

Otago Mayoral Forum

Friday 15 March 2024

9:00am-12:30pm, ORC Council Chamber
Level 2, Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray St, Dunedin

Chair: Mayor Gary Kircher

Time	Item	Paper
9:00 [5']	1 Welcome Apologies Minutes of the previous Otago Mayoral Forum on 8 December 2023	p. 3
9.05 [25']	2 Upcoming meeting with Minister Simeon Brown An opportunity to discuss priorities and an agenda for the Forum's meeting with Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, Local Government, and Energy, in Queenstown on April 4.	-
9.30 [30']	3 Fast Track Approvals Bill and city/regional deals Mike Theelen, Chief Executive at Queenstown Lakes District Council, will lead a discussion on the implications of these rapidly developing policy areas.	-
10.00 [30']	4 Regional Public Service - Health Representatives from WellSouth and Te Whatu Ora will join the Forum to discuss health reform, issues and services in Otago. Ginny Howden, Regional Public Service Director – Otago (in place of Steph Voight, Regional Public Service Commissioner for Otago), will attend as part of the Forum's commitment to a joined-up public service in Otago.	
10.30	- Morning tea	

10.45 [45']	5	<p>Otago and Southland water services</p> <p><u>Southland Mayoral Forum to attend</u>. This discussion picks up on a commitment at the Joint Otago Southland Mayoral Forum in February to explore options for working together on water services delivery across the two regions.</p>	p. 7
11.30 [15']	6	<p>Regional partnership with mana whenua; Te Rōpū Taiao Otago</p> <p>The Forum is invited to consider how new Māori liaison, engagement and similar roles at the region's Councils might support a more deliberate regional partnership with mana whenua, including through Te Rōpū Taiao Otago. The Otago Chief Executive Forum has expressed support for a renewed effort to review the Te Rōpū Taiao Governance Charter.</p>	-
11.45 [15']	7	<p>General Business and wrap up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on regional collaboration priorities • Agenda items for the next Regional Leadership Group hui • General business as arising 	
12.00 [30']	8	<p>Scott Willis MP</p> <p>Scott Willis, a Green Party list MP based in Dunedin, joins the Forum as part of an ongoing initiative to build relationships with Otago-based and Otago-representative Members of Parliament.</p>	-
12.30	-	<p>Close</p> <p>Lunch to follow</p>	

Minutes of a meeting of the Otago Mayoral Forum
held on Friday 8 December at 9.00am
in the ORC Council Chamber and via Zoom



Membership

Mayor Tim Cadogan	Central Otago District Council
Mayor Bryan Cadogan	Clutha District Council
Mayor Jules Radich	Dunedin City Council
Cr Gretchen Robertson	Otago Regional Council
Mayor Glyn Lewers	Queenstown Lakes District Council
Mayor Gary Kircher	Waitaki District Council
Chief Executive Peter Kelly	Central Otago District Council
Chief Executive Steve Hill	Clutha District Council
Chief Executive Sandy Graham	Dunedin City Council
Chief Executive Richard Saunders	Otago Regional Council
Chief Executive Mike Theelen	Queenstown Lakes District Council
Chief Executive Alex Parmley	Waitaki District Council

In attendance

Cr Lloyd McCall, Deputy Chair, Otago Regional Council
Deputy Mayor Ken Payne, Clutha District Council
Marianna Brook, Senior Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat
Kelly Taylor Covey, Executive Assistant, Otago Regional Council

1. WELCOME

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Gretchen Robertson and Steve Hill, and Glyn Lewers and Richard Saunders for lateness.

It was moved:

That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Mayor B Cadogan

Seconded: Mayor T Cadogan

CARRIED

1.2 Agenda confirmation

The agenda was confirmed, with agreement to delay discussion on the briefing for MPs until Mayor Lewers was in attendance.

1.3 Minutes confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of the Otago Mayoral Forum meeting held on 9 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor B Cadogan

Seconded: Mayor T Cadogan

CARRIED

2. LGNZ 'FUTURE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT' PROCESS

The Forum has an ongoing interest in local government reform. All Otago councils are involved in LGNZ's ongoing process to respond to the review panel's final report, to culminate in a Special General Meeting on the Monday following the Forum meeting.

There was some discussion on LGNZ's position paper with several councils noting that they had already voted to support it. All others indicated that they were likely to support all of the paper's five propositions. Mayor Tim Cadogan reminded the group that he is a member of LGNZ's steering group for this work and said that it is gratifying to hear that Otago's councils are all on the same page.

3. CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT: OTAGO MAYORAL FORUM BRIEFING FOR MPS

Forum members reviewed a draft briefing containing shared messages from the Forum to incoming Otago-based and Otago-representative MPs. The briefing was commissioned following the general election and is the first time in recent years that the Forum has worked towards agreed priorities for an external audience. It is intended that the five priorities guide the Forum's work in the year to come. The second part of the briefing is a fact file of information on Otago's local authorities and their districts.

Discussