. receive the report “Audit engagement letter”;**
- 2. endorse the signing of the Audit engagement letter dated 4 March 2024 by the Chairman.**

**Carried**

### 9.6 Conflict of Interest report for March 2024

The purpose of this report was for the committee to review the operation of Council’s Conflict of Interest policy annually to assure Council that conflicts of interests are being identified and managed appropriately.

Mr Andrews was in attendance to speak to this item. Mr Andrews outlined Council’s obligation as a public entity, to be transparent and for the potential for employee conflicts of interest to bring Council

into disrepute. He outlined the process Council follows for managing staff conflicts of interest and how this was reported to Exec and Council.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Rodway that the Risk and Assurance Committee note the “Conflict of Interest report” for March 2024.**

**Carried**

## 9.7 Review of Elected members’ Interests

The purpose of this report was for the committee to review and advise on how elected members’ interests are managed and maintained with respect to legislation and policy.

The relevant legislation included the Local Authority (Members Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA), Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) (in relation to pecuniary interests) and Council Members Code of Conduct and Governance Process, Level Three.

Ms Toomey was in attendance to speak to this item. Ms Toomey noted the register should be updated every six months, but this had not occurred due to lack of resources and that Democracy services staff would address this during March 2024. Staff were currently working on developing advice for Councillors on how to seek an exemption from the office of the Auditor-General (OAG) under LGOIMA should it be required. Ms Toomey thanked Councillors for their returns for the pecuniary interests register.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Horrell that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Review of Elected Members’ Interests”.**

**Carried**

## 9.8 Annual activity plan

The purpose of this report was to present to the committee the annual plan of items to be delivered by the committee, and to obtain ongoing input to the proposed plan.

Ms Kubrycht was in attendance and spoke to this item.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow and seconded Cr Rodway that the Risk and Assurance Committee receive the report “Annual activity plan” and provide input.**

**Carried**

[Cr Roy left the meeting at 11.40 am]

## 10 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui Autaia hei Totoia pakihi

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

## 11 Public excluded business | He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

### Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail and seconded Cr Morrison, 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Confirmation of the public excluded minutes from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting 16 November 2023
- Item 11.1 LTP 2024-34 Consultation Document
- Item 11.2 Deep Dive – equitable and sustainable assets
- Item 11.3 Economic recovery projects – risk management report
- Item 11.4 Governance level risk management overview

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUND UNDER S.48(1)
Confirmation of the public excluded minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee 16 November 2023	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage	S.7(2)(j)
Item 11.1 – LTP 2024-34 Consultation Document	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	S.7(2)(h)
Item 11.2 – Deep Dive – equitable and sustainable assets	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage	S.7(2)(j)
Item 11.3 – Economic recovery projects – risk management report	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	S.7(2)(h)
Item 11.4 – Governance level risk management overview	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	S.7(2)(h)

Carried

### Termination

There being no further meeting business, Chairman Douglas closed the meeting at 3.03 pm.

# Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill  
Wednesday 27 March at 10.00 am

## Present:

Cr Lyndal Ludlow (Chair)  
Chairman N Horrell (ex officio)  
Cr Neville Cook  
Cr Paul Evans  
Cr Alastair Gibson  
Cr Robert Guyton  
Cr Jeremy McPhail  
Cr Phil Morrison  
Cr Jon Pemberton  
Cr Maurice Rodway (by Zoom)  
Cr Eric Roy  
Ms Ann Wakefield (Mana whenua representative)  
Mr Stewart Bull (Mana whenua representative)

## Also Present:

Ms Rachael Miller (GM Science Strategy and Engagement)  
Ms Lucy Hicks (GM Policy and Government Reform)  
Mr Dave Gibbs (Strategy and Partnerships Manager)  
Mrs Liz Devery (Regional Planning Manager)  
Mrs Mikayla Wass (Meeting Secretary)

## 1 Welcome I Haere mai

Cr Ludlow welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy committee meeting for Wednesday, 27 March 2024, and opened with a karakia.

## 2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huiuga tuku korero

### Thriving Southland

Tessa Millar and Pip Standish from Thriving Southland presented on the upcoming Balance Farm Environment Awards. They gave an overview of the awards which included those involved, the ceremony and event itself and the regional supreme winner open days. They advised that a limited number of tickets were still available if Councillors were interested in attending. Staff were to follow-up on this matter.

### COIN South

Cathy Peters from COIN South spoke to the meeting, noting that COIN South was an innovation network for Southland start-ups looking to scale-up beyond the region. She spoke to her presentation which provided an update on their activities, focus areas and noted that Environment Southland was a core strategic partner.

## 5 Confirmation of minutes

### **Resolved:**

**Moved by Cr Roy and seconded by Cr McPhail, that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 21 February 2024, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**Carried**

## 6 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business | He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

## 7 Questions | Patai

There were no questions asked by the membership.

## 8 Chairman and councillors reports

Cr Rodway noted that as he was attending via zoom, he would postpone his presentation on the Farm Forester field day until the next committee meeting.

Cr Evans spoke to his report (a copy of which was tabled) which included updates on the LGNZ Zone 5-6 meeting in Christchurch.

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Cook, Seconded Cr Morrison, that the Chairman and Councillors reports be received.**

**Carried**

## 9 Staff reports

### 9.1 Climate Change Update

This item was to provide an update of progress being made in the climate change and community resilience portfolio including the Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG), the proposed organisational emissions reduction approach and the Regional Climate Change Perceptions Survey report.

It was agreed that Cr Morrison would speak to the RCCWG meeting the following day about drafting a statement on how the 'March for Climate' event could fit with the existing work programme.

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Chairman Horrell and seconded Cr Evans that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Climate change and community resilience update'.**

**Carried**

## 9.2 Water and Land Update

The purpose of this item was to update Councillors on the water and land portfolio work that had advanced since the last update to the Strategy and Policy committee on 21 February 2024. Mrs Devery noted that since the writing of the report one time extension had been given for Tranche 3, water quantity matters.

Discussions took place on topics including Plan Change Tuatahi, Regulation Changes and the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Roy and seconded Cr McPhail, that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Water and land portfolio update'.**

**Carried**

## 9.3 Group Update

This item was to give an update on the working being carried out by the Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and the Policy and Government Reform Group.

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Chairman Horrell and seconded Cr Pemberton, that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Group update report'.**

**Carried**

## 9.4 Update of Councillor Requests and Actions

This report captured Councillor requests and actions that had occurred during Strategy and Policy Committee meetings and provided an update on how the requests were being responded to. It was noted that this would be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Pemberton and seconded Cr Guyton that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Update of Councillor requests and actions'**

**Carried**

## 10 Public excluded business | He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

There was no public excluded business.

## Termination

There being no further business, Cr Ludlow closed the meeting with a karakia at 11:55 am

# Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill, on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 10.00 am

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## Present:

Cr Neville Cook (Environment Southland, Chair)  
Mayor Ben Bell (Gore District Council)  
Cr Tom Campbell (Invercargill City Council)  
Chairman Horrell (Environment Southland)  
Mayor Rob Scott (Southland District Council)

## Also Present:

Ms Wilma Falconer (Environment Southland)  
Mr Cameron McIntosh (Southland District Council)  
Ms Kathrine Biggs (National Emergency Management Agency) – by Zoom  
Ms Rochelle Faimalo (National Emergency Management Agency) – by Zoom  
Ms Wendy Wright (National Emergency Management Agency) – by Zoom  
Mrs J M Brown (Executive Officer, ES – *Minutes*)

## 1 Welcome I Haere mai

Cr Cook welcomed members to the Emergency Meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, and thanked everyone for attending.

## 2 Apologies

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr Campbell, that apologies for absence be received on behalf of Cr K Hovell and Mr S Parry (Gore District Council); Cr C Menzies (Southland District Council), and Mayor N Clark (Invercargill City Council).**

Carried

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huiuga tuku korero

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

## 5 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business | He Panui autaiā hei Totoia pakihi

There was no extraordinary items or urgent business notified at this time.

## 6 Questions I Patai

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

## 7 Chairman's Report | Te Purongo a Tumuaki

The Chairman did not present a report.

## 8 Public Excluded Business

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr Campbell, 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:**

- **Item 1 – State of Emergency Transitional Arrangements**

**The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:**

<b>General Subject Matter</b>	<b>Reason for Passing the Resolution</b>	<b>Grounds under S.48(1)</b>
<b>State of Emergency Transitional Arrangements</b>	<b>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</b>	<b>S.7(2)(a)</b>

**Carried**

## Resumed in Open Meeting

### Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.32 am.



# Minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill, on Wednesday, 25 March 2024 at 8.30 am

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## Present:

Cr Neville Cook (Environment Southland, Chair)  
Chairman Nichol Horrell (ex officio)  
Mayor Ben Bell (Gore District Council)  
Mayor Rob Scott (Southland District Council)

## Also Present:

Ms Wilma Falconer (Environment Southland) – by zoom  
Ms Lucy Hicks (Environment Southland)  
Mr Randal Beal (Environment Southland) – by zoom  
Mr Cameron McIntosh (Southland District Council)  
Ms Rochelle Faimalo (National Emergency Management Agency)  
Mr Barry McDowell (Transport Rebuild East Coast) – by zoom  
Mr Ramon Strong (Personal Development Planning) – by zoom  
Mr Michael Day (Invercargill City Council) – by zoom  
Cr Christine Menzies (Southland District Council) – by zoom  
Ms Amy Kubrycht (Environment Southland)

## 1 Welcome | Haere mai

Cr Cook welcomed members to the Emergency Meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, and thanked everyone for attending.

## 2 Apologies

No apologies received for the meeting

## 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Confirmation of minutes | Whakau Kōrero

Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Emergency meeting – 13 March 2024

### Resolved:

**Moved by Mayor Scott, and seconded, Cr Horrell that the minutes of the Emergency meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Emergency meeting – 13 March 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

Carried

## 5 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business | He Panui autaiā hei Totoia pakihi

There was no extraordinary items or urgent business notified at this time.

## 6 Questions I Patai

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

## 7 Chairman's Report | Te Purongo a Tumuaki

The Chairman did not present a report.

## 8 Public Excluded Business

### **Resolved:**

**Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Mayor Bell, 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 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:**

- **Item 1 – State of Emergency Transitional Arrangement**

**The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for 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:**

<b>General Subject Matter</b>	<b>Reason for Passing the Resolution</b>	<b>Grounds under S.48(1)</b>
State of Emergency Transitional Arrangements	To protect the privacy of natural persons.	S.7(2)(a)

**Carried**

## Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.53 am.

# Chair report

Activities undertaken by Chairman Horrell on behalf of Council since the last meeting

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## March 2024

- 7 Regional Sector Group meeting
- 11 South Port Subcommittee meeting  
Invercargill City Council LTP Engagement Event  
Meeting with Federated Farmers  
South Port Mix and Mingle Event
- 12 Mataura Valley Milk Celebration  
Gore District Council meeting
- 13 Council Workshop – Coastal Plan  
Emergency Meeting of Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting  
Extraordinary meeting of Council – Zone 5/6 Chair Election  
OSPRI Southland Committee meeting
- 14 Southland Regional leadership Group meeting  
Catchment Liaison Committee Chairs meeting with Regional Services Committee
- 20 Whakamana te Waituna Co-chair Briefing  
Risk & Assurance Committee meeting
- 21/22 LGNZ Zone 5/6 meeting in Christchurch
- 25 Extraordinary meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group  
LTP Discussion  
Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee meeting  
South Island Regional Council Governance Group meeting via Teams
- 26 Whakamana te Waituna Quarterly Trust meeting  
Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee meeting
- 27 Strategy & Policy Committee meeting  
Bluecliffs Community meeting @ Tuatapere
- 28 Great South Joint Shareholders Committee

## April 2024

- 3 Chief Executive's Review Committee
- 4 Waimatuku Catchment Liaison Committee  
Ōreti Catchment Liaison Committee  
DOC Community meeting re Waituna Consent
- 5 Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee
- 8 Filming for LTP
- 9 Chairman's Catch-up with Councillors via TEAMS
- 10 Thriving Southland Breakfast meeting  
Council Workshop – Cultural Narrative and Coastal Plan Review
- 11 Combined Sector Group meeting, Wellington  
LGNZ Stakeholder Event, Wellington
- 12 Regional Sector Group meeting, Wellington
- 16 Site Visit – Pinkney and Young properties
- 17 Ordinary meeting of Council

## Local Government New Zealand Report - February 2024

Local Government New Zealand released its four-monthly report for members, in February 2024. A copy is appended to the agenda for the information of the meeting. These reports will be included in future agendas as part of the Chair report, and if required, President Sam Broughton, or the Zone Chair, can be made available to speak and respond to any questions that might arise.

## Local Government New Zealand Zone 5/6 Meeting Presentations

Just a reminder that the presentations from the Local Government New Zealand Zone 5/6 meeting held in Christchurch in March 2024 have been shared via Councillors' Objective Connect link given the size of the file involved.



# LGNZ FOUR-MONTHLY REPORT FOR MEMBER COUNCILS

// NOVEMBER 2023-FEBRUARY 2024



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# Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It complements our regular communication channels, including Keeping it Local (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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# Introduction

This report is designed to be put on your council agenda for discussion and feedback. We would welcome the chance to speak to it at your council meeting, whether in person or via zoom – please get in touch with us to arrange that.

Highlights of this period from November to February have included building relationships with key Cabinet Ministers in the new Government and locking in regular meetings for the year. We have resumed meetings with the Prime Minister and enjoyed good levels of attendance of Ministers and MPs at sector meetings. This follows our [Briefing to the Incoming Government](#), which was well received both by members and central government. In 2024, for the first time, LGNZ was officially represented at Waitangi, marking a step change in our approach to strengthening partnerships with Māori – as well as providing valuable opportunities for both formal and informal political engagement. Significant policy/advocacy work on behalf of councils, along with media and social media activity, is reported on in detail below.

December's Special General Meeting wrapped up an intensive five-month process on the Future by Local Government that included new ways to engage members. The next step is taking this long-term platform and determining what to advocate on in the shorter and longer term – and tailoring this for the right audience. We'll be engaging more with members on that soon.

LGNZ advocated for more time and flexibility around LTPs given the changes to water reform. This was achieved, with the repeal legislation giving councils an additional three months to adopt their LTPs, an ability to forgo the audit of the consultation document, and to reduce consultation requirements on subsequent amendments. There's a lot more detail about all areas of our policy and advocacy work in this report.

Another highlight of this period was agreeing an interim collaboration agreement with Auckland Council CE Phil Wilson. The arrangement allows access to professional development opportunities for Local Board members, particularly Te Maruata and Young Elected Members.

In the area of professional development support, you will see the increasing range of Ākona modules in response to your requests.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



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# Progress on strategic goals

## Priority/01

### Resetting the relationship with Central Government

#### Political engagement and government relations

Our reset political strategy initially focused on establishing credibility and building relationships with key Cabinet Ministers. As with any change of government, the first step is to get to know Ministers – how they operate and what they expect – and to slowly build their understanding of the intricacies of local government, the challenges we face and the opportunities we could unlock together.

Regular meetings between LGNZ and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Local Government Minister Simeon Brown and Regional Development Minister Shane Jones are locked in the diary for the year. We're also working to schedule regular meetings with Resource Management Reform and Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop. We'll have a raft of Ministers speaking at our March sector meetings to help set the agenda for the rest of the year.

As well as our regular formal meetings with the Prime Minister, Ministers and key officials, our broader approach has included:

- // Being part of political events such as Waitangi commemorations, where it's possible to speak to a broad range of Ministers in formal and informal settings (more on Waitangi below);
- // Hosting a localism briefing for new National Party MPs to bring them up to speed on what localism means, why taking a place-based approach works well and how councils can enable the delivery of government policy if the system is set up right.
- // Taking steps to set up a network of former members of local government who are now MPs – and who understand and can champion local government's interests inside the Beehive. This kicked off with an informal pizza and drinks night.

Sitting alongside this, we are undertaking policy work that positions LGNZ as a speed boat – rather than the slow-moving cruise liner the public service can be viewed as – more detail on this below.

Susan and key public sector CEs have 1:1s scheduled throughout the year to build trust and help build the public service's knowledge about local government's challenges, as well as explore where the opportunities may lie for quick wins.

#### Briefing to the Incoming Government

We finalised and shared our [Briefing to the Incoming Government](#) in late November. The briefing focussed on localism and where we would like to work together on the Government's priorities and



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was aimed at opening the door for future engagement. It included content regarding issues like investing in infrastructure, water services, resource management, and emergency management.

## Priority/02

# Establishing stronger Te Tiriti-based partnerships with Iwi Māori

### Waitangi commemorations

For the first time, LGNZ was officially represented at Waitangi, marking a step change in our approach to strengthening partnerships with Māori as well as providing valuable opportunities for political engagement. Our contribution included hosting a panel discussion in the Forum Tent on local government's role in honouring Te Tiriti. About 100 people attended and contributed some thought-provoking pātai from the floor; feedback about the event was positive. We took a proactive approach to media coverage that outlined our position on Māori Wards, which is based on fairness and treating Māori Wards the same as other wards.

### Te Maruata update

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met in Wellington in November to refine their priorities for the rest of the triennium, and will be holding a whānui hui online on 14 March. The hui is also an opportunity for the wider whānui to meet LGNZ's new Kaitohutohu Matua Māori (Principal Advisor Māori), Mereana Taungapeau, who started in February. Mereana is currently developing a Te Ao Māori workstream that seeks to support LGNZ with the design of tools/processes/approaches to create a stronger, more meaningful Te Ao Māori foundation. This foundation will support increased cultural capability of LGNZ staff that will then extend into positive outcomes for members. It will help Te Maruata to maximise their capacity and transform their work programme to focus on pro-active kaupapa of importance to Māori across Aotearoa. We've been able to extend the invitation to the online whānui hui to Māori Local Board members because of the cooperation agreement with Auckland Council Local Boards. At the hui, the whānui will elect three new members to sit on the Rōpū Whakahaere. The new Rōpū Whakahaere will meet in person in April, to discuss their forward work programme with Mereana and the wider LGNZ team.

A key issue for Te Maruata is strong advocacy on retaining current arrangements for the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies, and protecting those wards and constituencies that are already in place.



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## Priority/03

# Campaigning for greater local decision-making and localism

## Choose Localism and Future by Local Government

### FbLG process

December's Special General Meeting wrapped up an intensive five-month process that included new ways to engage members.

The second FbLG event on 2 November concentrated on four areas identified at the September event as potentially being possible to reach agreement on. The nearly 200 attendees split into four groups – Funding, System transformation, Te Tiriti, and Wellbeing & working with central government. Each group created a position and presented it back to the whole audience, then revising it in response to feedback and presenting again.

Between the first and second events, we also ran participative online engagement that allowed people to see how their opinions fitted with other people's and make comments. In total 164 people engaged with the online platform. People from 19 different councils took part.

Supporting all this engagement was a range of email communications, including designed emails to all elected members, promotion in Keeping it Local, personal emails from Sam, and personal emails from Susan. We shared all the of the data and outputs from the events back with members.

Some of the email campaigns (which were all to 1500 recipients) recorded extremely high open rates by industry standards. For context, the average open rate for non-profit member organisations is 39%<sup>1</sup>

- "Last chance to complete online engagement" on 30 October had a 67% open rate
- Make your voice heard – new FFLG online tool on 13 October had a 68% open rate
- "We're making progress towards FFLG consensus" (which included the pack for councils to hold conversations) on 4 October had a 57% open rate

We used all the feedback and data to create a consensus outcome paper, which was shared with members on 24 November ahead of a Special General Meeting on 11 December, which voted to include all five sections in the FbLG package. These were the final results:

// Section 1 – Build a new system of government that's fit for purpose – **93.6% in favour**, 6.4% against; 0% abstain.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/email-digital-marketing/articles/KnowledgeBase/5409-average-industry-rates?lang=en\\_US](https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/email-digital-marketing/articles/KnowledgeBase/5409-average-industry-rates?lang=en_US)



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- // Section 2 – Rebalance the country’s tax take between central and local government – **98.0% in favour**, 2.0% against, 0% abstain.
  - // Section 3 – Create stronger, more authentic relationships between local government and iwi, hapū and Māori – **76.1% in favour**; 19.5% against; 4.4% abstain.
  - // Section 4 – Align central, regional and local government priorities – **93.6% in favour**, 6.4% against, 0% abstain.
  - // Section 5 – Strengthen local democracy and leadership – **89.4% in favour**; 10.6% against; 0% abstain.

### **What now for FBLG?**

Not everything in the package of ideas that came out of the Future by Local Government process will be palatable to the new government and some ideas won’t be advanced in this political term. The package approved at the SGM is the start of a long-term platform for advocacy that goes beyond this current government (and the next too). The next step is to tailor our advocacy to the appropriate audience – right now for the National-led Coalition – and to actively involve members in that. This will be workshopped at our April sector meetings.

### **Choose Localism**

We have developed a plan to activate Choose Localism this year that includes political, member and media engagement, with our annual SuperLocal Conference a key milestone where localism will be brought to life.

A key part of our work will be launching a Choose Localism toolkit, which our Policy Team is working on. This will be a practical resource for elected members and staff that shows how councils can adopt localism as part of their core work. We’ll be releasing the toolkit in stages, with the first part of the toolkit focused on applying localism to engagement and consultation processes. We plan to use the toolkit as a way to showcase good practice examples of work happening across councils.

As part of the Choose Localism campaign, we are looking at ways to tackle the issue of voter turnout (and therefore mandate) for local government. There have been several reviews and numerous calls for local government electoral reform over the years, with no progress being made. Only four out of ten eligible voters have their say in local elections, compared with eight out of ten for central government. Mayor Nick Smith, who has been part of a number of Justice Select Committees looking into this, will lead an LGNZ Technical Working Group to get traction on the issue. The working group will have a very clear purpose: to drive LGNZ’s advocacy work to strengthen the democratic mandate for local government to represent and meet the needs of its communities. Moving local government to a four-year term will be part of this work.

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## Priority/04

### Ramping up our work on climate change

#### Inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding

In late 2023, we submitted on the inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding that was started by the previous government. Our submission stressed the importance of an enduring framework for climate adaptation and retreat that has cross-party support. We have encouraged the government and Environment Committee to continue with the inquiry and climate adaptation work in both our submission and our briefing to the incoming government. We understand that work is underway to re-ignite the inquiry. There is a real opportunity for LGNZ to play an active role in working with the Government to develop its climate change adaptation policy framework.

#### Other climate change work

In late 2023, we worked with Whakatāne District Council, Northland Regional Council, the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network (ACAN) and Beca to produce guidance that sets out climate change legislative requirements and reforms that councils should think about when preparing their LTPs. This guidance will be a living document and updated in the coming months to reflect the new Government's emerging policy and legislative reform programme.

We also supported ACAN's two-day hui for council staff working in the adaptation space in Christchurch, which was attended by over 100 people.

#### Support for Cyclone-affected councils

We've continued to engage with affected members on what they needed from additional orders in council or support from the new Government. Alongside helping councils to address their specific needs, we've continued our wider call for a more sustainable approach to emergency event recovery, which has been included in recent submissions as well as in the Briefing to the Incoming Government.

Our Policy Team met with the secretariat of the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Taskforce to support development of their insights framework, which seeks to capture the lessons learned from their work. We have also started engagement with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on their next steps on their critical infrastructure framework and minimum standards.

The report on the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events is expected to be out shortly. We understand that consideration of the Emergency Management Bill (which we submitted on in October 2023) is on hold until the release of this report, so the Select Committee can consider it and any changes needed to the Bill. This may involve further submissions or engagement.



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## Priority/05

### Delivering and building on our core work

#### Water services reform

LGNZ advocated for more time and flexibility around LTPs given the changes to water reform. This was achieved, with the repeal of the previous government's water services legislation giving councils an additional three months to adopt their LTPs, ability to forgo the audit of the consultation document, and to reduce consultation requirements on subsequent amendments. Alternatively, councils can defer development of their LTP for 12 months if they produce an enhanced Annual Plan.

The replacement approach for water services will be rolled out in two parts. A first bill will be passed by the middle of the year and will require the development of service delivery plans (which will be the vehicle to self-determine future service delivery arrangements). This bill will also put in place transitional economic regulation and provide a streamlined process for establishing joint water services CCOs. A second bill will be introduced at the end of the year and will set out provisions relating to long-term requirements for financial sustainability, provide for a complete economic regulation regime, and introduce a new range of structural and financing tools, including a new type of financially independent council-controlled organisation.

Taumata Arowai is starting to develop regulations for storm water and wastewater, and attended LGNZ sector meetings in March.

#### Resource management reform

Having repealed the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Acts prior to Christmas, the Government has worked at pace to develop a new fast-track consenting regime, with legislation introduced to the House in early March. We are planning to make a joint submission on the Bill with Taituarā and Te Uru Kahika.

We're also thinking about how we can influence the new Government's thinking around what a replacement resource management system could look like – which is something it has signalled it's interested in. Our sense is that there is alignment across the membership on some aspects of resource management, including strong support for retaining regional spatial planning, shifting to integrated national direction and developing a climate adaptation framework. There is also a strong desire to see local and regional planning decisions made at place.

We also understand that the new Government is working at pace to make a number of changes to the NPS-Freshwater Management. We're monitoring these changes closely along with Te Uru Kahika.

#### Transport

Late last year we stood up the LGNZ Transport Forum, which includes a mix of National Council spokespeople and other representatives. The group has recently met to discuss its work programme, following both National Council's adoption of the [Position Statement on Transport](#) and the swearing-



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in of the new government, which gave us a steer on the broad direction for transport policy over the next three years and beyond. Mayor Neil Holdom has been elected Chair of the forum.

The Forum will support the development of LGNZ's submission on the [draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport](#), which is due on 2 April 2024.

Our position statement includes the following key policy objectives:

- // A strategic, long-term approach to planning that joins up central and local government decision-making to address maintenance and climate adaptation needs.
- // Sufficient, long-term transport investment that prioritises resilience building, safety and better asset management across both new developments as well as maintenance and renewals.
- // Integrated transport and freight networks that support placemaking by connecting our rural communities, towns and cities and making them great places to live and work.
- // A transport network that can adapt to the future climate and prioritise decarbonisation.

### City and regional deals

The Government has strongly signalled interest in long-term city and regional deals as a way to partner with local government to create pipelines of regional projects.

In late 2023, we commissioned Linda Meade, Director at Kalimena Advisory, to provide insight into the international experience around city and regional deals, and how this might be applied in the New Zealand context. [The paper](#), which was presented at the November Metro Sector meeting and has since been shared with members more widely, set out background on the key elements of city and regional deals, different options that have been used in the United Kingdom and Australia, and considerations and key takeaways that could be applied when designing a city and regional deals framework for New Zealand.

We're continuing to think about how city and regional deals can be structured to maximise the benefits for local government. The Policy Team is pulling together a think piece that will highlight how city and regional deals could support better alignment between central and local government. This will be shared with members and support conversations we're having with Ministers and officials on the framework for these deals.

### Local government funding and financing

We have commissioned NZIER to estimate the financial impacts of various reforms on councils – which is all about quantifying the unfunded mandate. This work will support our ongoing conversations with the Government on how they consider and mitigate the implementation and operational costs on local government of their reforms. The specific areas we are costing (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, National Policy Statement on Urban Development and Medium Density Residential Standards, Local Alcohol Policies, improving recycling and food scrap collections) have been chosen to be representative of reforms with a range of impacts on councils. This work is expected to be completed in May.

We've also recently commissioned Brad Olsen and the team at Infometrics to develop a report that looks at the various factors that have driven up local government's costs. We'll be sharing this with members shortly, and discussing it in detail at our April Combined Sector Meeting.

Both of these pieces of work are part of the broader advocacy we're doing around rates rises and building community understanding of the reasons for them.

### Ratepayer Assistance Scheme

The RFS is a special purpose tool that would provide support to ratepayers to finance any local authority charge. With balance sheet separation, and proximity to both local and central government, it would have a very high credit rating and therefore be able to provide the cheapest possible financing terms to ratepayers.

The Ratepayer Financing Scheme's flexibility would enable it to support:

- // Development contributions to enable housing development.
- // Home improvement policy to meet healthy homes, earthquake strengthening, home insulation and solar panel installation, water separation and storage etc.
- // Rates postponement to provide relief to ratepayer experiencing affordability pressures.

A detailed business case supporting the RFS's viability has been completed with the support of Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch councils alongside the LGFA and LGNZ. So far Auckland and Tauranga have confirmed financial support to establish the RAS.

### Remits

We're continuing to make progress on remits where we can – though as is always the case following a General Election, progress has slowed somewhat as we wait for the new government to bed in and understand how our remits relate to its priorities. We are thinking carefully about ways that we can build remits into our existing policy and advocacy work programmes to maximise limited resources across a wide number of issues.

Remit	Progress update
<b>Allocation of risk and liability in the building sector</b>	We raised the issues that this remit addresses through our involvement in a working group that was reviewing the building consent system in 2023. Our Metro Sector met with the Minister for Building and Construction in March 2024. More substantive work is needed to progress this remit.
<b>Rates rebates</b>	We wrote to the Minister of Local Government on 21 January 2024 asking the Government to amend the Rates Rebate Scheme and benchmark further increases to changes in the local government cost index.
<b>Roading/transport maintenance funding</b>	This remit will be picked up through the work that our Transport Forum leads.
<b>Local election accessibility</b>	For us to achieve the intent of the remit, there will need to be an amendment to the Electoral Act 1993. We will begin work soon to



	develop a case for change before engaging with the Minister of Justice.
<b>Ability for co-chairs at formal meetings</b>	Guidance on how to introduce co-chairs, which has been informed by legal advice, has been incorporated into our revised Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Template, which was published in early February 2024.
<b>Parking infringement penalties</b>	We're yet to start substantive work to progress this remit.
<b>Rural and regional public transport</b>	This remit will also be picked up through the work that our Transport Forum leads.
<b>Establishing resolution service</b>	National Council agreed that work to progress this remit will form part of our 2023 – 2025 strategy.
<b>Earthquake prone buildings</b>	We met with the Deputy Mayor of Manawatū District Council to begin development of a proposed plan for next steps on this remit, which will be delivered this year. We have also reached out to Engineering New Zealand to understand their perspectives on the viable options.
<b>KiwiSaver contributions for elected members</b>	We've received legal advice from Simpson Grierson on the changes that would need to be made to the Local Government Act 2002 and the KiwiSaver Act 2006 to enable elected members to be eligible for KiwiSaver contributions and have begun drafting advice for Ministers and officials.
<b>Scope of audits and audit fees</b>	Part of the approach to reduce audit fees is to ensure that the legislative requirements and scope (and resulting repetition and complexity) of Long-Term Plans and Annual plans and reports are reduced to be better aligned with needs and cost less to audit. To support this, we are in the process of undertaking a desktop review of a number of reports that made recommendations on how to achieve this. We've also made recommendations around the need revisit councils' planning and accountability obligations in our Future by Local Government Consensus Outcome Paper.

## Other policy and advocacy work

### Freedom camping

The Policy Team have released updated guidance and a model bylaw that reflect recent amendments to legislation and case law, to support councils to develop, review, and administer bylaws relating to the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (FCA). Amendments to the FCA came into force on 7 June 2023, but there is a transitional period before the new certification for self-contained motor vehicles and related provisions come into force.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association part funded this work, and we worked with them and Taituarā to develop it.



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The guidance is available [here](#). Two versions of the new model bylaw are available, [one](#) highlighting the changes to the 2018 model bylaw, and [one](#) without the highlighted changes.

### **Drought planning**

We were engaged by the Ministry for Primary Industries to participate in an all-of-government group that undertook work to prepare for expected impacts of drought over Summer 2023-2024. Our involvement in this work was principally to ensure that local government remains front and centre in the government's planning and thinking, and to help provide appropriate communications channels back to councils.

### **Media**

Media was a strong advocacy tool used to its full advantage during the pre-election period when politicians were in the middle of campaigning. The post-election period, including when special votes came out and coalition talks were underway, was also a good opportunity to thrust local government issues into the political spotlight. This served dual purposes: to inform political journalists of the challenges that government needs to address to ensure local government thrives; and to firmly demonstrate to the incoming government that the challenges facing local government needs the Government's attention or they risk not being able to deliver on their priorities.

Here are some examples of LGNZ's proactive work in that period:

- [Funding anxiety across the country as local government considers its future | The Post](#)
- [Councils plead for more certainty over National's Three Waters plans | RNZ News](#)
- [Local councils facing cost pressures across the country | RNZ](#)
- [Councils plead for clarity on water infrastructure reform | RNZ](#)
- [Christopher Luxon claims victory: 'Our children can grow up to live the lives they dream of' | Newsroom.co.nz](#)

Towards the end of last year, our media campaign centred on proposed rate rises and what's driving them ramped up. LGNZ led the narrative by using champions like Cameron Bagrie and Āpopo to visibly back our message. Sam also fronted a proactive media conference and numerous interviews over December and January. As at the end of February, we generated 48 unique pieces of media coverage capturing Sam's message for the need for more funding and financing tools for local government.

Another major piece of advocacy through media is four-year-terms for local government. Sam has used every opportunity to talk about the efficiencies we'd gain by implementing longer electoral terms. This has led to stories in local papers as well as in-depth coverage by RNZ's political reporter, Russell Palmer.

Our social media channels have had a 16.4% increase in engagement for the last quarter compared to this time last year, along with a 458% increase in followers. In March, we're launching a social media campaign to further amplify a national perspective on rates rises. This campaign aims to explain why rate rises occur, especially in the face of rising living costs, and to highlight that this is a widespread systemic issue. Through this series, we'll explore how councils are financed, the services they offer, and the benefits residents receive from their investment in rates. This is part of a wider



campaign to support councils in the rates rise conversation that will include other resources for members.

### Conference and Excellence Awards update

Planning continues for both SuperLocal 2024 and the Community Board conference in August in Wellington. There will be additional events for Te Maruata, Young Elected Members, LGNZ's Annual General Meeting, Mayors for Taskforce breakfast and numerous networking events spread across the three days. Work on various streams such as programme and speakers, awards, engagement and marketing is underway. The theme this year is Bringing localism to life, and once again, we're stepping up the programme to reflect the feedback we got last year and ensure we have the right mix of informative, practical and inspirational content.

### Engagement with members, including sector and zone meetings

Our new website went live in December. It provides much more flexibility to showcase local government and all it has to offer our communities, as well as a home for resources, news and insights – and a working search function.

We met with zone administrators and chairs in early February to talk about any challenges and opportunities, and for LGNZ to share what's happening more broadly to help develop agendas. This was the first in a series of three meetings.

On 13 April, we held a zoom for women in local government. We've been repeatedly asked to provide a forum to help support women elected members, so we created this zoom as a starting point. About 20 women attended and there was really strong engagement during the zoom, which was led by Christchurch City Councillor Sara Templeton. We are planning to hold a lunch immediately before SuperLocal as the next step in this conversation.

We have achieved outstanding open rates for *Keeping it Local* this year so far. If you're not receiving *Keeping it Local*, which is our key communications channel and goes out fortnightly on Thursdays, please get in touch.

Date	Open rate	Subject line
19-Jan	67%	We've developed new freedom camping guidance and a model bylaw
1-Feb	68%	We've updated our Guide to Standing Orders Templates
15-Feb	60.20%	Talking all things localism with National Party MPs

We're also planning the launch of a monthly zoom for all elected members. To make sure this is successful and responds to member needs, we've carrying out a series of phone conversations with some randomly selected elected members as part of that planning. The first zoom will be held in late March/early April and will focus on online safety/harassment.



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## Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs

Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is refreshing its five-year strategic plan. The plan reconfirms the focus of the MTFJ kaupapa firmly on rangatahi, particularly those youth who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

To support this strategic planning, we've completed two pieces of research on the value of MTFJ and where opportunities might lie for both sustainable funding and future growth. TRA (The Research Agency) completed a qualitative research piece on the MTFJ Community Employment Programme, which is funded through our current partnership with MSD. The research explored its value proposition, potential scope and growth parameters. Critical findings included the complexity of NEETs, the innovative success of the programme, and the unique impact that the authority bias of the Mayor has in this initiative. The Impact Lab Social Return on Investment review resulted in the very credible finding of \$5.60 return for every \$1.00 spent, alongside strong commentary on other positive key social accountability metrics.

The evidence from these two pieces of research, alongside our own data and analysis, underpin our engagement with the Government and targeted Ministries as we work to strengthen existing funding arrangements and explore new opportunities. We continue to position MTFJ as a tangible exemplar of localism in action.

The 35 current-CEP-contract councils are reviewing their six-month performance milestone in the two-year contracts, with the MTFJ team's support. We are in good shape to fully deliver contracted outcomes.

We have also welcomed two new councils into the MSD-funded contract – Central Otago DC and Kāpiti Coast DC. They are being supported to pilot initiatives.

In late February we hosted a very successful national gathering of 80+ MTFJ coordinators, key council staff and MSD colleagues in Wellington.

## Te Uru Kahika and the LGNZ Regional Sector

The LGNZ Regional Sector met virtually in January to consider how the change of government will impact on its priorities. Our Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika share three priorities: climate resilience, resource management system, Te Ao Māori. It was agreed that the new government's reform agenda in freshwater, water services regulation and transport are also priorities for engagement.

These priorities informed the agenda for the first Regional Sector meeting of the year on 7-8 March. The Sector had dinner with Minister McClay (Agriculture, Forestry, and Trade) and Minister Simmonds (Environment) and met with Minister Bishop (RM Reform and Infrastructure), which was a good opportunity to form relationships and understand their priorities for their respective portfolios. They also had good meeting with Minister Bishop where he outlined his priorities and the Government's forward programme on resource management reform. The sector shared their desire for close collaboration on implementation and what they want to see from resource management changes.



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Our team is meeting regularly with Te Uru Kahika to ensure we are joined up in our support for the Regional Sector. We continue to work together closely on submissions and engagement on central government reforms; for example, on submissions on the inquiry into community-led retreat and the proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making. We're also engaging closely with Te Uru Kahika on resource management reform.

### Young Elected Members

The annual YEM hui was held in late 2023 in Waitangi. The YEM Committee, LGNZ and Far North District Council delivered a very successful three-day hui for around 45 YEM that included a range of panel discussions, workshops, keynote speakers, a tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and visits to other culturally significant sites in the Far North.

The programme content included leveraging opportunities through partnerships to deliver good outcomes for communities, developing the YEM Strategy and Kaupapa, effective leadership and looking after your health and wellbeing as a leader, how to effectively engage with the media and building cultural confidence and understanding. Creative New Zealand sponsored the event, which helped to keep costs down and enabled a panel session that focused on how councils can invest in arts and culture in their long-term plans to support wider economic, social and cultural wellbeing outcomes for their communities.

Attendees gave their overall hui experience an average rating of 9.4 (1 being poor, 10 being outstanding). Because of LGNZ's cooperation agreement with Auckland Local Boards, two Auckland Local Board members were able to attend.

The YEM Committee meet online in March. As well as discussing the next Hui and their pre-SuperLocal gathering, the Committee will be refining the YEM Strategy and Kaupapa based on feedback was received from the network at the end of last year.

### Community Boards Executive Committee

Over the last few months CBEC has been actively involved in a number of initiatives:

- // **Satisfaction survey of community boards and mayors:** CBEC commissioned FrankAdvice to undertake a survey of community boards and mayors to better understand the mood of community boards, and relationships between councils and community boards, as well as identify areas for improvement, with particular emphasis on roles, remuneration and relationships with councils. The final report, with recommendations, is expected to be released in late February. The findings will be used for ongoing advocacy by CBEC and to inform updates to the Governance Guide for Community Boards.
- // **Community Boards Conference:** CBEC is well underway with planning for the 2024 Community Boards Conference, which is being held as part of SuperLocal. CBEC members have been working hard with the LGNZ team to pull together a programme, and seek speakers and sponsorship.
- // **Declarations:** the Committee has discovered that some councils do not require appointed board members to make a community board declaration – creating a potential risk to councils should a board decision be challenged on the basis that some members were ineligible to vote. CBEC sought legal advice, which confirmed that all appointed members should make a community

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board declaration as well as their council declaration. That advice has been sent to all councils with community boards.

// **Remuneration:** CBEC is working with the Remuneration Authority to improve the basis on which community board remuneration is set. CBEC is working on a “time and motion” survey to provide more accurate information to the Authority on the nature of community board members’ responsibilities and the time board members spend on official duties. The Authority has not been able to resolve how to remunerate boards with additional responsibilities (member pay is based on population without any consideration of the level of responsibility). CBEC plans to provide feedback to the Authority when it is next reviewing its remuneration approach, within the next year or so.

The Committee met in person in Wellington in late February and is looking forward to having Te Maruata and YEM representatives join them in the coming weeks.

## Council capability

### CouncilMARK

Our continuous improvement programme has undergone significant enhancements over the past year in response to feedback from the sector. These changes aim to increase programme participation and deliver greater value to participating councils. The programme has extended its focus beyond independent assessments to support councils throughout their continuous improvement journey, both before and after assessment.

It now emphasises wraparound support for councils, the establishment of development benchmarks and aligning council performance with priorities. The introduction of additional development pathways facilitates the translation of assessment findings into actionable plans, enabling councils to optimise their performance.

### Ākona

In late 2023, we developed and launched six new courses, including Health & safety, Chairing meetings, Writing and delivering great speeches, Working with media, Engaging with Māori, and LGOIMA. Many of these have been in response to requests from councils and designed in conjunction with council experts. We worked closely with Tararua District Council on the Health & Safety module – a first for elected members – and with Queenstown Lakes District Council on the LGOIMA module. Chairing meetings, giving great speeches and working with the media have all been popular with our subscribed councils.

New courses being developed ready for release over the next few weeks include:

- // Climate Change
- // Decision Making
- // The CE Relationship
- // Te Reo
- // Unconscious Bias

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Refer to **Appendix 1** for a complete list of learning and development assets.

A targeted workshop focused on Chairing Meetings/Standing Orders has also been developed, along with a Critical Thinking workshop. A survey was distributed in February to identify preferred Ako Hour topics – this will lead to a 2024 schedule being built and promoted by the end of March

We're working closely with Taituarā and the Local Government Commission. Discussions have begun with Taituarā to develop an induction pack that will include pre-elected learning resources, (as per the framework). A pre-candidacy package of learning will also soon be developed to support the promotion of local governance participation in our communities.

### **Guidance and advisory for members**

The Policy Team has been working on several pieces of research and good practice guidance over the past four months. These include:

- // **The 2022 -25 elected member census:** This summary report shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of members who identify as Māori and that overall, members are getting younger.
- // **Local government voters 2022:** This report summarises the survey of voters and non-voters undertaken shortly after the 2022 elections. It shows the number of voters aged between 18 – 25 has grown significantly since 2001, and a big increase in the number of voters who placed their completed voting papers in a ballot or voting box from 12% in 2016 to 28% in 2022.
- // **An elected members' guide to representation reviews:** This is to strengthen elected members' and citizens' understanding of the representation review process.
- // **Ombudsman's report on workshops – update to standing orders guidance:** In October 2023 the Ombudsman published a report "Open for Business" in which he was critical of the number of public excluded workshops held by councils. The report, while finding that there was no evidence that workshops were being used for making decisions, made several recommendations for improvements. We have commissioned Simpson Grierson to review the recommendations and incorporate those that are relevant into LGNZ's Guide to Standing Orders. We expect to republish that Guide later this year.
- // We've recently updated our **Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Template**. The updates provide councils with guidance on how to amend their standing orders to incorporate changes to the definition of a quorum (for those joining by audio visual means). They also provide guidance on the Ombudsman's recent report on public access to workshops.
- // We're working with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Group to fine tune our **Standing Orders Template**, with a focus on readability. The updated version will be available to councils in early 2025, giving plenty of time to be prepared ahead of the 2025 local body elections. The new template will also reflect legislative changes made since mid-2022 when the current template was drafted.



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## Moata Carbon Portal

The Moata carbon portal is a tool that allows embedded (capital) carbon to be measured and monitored across any capital works programme. It enables councils to account for and reduce carbon emissions generated from water, transport and infrastructure (vertical and horizontal) projects. We have also been in planning mode for Mott MacDonald to attend the first Zone meeting of the year to provide an overview of the carbon portal as well as some findings from the carbon baseline completed on Queenstown Lakes LTP in 2023.

The findings from this baseline were that water projects accounted for 55% of QLDC's total capital carbon, with transport accounting for 24% and built environment 21%. Over the course of their LTP, their highest carbon peaks were predicted for 2023 and 2030, with recommendations provided on integrating carbon assessments into their approval and delivery processes.

Our subscribers now include Auckland Water Care, Tauranga, Napier, Wellington Water and Queenstown Lakes. We are also having conversations with New Plymouth and Nelson councils.

We also held New Zealand's first Carbon Crunch event this year with then-Minister James Shaw the keynote speaker. The event included presentations from Auckland Council, Transpower and Wellington Water on how they are tracking on their decarbonisation journey. [A white paper](#) from this event has been developed.

## Libraries partnership

Our Libraries Advisor will be with LGNZ until the end of June 2024, when the project funding comes to an end (this was a Covid-19 recovery initiative). The work programme agreed to with DIA and the New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme has included sharing findings from research to identify the value of public libraries as vehicles for service delivery. At the end of 2023, the Advisor met with council leaders and library staff in the Far North and Whangārei, and in early 2024 is visiting councils in Horowhenua, Palmerston North, Rangitikei, Taupō, Waipā and South Waikato. The conclusion of this project will include a report that will outline all the key trends identified and findings made across the three years.



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# Appendix 1: complete list of Ākōna learning and development assets

## Courses

There are now 17 courses available on Ākōna.

- // Designing and Delivering Great Speeches
- // Chairing Meetings
- // Health & Safety and Good Governance
- // Engaging with Media
- // Engaging with Māori
- // LGOIMA
- // Funding & Finance
- // Asset Management
- // Engaging with your Community
- // Governance
- // What is Local Government?
- // Remuneration and Tax for elected members
- // LTP
- // Council Membership
- // Financial Governance
- // Navigating Local Government Meetings
- // Conflicts of Interest



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## All courses feature

### Emodules

Interactive, immersive learning activities that break down complex topics for easy understanding and immediate application.

### Resources

Templates, case studies, videos, websites and/or extra reading that support sustained learning practise.

### Ako Hours

Live discussion groups, led by experts, focused on expansion and contextualisation of new knowledge.

### Kōrero Corner

Social learning with peers and experts.

## Added value

### Partnership

Subscribed councils are welcome to request learning topics; most of our courses came about this way. Many courses were also built with council input – either the sharing of process, content, stories and/or case studies. This keeps our courses as fit for purpose as they can be. Note also that every course is reviewed by sector experts.

### Elected member capability framework

For the first time, a framework that sets out capabilities needed to successfully fulfil the role of elected member has been developed. Mapped across 6 capability groups and 4 levels of capability (including pre-elected), the framework provides a clear view of what high performance looks like and the pathway to getting there.

An online self-assessment tool is currently being designed ready to be built into Ākōna. Soon Elected Members will be able to plot their strengths and opportunities across 6 capability areas that are unique to their role.

### Advisory Services

The Ākōna tīma have a vast amount of experience working in complex learning environments, creating learning cultures and supporting others to do the same.

Whether you need support to identify training needs, develop learning specifically to your council needs or engaging your folk in learning, the tīma are here for you.



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### **Digital platform – creating your own learning pathways and induction experiences**

The new Ākona platform offers councils the opportunity to create their own learning pathway, create a place only accessible by their elected members to use for specific learning needs, induction etc.

All trackable, reportable and accessible at anytime from anywhere.

# Councillors' reports

Activities undertaken by Councillors on behalf of Council since the last meeting

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## Cr Rodway – Farm Forestry Association Field Day

Recently I attended a field day run by the Farm Forestry Association at Michael and Michelle Anderson's farm in the Hokonui area. The Anderson's farm is very attractive, with rolling hills and flats, in the Otapiri/Makarewa catchment. It is 445 ha of which 325 ha is in pasture and 46 ha native forest, 50 ha of production forestry and 24 ha of shelter belts and amenity plantings. About 27% is in trees of some sort. This farm is likely to be carbon neutral and with a low loss of nutrients and sediment. There were some paddocks of winter crop but a relatively small amount.

We drove around the farm looking at various aspects. One thing that was noticeable in the exotic plantations was a high biodiversity of native shrubs. These would be largely destroyed during harvesting operations, but for the 20-30 years the trees are growing they provide a nice environment for native plants. Korimako (Bellbirds), tuis and fantails were seen and or heard in these blocks.

Tree species included radiata pines but macrocarpa, Douglas fir, *Lusitanica*, red cedar and eucalyptus were also present. Having a diversity of species was considered important in the case of disease in pine trees, although *P radiata* were dominant as they are the most economically attractive species.

I met Paul Marshall, a MPI Senior Forestry Advisor, and mentioned the lease lands that Environment Southland owns and that they could be used for forestry when existing leases expire. Paul suggested that when leases are coming up for renewal an assessment of the land could be made to see if it would be suitable for forestry establishment.

I was impressed by the diversity of species on the Anderson's farm and think that this is something we could investigate for our lease lands as it will enable us to become carbon neutral and will provide a significant source of new revenue into the future. The farm is what I would think is a model farm which is carbon neutral, has low nutrient losses but is also profitable and a very nice place to be in. Having such biodiversity – both exotic and native, on our lease lands would be an economic, recreational and inspirational asset for Environment Southland.

## Cr Rodway – follow-up to Farm Forestry Association Field Day report

Further to my earlier report on the field day with the Farm Forestry Association at Anderson's property - Paul Marshall of MPI contacted me to set-up a meeting to discuss the options for establishing forestry on the Council's lease lands. This meeting was held at Environment Southland's office on 5 April 2024. Crs Gibson, McDonald, Guyton and Pemberton along with Paul Hulse (General Manager, Integrated Catchment Management) and I attended.

Paul Marshall gave an outline of his experience and qualifications, which included a lot of forestry work and management in the lower South Island and time in the US gaining qualifications as well. We discussed ways we could go about investigating forestry and wetland development on the lease lands and also potentially on other land farther upstream as part of our Slow the Flow project. We discussed ways to develop a mosaic of land uses, including existing grazing on lease lands according to their capability.

We understand that development of such a programme has to be part of our overall strategy to promote sustainability and economic development and will take time, but we are very keen to see

progress and action, beginning on suitable lands, within our term. I would like to see a programme in place by next winter, with trees in the ground and wetland areas identified along with grazing areas, if suitable, on at least one of our lease land blocks, and a forward plan to implement this on other leases over time.

Paul Marshall advised that MPI is available to assist with identifying suitable sites and tree species but advice from a private forestry adviser would be needed to assess economic aspects such as carbon credits and forest management generally.

### Cr Rodway – Southland Ecological Restoration Network Field Day

On Saturday, 6 April 2024 I attended a field day held by SERN (Southland Ecological Restoration Network) at a property near Rimu, about 15 km east of Invercargill. The property was a dairy grazing farm which contained a 10 ha block of native forest. On the southwest corner of this block, on an area of about 0.7 ha there was once a pine forest. The pines had been felled and native trees planted there about 20 years ago. The new forest now comprises mainly kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and Makomako (wineberry- *Aristotelia serrata*) with other native shrubs that are about 12 m high and have formed a canopy that shades out grasses but allows native seedlings to grow. While this is impressive, it has involved a very large effort to reforest a fairly small area. This is another example where native forest is being established by dense planting and active follow-up - weed suppression for at least three to four years after planting. I have seen similar projects in a number of sites in Southland.

It would not be prudent for Environment Southland to fund or try to establish native forests this way. It is too expensive. Using exotic trees such as pines or eucalyptus as a nurse crop is a way to earn money while the native trees are being established. While the exotic trees are growing, native shrubs can become established in the understory, if there is a seed source nearby, and with careful harvesting, that preserves the developing native forest, a cash crop can be obtained. Research into how this might work in Southland is something that Environment Southland could be involved with. There are likely to be existing examples of this we could learn from as well.

### Cr Gibson – Summer Wetland Visits

Cr Gibson has provided the attached report.

# Summer Wetlands Visits

(by some ES councillors and staff)

## **Visual Report and Accompanying Reflections**

# Introduction

In order to strengthen our understanding of the opportunities, challenges and considerations for wetland development across Southland landscapes, in recent months a small number of councillors have made visits to various wetland projects in the region.

To date, wetland visits have included the following site visits:

- 12 December 2023
  - Waituna Catchment – Whakamana te Waituna Trust wetland projects
  - Gavin MacPherson’s Spar Bush dairy farm wetland.
- 20 February 2024
  - Malcolm & Sue Day’s Taringatura Hills sheep and cattle farm – various established and planned wetland projects.

***(A big thanks to Zane Moss from Fish and Game for his time and the support he provided to our wetland visit programme).***

# Waituna

## (morning of 12 December 2023)

Sites visited:

- 4-hectare mahika kai wetland
- 17-hectare mahika kai wetland
- Site of a proposed wetland project in the Waituna catchment.



## 4-Hectare Mahika Kai Wetland

### Physiographic Environment: Reducing Soil and Aquifer

### Catchment: Carran Creek, Waituna Catchment



#### Map Information

■ Reducing Soil and Aquifer

##### Variants

Overland flow	High
Artificial drainage	Low to Moderate
Natural soil bypass	Not applicable

##### Key Information

Hydrological Pathway	Lateral /Artificial drainage
Contaminant Risk	Sediment, Particulate phosphorus, microbes
Surface water catchment	Carran Creek

##### Description

- Occurs in lowland areas where there are fine textured silt or clay rich, imperfect to poorly drained soils and oxygen limited (reducing) underlying aquifers.
- Soil has grey colours and distinctive rust-coloured spots.
- Aquifers can be moderate to highly reducing depending on the carbon content of the underlying geology.
- Drainage occurs as lateral flow or as runoff over the land surface.
- In agricultural areas, artificial drainage is often used to lower the water table and improve soil drainage. This allows more oxygen into the soil and minimises the occurrence of runoff but creates a pathway for water to transport contaminants through.
- The ability to filter and adsorb contaminants is largely dependent on how much water can infiltrate the soil.
- Overland flow has the highest risk of loss for sediment, sediment bound nutrients, and microbes.
- Artificial drainage decreases the ability to remove nitrate nitrogen naturally through denitrification, with nitrate nitrogen lost to surface waterways through the artificial drainage network.

The wetland visit to Waituna coincided with a visit the same morning by staff from the Ministry for the Environment. It was efficient for Zane Moss to provide an overview of the Whakamana te Waituna Trust projects to everyone.



The 4 hectare mahika kai wetland is one of a number of wetlands (established and planned) for the Waituna catchment by the Whakamana te Waituna Trust, reflecting a collaborative, multi-agency, partnership approach.



A view of the 4 hectare mahika kai wetland, from the observation mound, looking North-West with the woolshed in the background. In time, mahika kai (food harvesting) education and practice will be enabled by this wetland development.



A view of the 4 hectare mahika kai wetland, from the observation mound, looking North-East.



The viewing mound (foreground) was a feature added to assist with education and interpretation of the function of this wetland in the surrounding landscape. The function of specific wetlands within Southland landscapes will differ.



The wetland visit crew questioning Alastair on why he forgot to bring Mallowpuff biscuits for morning tea!



# 17-Hectare Mahika Kai Wetland

## Physiographic Environment: Reducing Soil and Aquifer

### Catchment: Carran Creek, Waituna Catchment



#### Map Information

■ Reducing Soil and Aquifer

##### Variants

Overland flow	High
Artificial drainage	Low to Moderate
Natural soil bypass	Not applicable

##### Key Information

Hydrological Pathway	Lateral /Artificial drainage
Contaminant Risk	Sediment, Particulate phosphorus, microbes
Surface water catchment	Carran Creek

##### Description

- Occurs in lowland areas where there are fine textured silt or clay rich, imperfect to poorly drained soils and oxygen limited (reducing) underlying aquifers.
- Soil has grey colours and distinctive rust-coloured spots.
- Aquifers can be moderate to highly reducing depending on the carbon content of the underlying geology.
- Drainage occurs as lateral flow or as runoff over the land surface.
- In agricultural areas, artificial drainage is often used to lower the water table and improve soil drainage. This allows more oxygen into the soil and minimises the occurrence of runoff but creates a pathway for water to transport contaminants through.
- The ability to filter and adsorb contaminants is largely dependent on how much water can infiltrate the soil.
- Overland flow has the highest risk of loss for sediment, sediment bound nutrients, and microbes.
- Artificial drainage decreases the ability to remove nitrate nitrogen naturally through denitrification, with nitrate nitrogen lost to surface waterways through the artificial drainage network.



The 17-hectare mahika kai wetland is a relatively recent development in the local landscape.



A view of the 17 hectare mahika kai wetland, looking East from the road access point. In time, mahika kai (food harvesting) education and practice will be enabled by this wetland development.



A view of the 17 hectare mahika kai wetland, looking North East from the road access point.



A view of the 17 hectare mahika kai wetland, looking North East from the road access point. There is considerable planting of natives on the northern shore of the wetland, evident by the numerous white plant protectors.



Zane's discussion of the wetland design considerations emphasized that, as a Whakamana te Waituna Trust project, there are considerable benefits from leveraging a collaborative, multi-agency approach to wetland development.



The wetland overflow channel, with the road access point (with vehicle park) evident in the background.



The wetland overflow channel, with the road access point (with vehicle park) evident in the background.



In this instance the 17-hectare mahika kai wetland included extensive planting of native seedlings.







The native plants and plant protectors for this project were provided by Te Tapu o Tane.

A consideration for future projects is ensuring fair access to opportunity for all commercial and not-for-profit nurseries in Southland.

Environment Southland has recently been approached by Matt Dolan, Chief Executive of New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI), sharing that organisation's position statement on the importance of understanding and respecting the role of both commercial and not-for-profit nurseries in providing native plants for regeneration and development projects.

There can be considerable cost in establishing and maintaining planting on wetland margins – appropriate planting should support or complement the intended function of a specific wetland as a design consideration.



A close-up view of the mouth of the fish passage channel.



A down-stream view of the fish passage channel.



Members of the visit group challenging Alastair on why there were no Mallowpuffs for morning tea.



Cain Duncan explained the concept for a proposed additional wetland development in the Waituna catchment. More recently, Cain mentioned that this proposal is being rethought, and may not proceed. Cain noted the opportunity (and challenge) remains to capture and share the significant learning and insights from this project, even if it does not proceed



# Gavin MacPherson's Spar Bush Dairy Farm Wetland

## Physiographic Environment: Reducing Soil Oxidising Aquifer

### Catchment: Ōreti River

#### Map Information

■ Reducing Soil Oxidising Aquifer

#### Variants

Overland flow Moderate  
Artificial drainage Moderately high  
Natural soil bypass High

#### Key Information

Hydrological Pathway	Lateral/Artificial drainage
Contaminant Risk	Sediment, Particulate phosphorus, microbes
Surface water catchment	Oreti River

#### Description

- Occurs in lowland areas where there are fine textured silt or clay rich, imperfect to poorly drained soils and oxygen-rich (oxidising) underlying aquifers.
- Soil has grey colours and distinctive rust-coloured spots.
- Drainage occurs as lateral flow or as runoff over the land surface.
- Small volumetric contribution of water to underlying aquifer.
- In agricultural areas, artificial drainage is often used to lower the water table and improve soil drainage. This allows more oxygen into the soil limiting the reduction capacity and minimises the occurrence of runoff but creates a pathway for water to transport contaminants through.
- The ability to filter and adsorb contaminants is largely dependent on how much water can infiltrate the soil.
- Overland flow has the highest risk of loss for sediment, sediment bound nutrients, and microbes.
- Artificial drainage decreases the ability to remove nitrate nitrogen naturally through denitrification, with nitrate nitrogen lost to surface waterways through the artificial drainage network.



# Gavin MacPherson's Spar Bush Dairy Farm Wetland

Southland 3D map and profile tool





Looking South (downstream) from the head of the wetland complex which consists of three distinct components – a lower dam, an upper dam, and a fenced-off critical source area (with some native planting) upstream of the upper dam.





Zane provided design input and advice to the farmer, Gavin MacPherson, who developed the wetland on his Spar Bush dairy farm.

A closer view of the fenced-off critical source area (with some native planting) upstream of the upper dam.



A view from the adjacent paddock showing the upper dam (in the foreground) and the lower dam. Planting is evident along the dam edges.



Zane discusses some of the design considerations for the wetland complex, including the relationship to an adjacent stream into which the dam complex drains (for wetland overflow outputs and fish-passage).



A view of the lower dam (looking South) - beyond are dairy cows grazing in the adjacent farmland and the farmer's homestead with Northward views over the farmland and wetland.



A view (looking East) showing the lower dam overflow outlet.



This view (looking East), showing the lower dam overflow outlet, provides a view of the downstream receiving catchment.





A view (looking West) from the position of the lower dam overflow outlet.



A big thumbs-up from Jon!



A view (looking North) showing the upper dam, and upstream catchment for the wetland complex.



An aerial photo of the area prior to the wetland development (provided by Zane Moss).



An aerial photo after initial wetland development (provided by Zane Moss).



The wetland visit crew questioning Alastair on why he forgot to bring Mallowpuff biscuits for afternoon tea!



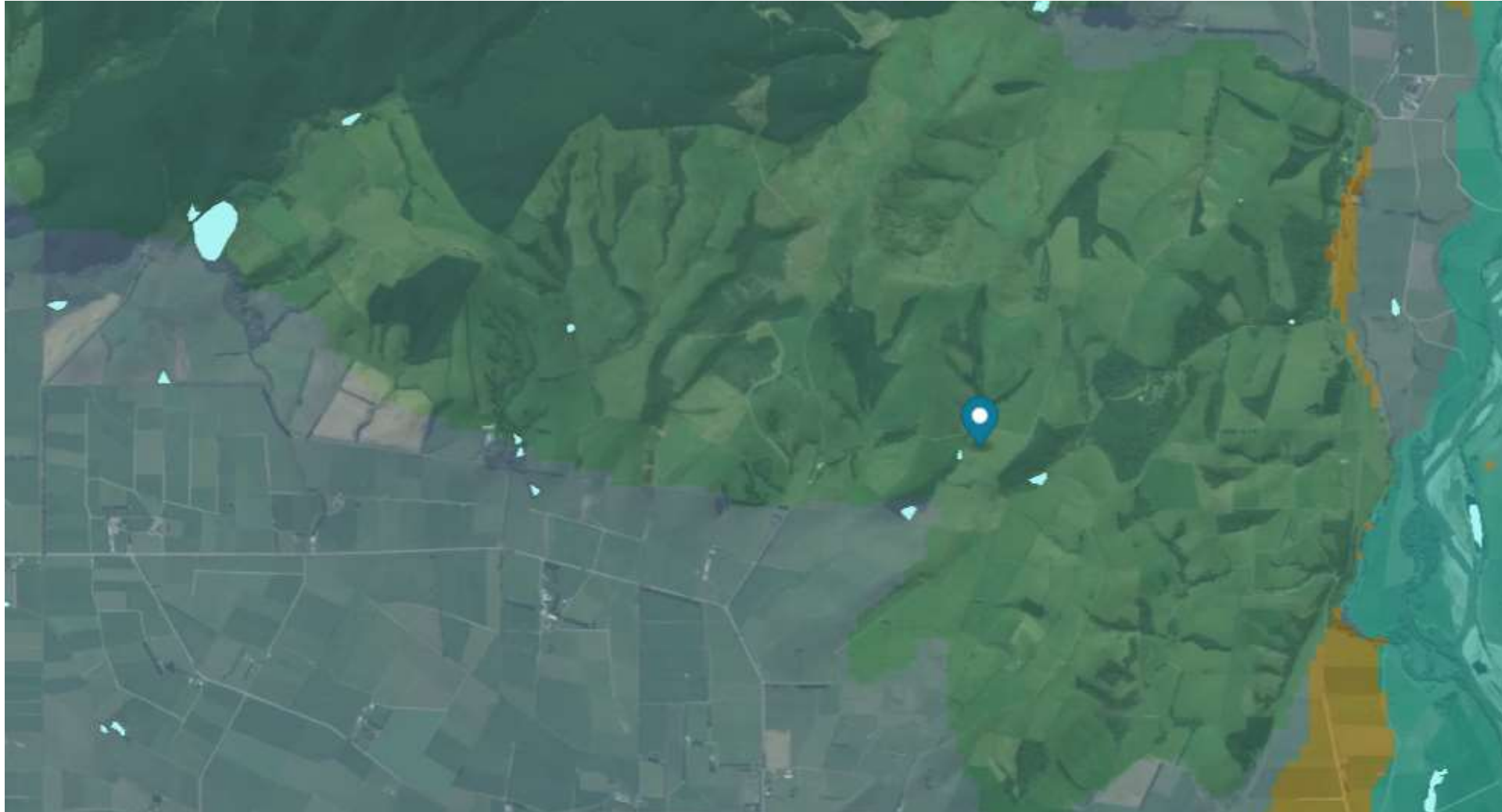
# Malcolm & Sue Day - Taringatura Hills (20 February 2024)

- Farm owners - Malcolm and Sue Day, supported by son Tom.
- The Day's also have invested in wetland development at Glen Eyre Station, which offer a “slow the flow” effect in the headwaters of the Mataura river, and which may be of interest to councillors.

# Malcolm & Sue Day - Taringatura Hills

## Physiographic Environment: Strong Bedrock

### Catchment: Ōreti River



#### Map Information

■ Strong Bedrock

#### Variants

Overland flow	High
Artificial drainage	Low to Moderate
Natural soil bypass	High

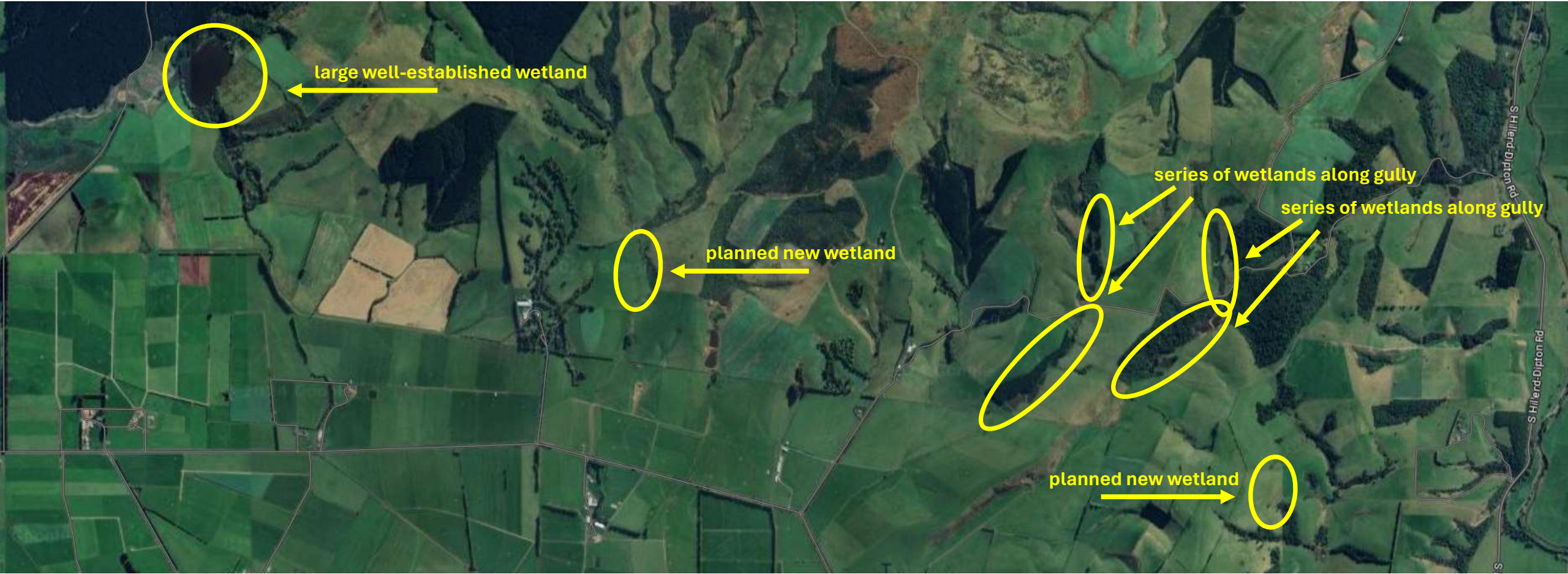
#### Key Information

Hydrological pathway	Lateral drainage
Contaminant risk	Sediment, Particulate phosphorus
Surface water catchment	Oreti River

#### Description

- Typically occurs across rolling to steep topography where shallow soil overlies strong bedrock (also exists across plateaus where shallow soils overlie bedrock without significant relief).
- Soils are shallow and typically well drained.
- Minor aquifer contribution if rock is fractured.
- Elevated precipitation relative to lowland environments.
- Rainfall moves laterally through the thin soils or as overland flow when soils are saturated or infiltration is limited.
- The environment is weakly to moderately reducing.
- Moderate dilution potential for downstream environments as land use tends to be less intensive than lowland environments.
- Lower erosion risk relative to the Weak Bedrock Environment.
- As overland flow is a key contaminant pathway, sediment, sediment bound nutrients, and microbes all have a moderate to moderately high susceptibility for loss.
- Dissolved reactive phosphorus is most mobile under lateral drainage.





Top end of the first gully visited – a more recent development with a series of wetlands within a farm gully.



Bottom end of the first gully visited – a more recent development with a series of wetlands within a farm gully.



Another view of the first gully visited, further downstream – two small catchments converge at this point with water from each captured in different ponds. Stock crossings have been re-designed in conjunction with wetland design.



A larger dam within the first gully visited – with a small native forest block adjacent to the wetlands, native birdlife was abundant with numerous wood-pigeons evident to the visiting group.



Bottom end of the second gully visited – a well-established network of eight dams, established progressively over time as money and capacity has allowed. An adjacent exotic forestry block compliments the biodiversity gains at this site.



The lower two dams were the largest of the eight within this gully. While practical considerations influenced the sequence in which dams were constructed, it was observed that starting with the lower dam would have been ideal as it would inhibit sediment flows from subsequent up-stream dam construction efforts.



Useful discussion from the hillside overlooking a gully with a complex of eight interconnected wetlands. There is much utility in practical farm visits and collective sense-making around such topics.





The floor of this small valley is a site for a planned wetland which would offer a collective benefit as it intersects run-off from neighbouring farm properties as well.



A view (looking East ) showing the neighbours farmland which will contribute run-off into the wetland planned for the valley floor in the foreground.



One insight offered by Malcolm was the efficiency of using a dozer and excavator together for wetland construction efforts on farm. Some contractors have good experience and practical knowledge of wetland construction considerations.



The Days consider wetland development, production forestry, and native forest regeneration to all be complementary investments in a hill-country farming landscape.



Malcolm Day discussed some of the very practical considerations of fencing-off selected areas and allowing natural regeneration processes to run their course, tolerating gorse and broom as nursery cover for young native vegetation.



As the Day's took ownership of neighbouring land blocks, they were already anticipating where future wetland development investment would occur.



The Days are planning another wetland in this gully once they take ownership of the land that is currently leased. This view looks to the North from the proposed wetland site, showing one of the two upper catchments for the wetland.



This view looks to the North-East from the proposed wetland site, showing the second of the two upper catchments for the planned wetland.







A view of the small creek draining from the gully where a new wetland is currently planned.

A view of the largest dam on Day's farm property, established more than twenty years ago. There are some smaller wetlands upstream of this dam in the gully adjacent to the neighbouring forestry block.



A view of one of the smaller wetlands (upstream of the Day's largest dam) adjacent to the neighbouring forestry block.



A view looking South from the Day's farmland, showing the lowlands which their hill country farm drains to in the Ōreti catchment.



Where production forestry exists in Southland landscapes, wetland development might be prioritised to assist in mitigating negative effects on waterways at harvest time. Collaborative investment opportunities might be explored.



Malcom Day indicating the location of wetland development at his Glen Eyre Station property - a possible future wetland visit site where “slow the flow” effects in the Matura catchment might be considered.



The wetland visit crew questioning Alastair on why he forgot to bring Mallowpuff biscuits for morning tea!



# Freshwater Wetland Types in New Zealand

Wetland Type	BOG	FEN	SWAMP	MARSH	
	SHALLOW WATER*				
Water Source	Rainfall	→	Groundwater	→	Surface water
Water flow & fluctuation	Low	→	Medium	→	High
Nutrient availability	Low	→	Medium	→	High
pH	Low/acidic	→	Medium	→	High/neutral
Peat Content	High	→	Medium	→	Low/none

Figure 1. Key environment characteristics of wetland type. Beverley Clarkson, Landcare Research.



# **Collection of Various Reflections**

**(on the wetland projects visited to date, and the implications for future wetland development in Southland)**

# Alastair's Reflections (General)

- It is a whole ecosystem that develops not just the goal of water quality or slow the flow. They attract native plants and birds.
- It is a long-term fix not just instantaneous (10-20 years to fully establish). Be patient.
- There is public good in the system for downstream dwellers (including city dwellers).
- For some people they will set up wetlands on their own (e.g. the Days) but some may need help.
- We and Thriving Southland need to establish a wetlands task force where catchment planning, expertise, who can do what, and what might suit different sites (local expertise, by local people).
- In some instances, gorse is your friend and is protection for native plants (seeds spread by birds). Mature gorse is broken open by snow allowing natives to establish.
- FWFP will become simple because of the mitigation of silt and nitrogen, etc, taken by establishing a series of wetlands.

# Alastair's Reflections (on Malcolm Day's wetland development approach)

- There are key people that hold the total knowledge, but by using three or so people the best result can be obtained (e.g. Zain Moss has practical experience, along with the bulldozer driver and landowner).
- The site should be established at least 12 months before building to dry the site.
- A bulldozer is better to build dams because the angle of battering produces a stronger dam.
- Two spillways established:
  - To take normal flow and establish a fish ladder.
  - Another spillway for higher flows (slow flow) and only operates under significant rain events.
- Establish the first wetland at the bottom of your catchment as it will collect the silt created during the construction of wetlands further upstream.
- In the hills often the dams forming the wetlands make stock movement safer and quicker.

# Jon's Reflections

- Our regs ok(ish) for private land holding scale wetlands in general.
- Virtue signaling and large consulting firms are costly and may have limited outcome (for example, Fonterra is now rethinking their approach to their Waituna wetland project).
- While we have a reasonable amount of knowledge on economical wetland construction within Southland, we need to help join the dots, but not hinder, in assisting land holders with wetland development.
- Nature can look ugly as it transitions back from development (for example, thick gorse left with native seeds to regenerate).
- We don't design nature (for example, red tussocks may only be part of the early stages of regeneration back to native forestry).
- We need to start now as this won't be a fast process and wetlands are never as big as expected - we've been advised this by farmers.
- We have fantastic properties to showcase for farmers to get them motivated.
- My biggest concern is we won't involve others like Thriving Southland early enough - that will do a far better job of getting engagement and collaboration .

We can't forget we are a regulator, and regulators are notorious for killing good things. So let's not be greedy and give this gift to the community to run and support them through controlling what we can with regulation, to soften any hurdles that favour consultant's purses over accelerating the improvement of water quality in Southland.

# Phil's Reflections

- All of the wetland sites viewed were constructed, not restored wetlands. They all required mechanical intervention to modify the landscape and do not represent a return to natural form (what existed before land development for farming).
- The wetlands visited might all be typically classified as a form of man-made “marsh” based on their key environmental characteristics (see the previous Freshwater Wetland Types table).
- Where farm wetlands had been constructed it was not evident whether design had been influenced by reference to physiographic profiles, nor by reference to catchment context, challenges and values information. Future wetland developments should strongly recommend (possibly demand) such reference to ensure the ‘right wetland in the right place’ is developed (and money and effort is not squandered).
- The wetlands viewed on farms were reported to increase the efficiency, ease, and safety of farming in their respective landscapes. It was reported that no on-farm production losses had been experienced as a result of introducing wetlands.
- Land-owners and managers reported a sense of satisfaction from having invested in wetland development within landscapes they cared about. They consistently commented on the aesthetic improvement and appeal resulting from wetland development, alongside pleasing biodiversity gains.
- Other landscape features might be added to complement wetlands in treating contaminants (for example, detention bunds, silt traps, tile drain filter structures, riparian planting).

# Phil's Reflections

- Reducing sediment loads through wetland development will support improved gravel management in catchments by reducing the amount of sediment available as 'mortar' (weak cement) draped over gravel beaches which make armoured gravel clasts even less mobile during higher flow periods.
- At any given point in time, not all farmers will be in a position to consider or actively pursue wetland development. For example, challenging financial circumstances, personal health challenges, or uncertainty over farm succession will render wetland development beyond the reach of some farmers (at least temporarily).
  - To promote wetland development, it will be necessary to work with those who are ready and willing, and encouraging action from those who are capable but had not considered wetland development.
  - Keep in mind, the investment in wetland development across Southland is 20+ year strategic investment.
- Collaboration between regional actors is important to leverage scarce or expensive resources (for example, design capability, contracting efforts, seedling stocks), coordinate efforts for best impact, and to widely share practical learning and insights.
- By virtue of our regional science and monitoring capability, there is a role for Environment Southland beyond regulation – a more entrepreneurial role in catalysing wetland development by legitimising, mandating, empowering, and enabling others to act.
- There is quite a lot of existing research and helpful information to guide wetland design and development in Southland. It is a relatively easy task to collate the existing literature into a resource library to guide future efforts.



# Implementation of farm-scale diffuse pollution mitigation systems

An update of relevant national and regional regulatory provisions

Prepared for MBIE  
September 2022



Graphic: Environment & Nature Services

# WETLAND RESTORATION

A HANDBOOK FOR NEW ZEALAND FRESHWATER SYSTEMS

EDITED BY MONICA PETERS AND BEVERLEY CLARKSON

# TE REO O TE REPO THE VOICE OF THE WETLAND

CONNECTIONS, UNDERSTANDINGS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE RESTORATION OF OUR WETLANDS

EDITED BY WENDY SAGHA, CHERI WAIN, SCHRAVINDU JAYAKODDARAI AND BEVERLEY CLARKSON

# Wetland Practitioner Guide

Wetland Design and Performance Estimates

# PLANTING A WETLAND

10 easy tips from THE LANDCARE TRUST

- Get to know your wetland through the seasons.**  
Identify the seasonally flooded sections, the deep water areas, and dry areas.
- Seek advice and possible assistance.**  
Not all wetland plants are appropriate for all wetlands seek advice from local wetland experts or regional councils, Department of Conservation and NZ Landcare Trust.
- Prepare a planting plan.**  
Compile a list of plant species for each zone identified in the wetland. Use reference wetlands to identify species to plant.
- Order plants well in advance and from reputable providers.**  
Providers should have locally sourced plants that are robust. Providers should be able to help guide you in what you need, and the purpose each plant plays in the wetland.
- Planting season.**  
Plant bare-root plants – during winter or early spring. Container grown plants are best planted from autumn to spring.
- Preparing the site.**  
Remove invasive weeds, and clear vegetation for fuel a metre around each planting spot.
- Set out plants according to their zone and seasonal size.**
- When planting, dig a hole deeper and broader than the root system.**
- Weed control, mulching and fertiliser.**  
Plant a one-metre area around your plants free of competing grass and weeds. Once planted, shade new areas to conserve soil moisture and stave off herbivore grazing of herbicides may be needed, specific herbicide mixes vary so seek advice from your local supplier, contractors and consultants.
- Ongoing maintenance.**  
Make regular checks in the first two years, replace plants that have died. Taking control of competing weeds is essential, as they will quickly smother young plants. Check areas for weed sprout, and use best control methods for possums, rabbits and feral deer. As the plants cover the site and achieve canopy closure, weeding requirements will greatly be reduced. Staying of herbicides may be needed, specific herbicide mixes vary so seek advice from your local supplier, contractors and consultants.

## Item 10.1 Chief Executive's report

**Objective ID:** A1070171

**Report by:** Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive

### Purpose

To provide Council with a governance overview of current matters within the organisation.

### Summary

This is the Chief Executive's report for activities since the March 2024 meeting. It provides an update from direct reports to the Chief Executive on topical matters.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to note the report.**

## Office of the Chief Executive

Our draft Long-term Plan consultation document, *Investing in Southland Whakangao Ki Murihiku*, is open for submissions until the 6 May 2024. The Council's key proposal is for ongoing and greater investment in flood protection for Southland to improve community resilience. Southland's flood protection infrastructure has served us well in recent decades, but it is ageing (30+ years old) and this, coupled with more enduring and severe weather due to a changing climate, is putting it under pressure. Over time, these challenges may reduce the infrastructure's level of protection and investment is needed to ensure it remains fit for purpose. The proposal we are seeking feedback on is for an increase in operating expenditure of \$2.3m per annum to be funded by a proposed new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate. This equates to \$22 a year for a Southland property valued at \$450k; \$239 for a property valued at \$5 million. This proposed fund increases flood modelling and data collection, improved capability and maintenance and investigation into alternative ways to reduce flood risk for the longer term.

A second, important and inter-related consultation document that we are seeking feedback on is the *Statement of Proposal for the Revenue & Financing Policy* and Rating Review. The Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal is presented at a time when we are seeing the impacts of more severe weather conditions. Flooding is Southland's most common natural hazard and the devastating consequences of the floods in the North Island show how people and critical infrastructure can be affected well beyond the immediate river catchment area.

Engagement with the community on the proposed Long-term Plan has included a number of community events in the region and the catchment liaison annual general meetings. At each meeting, ratepayers have been given the proposed rate changes to their own properties. Engagement will continue over the coming weeks with a series of drop-in sessions across the region.

Climate resilience has been particularly topical in the Waiau/Aparima Ward of Southland district where a State of Emergency was in place until the 17 March 2024 to manage erosion related issues at Bluecliffs. This has now transitioned into a Recovery phase. Work to remove the material at the old dump site was completed, with no explosives found and residents have returned to their homes. Community meetings are ongoing around the options for river works as well as conversations around the longer-term options.

We continue to advocate, with our regional sector colleagues and Te Uru Kahika (secretariat for the Regional Sector), to central government for our critical programmes of work such as climate resilience infrastructure. We have also reiterated our willingness to collaborate with the Government and industry on the programme of reform and in particular the Resource Management reform proposals. As the Government drafts



amendments, we are seeking that the resulting legislation sets a nationally consistent minimum standard whilst enabling local authorities to develop regional approaches that address local issues. An example of such an approach is the proposed amendments to farm planning regulations which Environment Southland is working on with the Government.

## Policy and Government Reform Group

### Policy and Government Reform

#### **Fast track consenting**

The Bill has been introduced with the purpose of “providing a fast-track decision-making process that facilitates the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional and national benefits”. The Bill has broad powers that will aim to speed up decision-making across multiple Acts and provides narrow grounds for declining applications. A draft Environment Southland submission has been prepared for Council to consider as part of this agenda. Submissions close on 19 April 2024.

#### **Other reform**

In terms of other upcoming Government reform, targeted changes to the RMA have been signalled for 2024 with separate RMA amendment bills:

- Minister Bishop, at the recent New Zealand Planning Institute conference indicated that the first of these Bills is expected to be introduced in May 2024. He stated that “it will be narrowly scoped and will introduce changes to the RMA to clarify the application of the hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) to consenting, extend the duration of marine farm consents and cease the implementation of new Significant Natural Areas for three years to enable a thorough review of their operation”.
- the second Bill (later in 2024) will be more substantive and, at this stage the indications are that it will primarily focus on housing and renewable energy. However, it is noted that this will take some time to develop, and the Regional Sector has responded to a letter from Minister Bishop to indicate its desire to work closely with the Government on this, as it evolves.

In addition to the two Bills in 2024, the Government is commencing a wider body of work to review and introduce new national direction. The aim – as outlined in the Coalition agreements – is to unlock development and investment in infrastructure, housing capacity, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry and mining, while achieving good environmental outcomes. Staff are expecting more detail on these pieces in the coming months.

The team continues to keep an eye on, and be involved in, the legislative reform agenda; use the networks and relationships to engage, influence and guide policy direction, that reflects Environment Southland’s views.

### Regional Planning

#### **Regional Coastal Plan for Southland**

The wider review of the Coastal Plan continues to build on work that has been underway for some time, with a desire to notify a revised Coastal Plan before the end of the first quarter in 2025.

#### **Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan**

The implementation process for making provisions in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) operative is well underway. This includes work developing a pragmatic and risk-based compliance, monitoring and enforcement approach for the rollout of farm environmental management plan provisions.

There remain outstanding appeals to both the High Court and the Environment Court on pSWLP. Staff are still waiting on the decision from High Court on the appeal relating to Rule 24 – Incidental Discharge. The High

Court appeal relating to Rule 78 and proposed Rule 78A, weed and sediment removal for drainage maintenance, has been set down to be heard in June 2024. However, the parties to this appeal have filed a joint memorandum with the Court to vacate the timetable set down by the High Court and to adjourn proceedings. The intention is to work towards resolving the matters through the Plan Change Tuatahi process.

Work to develop an amended scope for Plan Change Tuatahi and associated non-regulatory workstreams is underway with the intention to address community aspirations relating to freshwater management.

### **Transport Planning**

The Otago Southland Regional Transport Committee (RTC) is in the process of the mid-term review of the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2021/2031. The submission period is open until the 19 April 2024.

The RTC has submitted on the draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024-34. Submissions for this closed on 2 April. The Ministry of Transport will use the feedback to provide advice to the Minister of Transport on the final GPS 2024. The final GPS will into effect by July 2024.

## **Science Strategy and Engagement Group**

### **Science strategy and investigations**

Summer fieldwork is wrapping up with the recreational waters, estuary monitoring and annual biomonitoring of rivers either completed or near completion. On 9 April 2024 staff met with Te Whatu Ora (Public Health South) and other parties regarding recreational sites in the Mataura River. Discussion was held on understanding risks, clarifying public warnings and aligning engagement and education programmes for next summer.

The Waituna Lagoon cyanobacteria bloom has fully receded following the emergency opening of the lagoon in February. Water quality monitoring has increased again, following the lagoon closing naturally on 1 April 2024, to track the ongoing health and condition of the lagoon.

Staff continue to work on science for Plan Change Tuatahi. Work underway includes reports on water quantity, fish passage, climate change, time lags and tipping points, nutrient dependant criteria, freshwater dependant threatened species, Waituna Lagoon, target attribute states, revised load reductions, nitrogen scenarios and the catchment science summaries.

Contracts are in place with Cawthron and NIWA for the lower Waiau River bioenergetic model (Net Rate of Energy Intake) project which continues to advance. The first round of field work has been completed with the next round of field work on the hydraulic habitat modelling to be completed in April. When finished, this study will allow us to understand flow requirements for fish and their habitat.

Victoria University have been contracted to analyse the biosecurity dive footage to classify shallow marine ecosystems across Fiordland. This work will inform our understanding of the ecology within Fiordland and will inform our future marine monitoring and investigation programmes and management of the fjords. This work is due to be completed by July and will be reported to Council in the September Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

A number of other science reports are also underway on groundwater levels, groundwater quality, wetland loss, soil health and air quality.

## Science informatics and operations

### Hydrological Response

A survey was completed at the Makarewa River at Counsell Road station and the site surveyed with the drone to construct a 3D model and a remote camera was installed to measure flood flows and to assist checking if suitable to wade.

Staff reinstalled the Waituna Lagoon water level recorder at Waghorns Road site after bridge repairs and improvements were undertaken. They also assisted with collecting some drone images of the Waituna lagoon opening.

### Data Ecosystems

The team has received and serviced 14 data requests since 21 February 2024 – these have been a mixture of research and resource consent related requests.

The laboratory services request for proposal (RFP) was issued, as planned, on the 13 March 2024. Interested vendors have until 26 April 2024 to respond. Following this the team will go through a comprehensive evaluation process for ongoing laboratory services.

Our summer student finished up at the end of March. The student collated all of the historical macroinvertebrate data contained in consents/compliance reports into a format that allows them to be imported into our taxonomic database (KiECO). Macroinvertebrates are an indicator of stream health and the information will be used to help assess our Southland waterways as part of ongoing science monitoring.

### Monitoring & Evaluation

Servicing our long-term environmental monitoring programmes involving various data/sampling collection activities, monitoring station checks, maintenance & calibrations to national standards and river gauging activity. Structural assessments on some monitoring sites have been undertaken as a requirement of our health and safety procedures.

In preparation for the 3G network being replaced with the 4G network in the next 12-18 months our data loggers are being upgraded and plans put in place to replace obsolete loggers across the monitoring network.

## Communications

The 2024-2-34 Long-term Plan (LTP) Consultation Document and associated information, including frequently asked questions, is all available online at: <https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/plans-and-strategies/council-plans/long-term-plan>. People can use an online calculator to estimate the rates for their property. Submissions can be made online either in written format, video, audio or by submitting images. They may also add comments on various components of the LTP if they choose. Submissions close on 6 May 2024 and a series of drop-in sessions are planned over the coming months. In addition, staff and Councillors are attending various community meetings and events around the region to engage on the proposed LTP.

Staff have been supporting an implementation plan for the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP). Those provisions that have been through the Environment Court process and that are no longer subject to appeal are being prepared to be made operative. Whilst this will require a formal decision from full Council as they hold the delegation to make decisions on plans under the Resource Management Act, preparation is underway for how this can be communicated to the community. Linked to this is consideration of the farm environmental management plans under the pSWLP and how they align with national direction. Support has also been provided to Emergency Management Southland and the Bluecliffs State of Emergency through March. This has been a busy period working with technical experts, the community and of course the residents impacted by the erosion and removal of the dump site.

The team have supported communications around the arrival and installation of the pumps at the Stead Street Pump Station. This is a milestone for the project.

Our Autumn edition of EnviroSouth was completed and will land in letterboxes across the region the week of the 15 April. This edition has a particular focus on our flood infrastructure (a key focus of the proposed LTP) and acknowledges the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1984 floods, which was the catalyst for extensive flood protection development in Southland Murihiku.

## Strategy and partnership

### Long-term Plan 2024-34

After Council adopted the 2024-34 Long-term Plan Consultation Document on 27 March 2024 the document was opened for submissions, which close on Monday, 6 May 2024. Hearings will follow for anyone wanting to support their submission verbally, followed by Council deliberations on all submissions in mid-May.

### Climate change and community resilience

The Regional Climate Change Strategy is open for feedback until 8 May 2024. Environment Southland is leading the collection and collation of the submissions on behalf of the Regional Climate Change Working Group, after which the working group will come together to consider the submissions. Alongside this, the Regional Climate Change Working Group continues to explore what the Framework of Action could look like in regard to each of the aspirations articulated in the strategy.

## Integrated Catchment Management Group

### Biosecurity and biodiversity operations

#### Pest plants

The summer pest plant control season is underway. Highlights include zero detections at known parrot's feather and field horsetail sites. Further surveillance in the area around these sites will be completed, however, the results are a positive step towards eradication. German Ivy work also continues to show good results. Unfortunately, there continues to be an increase in purple loosestrife sites – the increase is thought to be due to the increased levels of publicity and surveillance rather than ongoing spread. All known purple loosestrife sites are responding well to control.

Planned wilding conifer control work has been completed at Mid Dome and work in the Tākitimu Mountains is about to commence. Due to the reduced budget from MPI, this year's control programme is unlikely to have been enough to maintain the gains made in previous years. In addition to the national programme work, roadside *Pinus contorta* trees have been controlled by Southland District Council and staff continue to work with landowners on other outlying trees. The team has also recorded the first known 'wilding' of Larch within the Southland region.

#### Marine

Undaria biomass removal and marine pest surveillance has continued, including trips to Chalky Inlet. The Chalky Inlet survey confirmed no *Undaria* is present; the site has now reached a significant milestone with five clear years since the 2019 incursion. It is therefore believed that elimination has been achieved at this site. The site will continue to be checked as part of the ongoing marine surveillance programme.

Compliance trips to Fiordland including a day trip into Milford Sound have been completed. The number of boats checked has been low this season due to poor weather during compliance trips. Charter operators have a high Clean Vessel Pass compliance rate, however, for the second year running compliance of fishing and recreational vessels, especially those in Milford Sound has been low. We are cost recovering the inspections from commercial operators who did not comply with the Clean Vessel Pass. Also, we are working with industry representatives and partners e.g. Fiordland Marine Guardians to highlight the requirements and improve compliance.

## **Pest animals**

The Sandstone possum control area was successfully completed with an excellent residual trap catch (RTC) results of 0.3%. Staff have been checking retail outlets and online sales sites for Bengal cat and other high risk pet sales. No new or concerning sales have been identified and there have been no new Bengal cat permit applications.

## **Exclusion species and incursions**

There have been no pest plant incursions since the previous report.

There has been an unconfirmed wallaby report on the Otautau-Tuatapere Road. Staff have advised neighbouring landowners to be vigilant and left pamphlets in all mailboxes around the area.

Following the inconclusive mouse images from Rakiura, a mouse detection plan has been finalised. Trapping will be focused around the original camera locations and contractors will be on the island at the end of April and during May 2024.

There has been reports of a turtle (probably a red-eared slider) in a pond in Invercargill and a *Cyprinid spp* possibly a wild goldfish in Kingswell Creek. Neither of these species are pests under the Regional Pest Management Plan so there is no planned action, however, both species may become invasive and the risk they pose to Southland will be considered as part of future changes to the Regional Pest Management Plan.

The potential Australian Droplet Tunicate investigation has been closed as MPI was unable to determine the species from the sample collected from Toetoes Bay.

## **Biodiversity: National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity**

Following the Announcement by Minister Hoggard that the Government has agreed to suspend the requirement for councils to comply with the Significant Natural Areas (SNA) provisions of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity for three years, while it replaces the Resource Management Act (RMA) [Significant Natural Areas requirement to be suspended | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/significant-natural-areas-requirement-to-be-suspended), a selection of local government officials met with MfE on 21 March 2024. In summary:

- the Government is proposing to amend the NPSIB to suspend the direction to councils to assess their districts and include areas qualifying as SNAs in their plans. The proposed suspension will apply for three years from the date of the change taking effect.
- existing obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 to recognise and provide for areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in district plans would remain in place.
- processes initiated before the NPSIB came into force, including existing SNAs and biodiversity protection rules already in plans and policy statements will continue.
  - it is unclear how this will affect Gore District Councils current plan change process.
- a requirement to implement the NPSIB and all the regional council requirements (e.g. biodiversity strategies, indigenous vegetation cover, highly mobile fauna, monitoring, etc.) will remain following the SNA amendment.
- existing RMA S6 requirements remain and councils will determine how to fulfil them.
- there will be a level of uncertainty for some time as MfE and the Government work through the details of the SNA amendments.

Just prior to Easter, Council received a letter from Minister Hoggard, providing an update on the work with the Ministry, and advising Council that they were looking to give effect to Cabinet's decision as quickly as possible. He also advised that there would be an opportunity for Councils' to put forward views on the operation of SNAs during the proposed review.

## **Biodiversity: Work Programmes**

The Biodiversity Action on the Ground work is continuing, however, the ecological survey work has shifted to concentrate on wetlands rather than bush blocks to help avoid issues with the NPS-IB changes. A Bio Blitz was held in Tuatapere. This was a very successful day with children from Waiau Area and Hauroko Valley Schools attending. A highlight from the event was the recording of long-tailed bats in the area.

## Catchment Integration

Our programme of engaging on intensive winter grazing kicked off this month. We are working with our resource management team to have a consistent approach considering the provisions in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan and the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater. This is focused on keeping crop out of critical source areas (and how to identify these), sufficient buffers adjacent to waterways and how crop on slopes is managed. We want to work with farmers and support them to manage potential risks from winter grazing management practices.

At the Waihopai and Kingswell planting area we are preparing to plant approximately 1500 native plants. As part of the stopbank upgrade programme over the past two years, vegetation was removed to ensure the integrity of the stopbanks during floods. An appropriate planting area has been designated and we are working with schools to plant the native plants, prepare signage and information panels for people walking through these areas. A celebration is planned for May.

As part of our Enviroschools support, we have been working with Heddon Bush, Hedgehope and Thornbury schools. Students visited Sherwood Forest to view the student initiatives and discuss learning opportunities. With Heddon Bush School, we are working alongside Hokonui Rūnanga to support their history curriculum work.

## **Waituna**

The Waituna Lagoon has now closed to the sea with a gravel bar successfully establishing itself across the opening made in January this year. While it will take a while to gauge the results and long-term impact that the opening had on the lagoon, recent results have shown that it did achieve its main goal of clearing the Cyanobacteria bloom.

The Whakamana te Waituna Trust held its quarterly meeting on 26 March, welcoming the new independent Trustee, Maarten Van Rossum and saying farewell to long-time trustee Michael Jones. A full report on Whakamana te Waituna will be provided via the next Regional Services Committee agenda.

## Consents

The team continues to keep on top of processing timeframes and workloads. There have been 44 applications lodged during the 17 February 2024 to 27 March 2024 period. There are several more complex applications anticipated in the next quarter, based on recent pre-application discussions and other enquiries.

The number of consents lodged is consistent with previous periods at this time of the year. Eight of the 192 consents currently in progress (4.17%) have been outsourced for external processing, to maintain timeframe compliance and ensure workloads are manageable for in-house staff, noting previous vacancies and ongoing training for new staff.

Contact Energy lodged an application with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 21 December 2023 to develop a wind farm east of Wyndham under the Covid-19 Recovery Act fast track provisions. Staff have received and responded to the EPA with a combined nomination for Independent Commissioner, Rob van Voorthuysen as endorsed by all three Council bodies. In accordance with the process, staff anticipate further enquiries from the EPA regarding the application. <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/ftca/about/>

Meridian Energy has lodged an application for resource consents related to its Manapōuri Lake Control Improvement project. The proposed project at the Manapōuri Lake Control Structure includes channel excavation works, gravel removal and deposition. The application is being processed by an external Consultant, and was publicly notified at the Applicant's request. The submission period will close on 17 April 2024.

### **Environment Court appeals**

An Environment Court appeal was lodged by Capil Grove Limited in relation to the decision by Independent Commissioners in August 2023 to decline consent to establish a dairy farm and related activities at Springhills, approximately 13 km south-east of Winton. Court directed mediation was held in late January 2024 followed by ongoing dialogue between parties through to the end of March. Progress of the appeal and reporting to the Court is anticipated to occur in April 2024.

The appeal by the New Zealand Animal Law Association in relation to the decision by an Independent Commissioner in late November 2023, to grant consent to Pahia Dairies Limited for farming related activities including intensive winter grazing is ongoing. Parties await direction to be issued regarding the application.

### **Hearings**

No hearings have been scheduled in this reporting period.

### **Applications in progress:**

There are 192 (including 31 Mataura Water Conservation Order review applications) applications currently in progress.

### **Timeframe compliance**

Compliance with statutory processing timeframes for resource consent applications for the period 17 February 2024 to 27 March 2024 was 100%. This includes instances where the applicant has agreed to a timeframe extension.

It is noted that 11 applications remain on hold, due to linkages with the Mataura Water Conservation Order over-allocation matter, 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**

### **Aerial monitoring**

The aerial monitoring of dairy discharge permits occurred in late March. These were delayed due to the weather during much of March.

### **Synthetic nitrogen reporting**

Communications will start coming out soon as a reminder that this data is due to be submitted by 31 July 2024. Last year there was a good level of compliance, both with the submission of the data and with remaining below the threshold of 190 kg per hectare.

### **Low-rate water take**

Consent holders that have an abstraction rate of five litres per second are considered a low-rate water take consent and this affects approximately 1,000 consents. These consents have a condition requiring data to be submitted to Council by 31 May each year. This is a lot of data for the compliance team to receipt, assess and respond to in a short period of time before monitoring of high-rate water takes restarts.

## Harbour management

### Navigation safety bylaws review update

The Policy and Planning team are providing support with the review of the Navigation Safety Bylaws. An initial scoping exercise has determined that the review would be best served if completed in two parts, with the Infringement Schedule reviewed first then the complete bylaws at a later date. This will enable staff to take into consideration parallel reviews of the Coastal and Pest Management Plans with the aim of avoiding any duplication.

### Boating safety update

Recreational boating has been relatively quiet over the last two months mainly due to unfavourable weather conditions. Those boaties interacted with have been displaying good boating safety practices such as wearing lifejackets and observing speed restrictions.

### Cruise ship season update

To date there have been 113 visits to Fiordland including 28 visits to Stewart Island, with 13 cancellations mostly related to weather. The last cruise ship visit for this season was on the 6 April 2024.

## Business Services

### Information systems

#### Imagery

Since the last update, Landpro Ltd has completed the outstanding 20% in the Athol area. The project will be considered complete once we have received the imagery captured. This project has been very successful and ran on schedule and within budget. The updated imagery is available internally and externally.

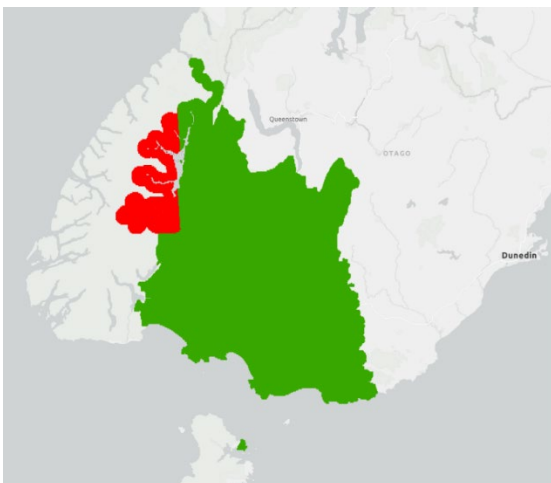
#### LiDAR

Since the last update, the highlighted green areas in the map below have been available and published internally and externally. Block 6 (highlighted in red below) has been received and is currently being quality-assured by the team. Once block 6 has been accepted, the project will be complete.

A reminder that these tools are available on the ES website.

[Southland 3D map and profile tool](#)

[Southland contours and elevation](#)





## People and Customer Group

### Health and Safety and Risk

On 11 March 2024 training sessions were held to provide management and key staff with an overview of the Environment Southland Business Continuity plan. This included training for the business response team and organisational support team. A table-top exercise was conducted the following day to check the content of plans and to provide training for management and staff in their responsibilities when responding to an event. Learning opportunities were identified and are currently being implemented.

### Information and support

The Information Management team is working to migrate the legacy records database “THINGS” into our current records system. This will enable users to search and borrow physical records via the electronic system, which enables compliance with the Public Records Act relating to the traceability of physical records and maintains the security of our physical files. This is a key work programme within the information management strategy and will be completed by the end of April 2024.

Other key work programmes include:

1. A review of our approach to democracy services programmes was completed in March. We are currently reviewing the draft report and recommendations.
2. The implementation of our agenda minutes software solution project continues. Training was undertaken in March and continues in April, with a proposed go-live date for our June committees.
3. As previously reported, the digitisation pilot project is behind schedule due to system configuration matters. The information management team is working closely with the vendor to have images uploaded to our systems but there is further delay with the vendor technical team member being on leave.

### People and capability

The Customer Strategy development team held onsite workshops with Maven, the consultancy supporting this project, in February and March. These workshops were designed to also further develop customer definitions, define what good customer service looks like at Environment Southland, identify customer research opportunities and look at customer journeys, scenarios, lifecycles and stages.

We continued staff training initiated last year to support better collaborative working practices. The Glasers’ Hardwiring Teamwork and Breakthrough Conflict training sessions were held in March with 33 staff attending the Hardwiring Teamwork training and 29 people leaders attending the Breakthrough Conflict training.

## Item 10.2 Draft Fast-track Approvals Bill Submission

**Objective ID:** A1071098

**Report by:** Marcus Roy, Policy and Government Reform Manager

**Approved by:** Lucy Hicks, General Manager Policy and Government Reform



### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Environment Southland Submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill to Council for review and approval.

### Summary

The Coalition Government has introduced a Fast-track Approvals Bill into parliament in order to speed up decision making for large scale and complex infrastructure a development projects with regional and national benefits.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to:**

- 1 receive the report “draft submission on Fast-track Approvals Bill”.
- 2 consider, amend if required, and then approve the submission.

### Background

The purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Bill is to “provide a fast-track decision-making process that facilitates the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits”.

The Bill is similar to the existing Covid-19 recovery legislation, which was introduced to speed up decision making and soften the anticipated economic impact predicted from Covid-19. However, this Bill has several new components which Council needs to consider when putting in a submission.

A draft submission is appended for Council’s consideration. It identifies high level points that could be incorporated to improve the drafting and potential outcomes of the Bill.

Submissions on the Bill are due on 19 April 2024.

### Implications/risks

This Bill provides broad powers for Ministers to make decisions on a number of Acts. Environment Southland has a good understanding of Southland’s aspirations and is able to submit on the Bill as it works its way through the process.

### Next steps

Subject to any amendments, an approved submission will be lodged within the required timeframe.

### Views of affected parties

Submissions are open to the general public and accordingly wider affected party views have not been sought as part of this submission drafting process. Other parties are able to independently submit on the Bill.

## 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		

## Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

This report and the resolutions sought are consistent with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

## Considerations

### Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with submitting on this Bill.

### Legal implications

There are no legal implications from submitting on this Bill. The submission will reflect the Council's views on the proposed new legislation and the Government will make a decision on the final drafting. Once the legislation has been enacted Environment Southland will need to establish internal processes to respond to any applications going through the fast-track process.

## Attachments

Draft Submission

# Environment Southland’s submission on ‘Fast-track Approvals Bill’

## Introduction

Environment Southland thanks the Ministry for the opportunity to submit on the ‘Fast-track Approvals Bill’. The purpose of the Bill is to “provide a streamlined decision-making process to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional and national benefits”. The Bill provides a separate process for the following approvals:

- resource consents, notices of requirement, and certificates of compliance under the Resource Management Act 1991:
- concessions under the Conservation Act 1987:
- authority to do anything otherwise prohibited under the Wildlife Act 1953:
- approvals under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983:
- concessions and other permissions under the Reserves Act 1977:
- an archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014:
- marine consents under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012:
- Crown Minerals Act 1991 (section 61 or 61B land access provisions):
- aquaculture activity approvals under the Fisheries Act 1996.

The Bill also makes a change to Environment Court processes under the Public Works Act 1981 for projects dealt with under the Bill.

## Position

Environment Southland supports the intent of having a fast-track approval process for specific projects. Environment Southland has some suggestions with the drafting of the Bill which are outlined in this submission.

## Key Themes

Environment Southland considers that there is a need for fast-track consenting to facilitate matters of regional and national importance. However, the Fast-track Approvals Bill in its current form has wide reaching implications due to prioritising “development projects” for economic benefit above the other wellbeings (environmental, social and cultural).

The Bill in its current form will have impacts on Southland’s aspirations for public participation and balancing wellbeings, however some amendments as suggested in this submission would help the Government and Environment Southland achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

### **1. Decision making which aligns with Regional priorities**

Local communities know their region and articulate aspirations of resource use, long-term priorities and outcomes via various plan making processes (such as Long-term Plans and Regional/District Plans). Public participation and submissions received during plan development, is a valuable component which adds significant value to decision making. Community inputs facilitate robust, well-tested issues and subsequent solutions which are more balanced than decisions that have limited engagement.

Environment Southland would support an additional requirement in the Fast-track Approval Bill to consider regional or district planning documents during the decision-making process to ensure community aspirations and priorities are considered. The Bill as currently drafted, signals that the majority of applications will be approved by a minister, following a recommendation from an expert panel. A risk of this approach is that applications could be approved contrary to Regional and District plans and therefore the decisions may not have community buy-in.

Schedule 2 of Fast-Track Approval Bill does not currently have a list of projects that will get referred to an expert panel (Part A) or a list of projects for ministers to consider referring to an expert panel (Part B). The Ministry for the Environment has recently announced that it is accepting applications for these schedules and accordingly the general public do not know what decisions are likely to be considered in which locations. Environment Southland would welcome more clarity of how future projects will be added to the schedule.

***Recommendation:***

- ***That the Bill is amended so that the expert panel and minister must consider regional and local planning documents (eg prohibited activities) and future spatial strategies when making a recommendations and decisions<sup>1</sup>.***

**2. Public input**

Environment Southland considers that fast-track applications in public spaces (such as Crown land and Coastal Marine Area) should include a requirement for public consultation. Communities that are most impacted by these projects should be provided with the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. While this step would add additional time to reaching a decision, incorporating this step and limiting appeal rights would lead to fuller and more robust decisions that are still fast.

***Recommendation:***

- ***That the Bill is amended to provide for public consultation when applications are located on Crown land or within the Coastal Marine Area.***

**3. Breadth of legislation this Bill has powers over**

The Fast-track Approvals Bill has powers enabling decisions to be made across multiple Acts.

The Acts listed in the Bill for approval have been established with differing purposes that are difficult to reconcile. For example, the purpose of the Wildlife Act 1953 is to “absolutely protect wildlife species throughout New Zealand”. Whereas the purpose of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 is to “manage prospecting for, exploration for and mining of Crown owned minerals for the benefit of New Zealand”.

The expert panel and minister are not required to consider the underlying purpose of the relevant Acts when making a recommendation or a decision. Rather, the decision is based upon facilitating development and infrastructure with national or regional benefits. Other Acts are a secondary consideration in the decision-making process.

Finally, the drafting of the Bill has a presumption that projects referred through to the expert panel will most likely be approved, as there are limited grounds to decline. Environment Southland

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<sup>1</sup> This requires expanding the criteria outlined in S17(2) of the Bill.

considers that altering the presumption of the Bill to being outcomes focused, and ensuring that there is a balancing of the purpose of the Fast-track Approval Bill and the underlying legislation would enable the Bill to provide broader benefits.

**Recommendations:**

- ***That the Bill is amended so that the Expert Panel and the Minister are enabled to consider the purpose of underlying Acts when making recommendations and decisions.***
- ***Broaden the Bill to remove presumption that decisions are approved.***

**4. More information needed on the capacity of the system to support outcomes**

Environment Southland suggested that the fast-track approval process would need to be adequately resourced to achieve the desired outcomes from this bill.

**Timeframes**

- It is acknowledged that under the current Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 the processing timeframes are very tight to adequately consider complex and detailed information on large scale projects.
- The Fast-track Approvals Bill spans numerous Acts and it is anticipated that the projects progressed under the Bill will be larger and more complex than the current Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020.
- Environment Southland considers that progressing more complex applications through a process with a similar timeframe as Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 will further compress timeframes and limit opportunities to robustly test information. Decision making outcomes would be assisted with some additional time within the process.

**Expert panels**

- Given that there are likely to be a number of applications going through the Fast-track Approvals process, multiple expert panels will need to be established.
- Schedule 3 of the Bill outlines that each panel will be convened by a former Environment Court or High Court Judge. Given the number and scope of projects anticipated to be considered in the Bill there will need to be sufficient capacity within the expert panels to ensure that processing timeframes are achieved.

**Conditions of consent**

- Establishing meaningful conditions on approved decisions that are relevant, enforceable and easy to understand will take time as the conditions need to be carefully considered with sufficient time for caucusing and obtaining appropriate technical input.

**Recommendations:**

- ***That the Fast-track Approvals decision making process has sufficient resource capacity to provide well considered outcomes that are broader than getting decisions approved quickly.***
- ***Amend the timeframes within the Bill in order to allow sufficient time (eg 20 days) to caucus of issues and ensure conditions are suitably robust (eg 10 days).***

## 5. Cost recovery

Environment Southland recognises that there are no cost recovery provisions in the Fast-track Approval Bill. Resourcing the decision-making process will be costly and it is acknowledged that large infrastructure and development projects have the potential to generate significant income from gaining approval (such as mining and aquaculture).

Cost recovery for facilitating the Fast-track Approvals process should operate on a user pays system given the current cost of living crisis.

### ***Recommendation:***

- ***That the Bill should be amended to include cost recovery provisions so that users pay for the processing of their applications.***

## Item 10.3 Civic Financial Services Director Nomination

**Objective ID:** A1070501

**Report by:** Dom Rikiti, General Manager, Business Services

**Approved by:** Wilma Falconer, Chief Executive



### Purpose

For Council to note the letter from Civic Financial Services requesting director nominations from shareholders.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to:**

- 1 note the report
- 2 consider whether it wishes to make any Director nominations to the Civic Financial Services Board.

### Background

Civic Financial Services wrote to shareholders on 22 March 2024 advising that two directors will be retiring at the next Annual General Meeting, on 21 June 2024. The retiring directors are Basil Morrison (independent) and Nicola Mills. Basil Morrison will not be seeking re-election. Nicola Mills is offering herself for re-election.

The remaining board members will be Craig Stevenson (independent), Marty Grenfell and Ken Morris.

The company constitution requires a minimum of two Directors on the Board to be independent of the shareholders. There are two vacancies to be filled on the Board at this year's Annual General Meeting, with at least one that needs to be **independent** of the shareholders.

All nominations must be received in writing and with the consent of that person to the nomination before 21 April 2024.

The company anticipates that all persons who are nominated by shareholders will have been nominated with the authority of the Council of the shareholder, and that the nomination will be signed by a person to whom the Council has delegated authority for the purpose.

If a nomination is to be considered by Council, this meeting must provide that direction, in order to meet the nomination deadline.

### 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

### Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

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

### Considerations

#### Financial implications

Nil.



**Legal implications**

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

**Attachments**

Civic Financial Services letter to Wilma Falconer dated 22 March 2024 (A1067432)

22 March 2024

Falconer  
Chief Executive  
Southland Regional Council  
Private Bag 90116  
INVERCARGILL 9840  
wilma.falconer@es.govt.nz

Dear Wilma

### **Civic Financial Services Ltd - Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of Civic Financial Services Ltd will be held in Wellington on Friday 21 June 2024 commencing at 11.30am. The formal notice for the Annual General Meeting will be circulated later.

Civic continues its journey to transform its operations for the benefit of shareholders and members, moving from being an insurer to an administrator providing administration services. The changes have included the winding down of Riskpool, the selling of Civic Assurance House and the building of the superannuation portfolio to now include over 11,500 members and more than \$560 million funds under management.

Five years ago, the Board approved a policy of Director refreshment, which the Board believes is pivotal to lead Civic into the future. The Board would encourage Director nominations from people who are passionate about growing Civic's superannuation business and want to be part of the Company's exciting future.

The Directors retiring at the Annual General Meeting are Basil Morrison (independent) and Nicola Mills. Basil Morrison will not be seeking re-election. Nicola Mills is offering herself for re-election. The remaining board members will be Craig Stevenson (independent), Marty Grenfell and Ken Morris.

The Company Constitution requires a minimum of two Directors on the Board to be independent of the shareholders. There are two vacancies to be filled on the Board at this year's Annual General Meeting, with at least one who needs to be independent of the shareholders.

### **Nominations**

Clause 15.6 of the Company's Constitution provides:

"No person may be elected as a director at an annual meeting (other than a director retiring at that meeting) unless that person has been nominated:

- a) By a shareholder not more than three months nor less than two months before that meeting, by written notice to the company, accompanied by the consent of that person to the nomination; or
- b) Being neither a member nor an employee of a local authority, has been nominated by the Board, not less than one month before that meeting."

All nominations for the office of a Director of the Company by shareholders must be received by the Company at the Company's address before 21 April 2024. Nominations received at any other time are invalid.

The nomination must be in writing, accompanied by the consent of that person to the nomination. Nominees are asked to provide a brief resume which will be forwarded to Shareholders with the formal Notice of Meeting assuming the Nominee meets the Company's 'Fit and Proper' requirements (see below).

Nominations are unable to be made from the floor of the meeting.

The Company anticipates that all persons who are nominated by shareholders will have been nominated with the authority of the council of the shareholder, and that the nomination will be signed by a person to whom the council has delegated authority for the purpose.

The Company will accept a signed nomination provided there is no irregularity apparent from the face of the document or any circumstance which leads the Company to believe the nomination may have been made without the authority of the shareholder or the nominee.

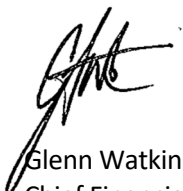
**Fit & Proper Policy requirements:**

The Company has adopted a Fit & Proper Policy as required by the Companies Act 1993. The Policy applies to all Directors and relevant officers of the Company. To ensure compliance with the Policy, nominees need to be aware that the Risk and Audit Committee and ultimately the Board of the Company is required to ensure there will be a broad set of skills and experience represented at the Board. If a nominee, in the Board's assessment, does not meet the Policy the nominee will be advised and their name will not go forward for the election.

The Fit and Proper Policy requires various checks including criminal history and credit reference checks to be undertaken. Further, the nominees must advise if they have been adjudged bankrupt or involved with, in NZ or overseas, the management of a company that has failed, been put into liquidation, receivership, voluntary administration, wound up, dissolved, subject to statutory administration or judicial management. If elected the nominee will be required to sign a statutory declaration certifying that in their opinion they are a Fit & Proper person to hold the position of Director of the Company.

**Voting**

Shareholders will be advised in May of the names of the eligible nominees with the formal Notice of the 2024 Annual General Meeting where the election of Directors will take place.



Glenn Watkin  
Chief Financial Officer  
Civic Financial Services Ltd  
Phone: 04 978 1252  
Email: [glenn.watkin@civicfs.co.nz](mailto:glenn.watkin@civicfs.co.nz)

The Southland Regional Council being a shareholder of Civic Financial Services Ltd hereby nominates

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for  
(Name of Nominee)

election as Director of the Company at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 21 June 2024, or at any adjournment thereof.

EXECUTED the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Shareholder(s)                      Position(s) Held

**Acceptance of Nomination**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

accept the nomination for Directorate.

My date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

Further, I hereby give my consent to:

- (a) Civic Financial Services Ltd ("Civic") to collect, store and use any information about me, including my personal information (including a credit history check and criminal history check), in order to:
  - (i) Assess me in accordance with its Fit and Proper Policy;
  - (ii) Comply with relevant legislation and regulatory requirements.
  - (iii) Perform administrative functions including risk management, record keeping, archiving, staff training and conflicts management.
- (b) Civic to disclose, for the purpose of administering its Fit and Proper Policy, any information about me to a third party (including Veda Advantage and the Ministry of Justice) and to such third party giving to Civic information and records about me for this purpose. *A copy of my Driver's licence or current Passport (including the signature page) is attached.*

I hereby acknowledge that privacy of information relating to me is governed by the Privacy Act 1993. I have the right to access, and to request correction of, any personal information held by Civic concerning me.

Signature of Applicant                      Date  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Civic Financial Services Ltd by Post: PO Box 5521, Lambton Quay, Wellington 6140, or Email: [glenn.watkin@civicfs.co.nz](mailto:glenn.watkin@civicfs.co.nz)

## Item 10.4 Contract for Net River Energy Intake study – Waiau River



environment  
**SOUTHLAND**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Taiao Tonga

**Objective ID:** A1068571

**Report by:** Ash Rabel, Science, Strategy and Investigations

**Approved by:** Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement

### Purpose

For Council to note that a contract with Cawthron has been entered into, for a Net River Energy Intake (NREI) study on the Waiau River.

### Summary

As required by the Delegations Manual, “contracts for amounts in excess of the joint delegation of the Chief Executive and one General Manager (\$300,000) 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”.

This contract enables Cawthron to undertake the work required to complete the NREI study as requested by Environment Southland.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to:**

- 1 note that Council has entered into a contract with Cawthron to study the Waiau Net River Energy Intake.

### Background

Net River Energy Intake studies are a means to understand how river flow and wetted habitat availability impact aquatic organisms, supplying information that assists in management of our region’s rivers. These studies require field work during the summer season followed by complex model development and validation, both of which are technical and labour-intensive pieces of work.

The Waiau River is the last of the major waterways in Murihiku Southland to have a NREI study completed in the waterway, with the Ōreti, Aparima, and Mataura having this work previously completed during the last 10 years. Alongside ensuring that we have NREI information for all our major rivers in the region, this study will also form a cornerstone of the Regional Forum’s recommendations for science efforts within Murihiku Southland.

The decision to pursue this work with Cawthron institute was made as it is currently the only organisation with capability to undertake this work.

### 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

### Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

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

## Considerations

### **Financial implications**

This work will only be partially completed during the 2023/24 financial year, with a finished report and final invoice expected in September 2024.

This contract has been budgeted for in the 2023/24 Annual Plan and the 2024/34 Long-term Plan, as it overs more than one financial year.

### **Legal implications**

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

## Item 10.5 Councillors' meeting schedule – April 2024

**Objective ID:** A998867

**Report by:** Jan Brown, Executive Officer

**Approved by:** Amy Kubrycht, General Manager People & Customer



### Purpose

The purpose of this item is for Council to consider, and approve, the meeting schedule as shown on the following pages.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to:**

- 1 note the report and appended meeting schedule.
- 2 appoint members to represent Council at the meetings, as marked on the schedule.
- 3 pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and as detailed on the schedule.

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

### Attachments

Councillors' meeting schedule

## Councillors Meeting Schedule - March 2024

**Leave of Absence Requests (dates inclusive):**

Cr Evans – 9 July to 13 August 2024

Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
<b>Retrospective</b>							
Bluff Maritime Museum Trust Board meeting	@ Bluff	Friday, 8 March 2024	1.00 pm	Cr Cook	-	✓	
Mataura Valley Milk Celebration	@ McNab	Tuesday 12 March 2024	1.45 pm to 3.45 pm	Chairman Horrell, Crs Ludlow, Gibson, McPhail	-	✓	
Emergency meeting of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	@ ES	Wednesday 13 March 2024	10.00 am	Chairman Horrell Cr Cook	-	✓	
Extraordinary meeting of Council – Zone 6 Chair Election	@ ES	Wednesday 13 March 2024	1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Whakamana te Waituna Co-chairs Briefing	@ ES	Wednesday 20 March 2024	9.00 am	Chairman Horrell	-	✓	
Risk & Assurance Committee	@ ES	Wednesday 20 March 2024	10.00 am	All Councillors	-	✓	
Extraordinary Meeting of Council – adopt the LTP CD	@ ES	Wednesday 27 March 2024	1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	

**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 - March 2024

**Leave of Absence Requests (dates inclusive):**

Cr Evans – 9 July to 13 August 2024

Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Bluecliffs Community Meeting	@ Tuatapere	Wednesday 27 March 2024	4.30 pm	Chairman Horrell	-	✓	
Chief Executive's Review Committee	@ ES	Wednesday 3 April 2024	1.30 pm	Chairman Horrell, Crs Cook, Ludlow, McDonald, McPhail & Rodway	-	✓	
DOC Community meeting re Waituna Consent	@ ES	Thursday 4 April 2024	5.30 pm	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Murihiku Marae Community Day	@ ES	Sunday 7 April 2024	All day	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Filming for LTP publicity	@ ES	Monday 8 April 2024	11.00 am	Chairman Horrell	-	✓	
Chairman's Catch-up with Councillors by TEAMs	Via TEAMs	Tuesday 9 April 2024	5.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Thriving Southland Breakfast meeting	@ Ascot Park Hotel	Wednesday 10 April 2024	7.00 am	Chairman Horrells, Crs McPhail, Gibson, McDonald, Pemberton & CE	-	✓	

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Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Council Workshop – Cultural Narrative and Coastal Plan	@ ES	Wednesday 10 April 2024	9.30 am	All Councillors and Mana Whenua reps	-	✓	
Southland Business Chamber AGM	@ Invercargill	Thursday 11 April 2024	10.30 am	Cr Ludlow	-	✓	
Ballance Farm Environment Awards Event	@ Ascot Park Hotel	Thursday 11 April 2024	6.00 pm 6.40 pm	Crs McPhail & Morrison	-	✓	
<del>Regional Transport Committee meeting to recommend RLTP to Council</del>	<del>@ TEAMS</del>	<del>Tuesday 16 April 2024</del>	<del>10.00 am</del>	<del>Crs McPhail &amp; Morrison</del>	-	<del>✓</del>	
Waiau Catchment Liaison Committee AGM	@ Tuatapere	Monday 15 April 2024	1.00 pm lunch 1.30 pm mtg	Interested Councillors		✓	
Site Visits – Young and Pinckney properties	From ES	Tuesday 16 April 2024	All day	Chairman Horrell, CE & Staff	-	✓	

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## Councillors Meeting Schedule - March 2024

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Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
April					-	-	
Council caucus opportunity Executive team meet with Council <i>Morning tea break</i> Ordinary meeting of Council <i>Lunch break</i> Council Workshop – Understanding the DAPP Process	@ ES	Wednesday 17 April 2024	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee AGM	@ Waituna	Tuesday 23 April 2024	1.00 pm	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Chairman's catch-up with Councillors	Via TEAMS	Tuesday 23 April 2024	5.00 pm	All Councillors	-	-	
Council Workshop – Compliance Annual Priorities	@ ES	Wednesday 24 April 2024	10.00 am	All Councillors	-	-	

**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 - March 2024

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Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
May							
Southland Community Broadcasters Charitable Trust meeting	@ Findex	Thursday 2 May 2024	3.15 pm	Cr Cook	-	✓	
Held for hearing of submissions to the LTP Consultation Process	TBC/ES	Monday 6 to Friday 24 May 2024	All days	All Councillors	-	✓	
Chairman's catch-up with Councillors	Via TEAMS	Tuesday 7 May 2024	5.00 pm	All Councillors	-	-	
Strategy & Policy Committee Regional Services Committee	@ ES	Wednesday 8 May 2024	10.00 am 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Enviroschools Hui	@ Thornbury	Wednesday 8 May 2024	10.30 am	Interested Councillors	-	✓	
Regulatory Committee Council Workshop – Aquaculture & Ecosystems & Biodiversity	@ ES	Thursday 9 May 2024	10.00 am 1.00 pm (or follow-on)	All Councillors and Mana Whenua reps	-	✓	

**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 - March 2024

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Cr Evans – 9 July to 13 August 2024

Cr Ludlow – 12-27 June 2024;

Cr McPhail – 13-21 April 2024

Cr Morrison – 2-5 April; 22-30 April; 4-12 June 2024

Cr Rodway – 18-28 April 2024

Meeting	Venue	Date	Time	Council Representation	Fees/ Allowances		
					Meeting Fee	Mileage Allowance	Other
Southland Mayoral Forum	@ ES	Friday 10 May 2024	9.00 am	Chairman Horrell Cr McPhail	-	✓	
Chairman's catch-up with Councillors	Via TEAMS	Tuesday 21 May 2024	5.00 pm	All Councillors	-	-	
Finance & Performance Committee Council Workshop – representation review	@ ES	Wednesday 22 May 2024	10.00 am 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	
Regional Climate Change Working Group meeting	@ ES	Thursday 23 May 2024	10.00 am	Crs Morrison & Rodway	-	✓	
Great South Joint Shareholders Committee	@ Great South	Friday 24 May 2024	9.00 am	Chairman Horrell & CE	-	✓	
Catchment Liaison Committee Chairs meeting with Regional Services Committee	@ ES	Tuesday 28 May 2024	1.30 pm	All Regional Services Committee	-	✓	
Council caucus opportunity Executive team meet with Council <i>Morning tea break</i> Ordinary meeting of Council <i>Lunch break</i> Council Workshop – <i>if required</i>	@ ES	Wednesday 29 May 2024	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm 1.00 pm	All Councillors	-	✓	

**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

## Item 10.6 Common Seal

**Objective ID:** A1070192

**Report by:** Jan Brown, Executive Officer

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council to which documents the Common Seal has been applied, as required by its Governance Policies.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to note the report.**

The Common Seal has been applied to the following documents, under approved authorisation, since Council received the last report on this matter:

#### **Warrant to Act as an Authorised Person under the Biosecurity Act 1993**

Robert Austin Emmett

Luke Simeon

on 9 October 2023

#### **Warrant to Act as an Enforcement Officer**

Jaimee Diane Wilson

on 11 March 2024

#### **Warrant to Act as an Enforcement**

Jen Geange – for the period 31 March to 7 April 2024

on 26 March 2024

## Item 10.7 Ongoing Items

**Objective ID:** A1070216

**Report by:** Jan Brown, Executive Officer

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to ensure items that have had direction provided from Council to bring them back to a future meeting, are not lost sight of, and Councillors are kept apprised of progress with their requests.

### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Council resolve to note the Ongoing Items.**

### Item x.01 – Request for Councillor Training and Conference Attendance Policy

At the last meeting of Council, staff were requested to develop a policy on Councillor training and attendance at conferences/meetings, to ensure there was a consistent approach taken to such matters, rather than the current ad hoc approach. That policy was to be reported back to the this Council meeting.

Due to limited resources currently being available within the Democracy Services area of Council (as a result of illness) this work has not been completed in time for it to be included in this agenda. It is anticipated, however, that the policy will be available in draft form, for consideration at the next Ordinary meeting of Council, scheduled for 29 May 2024.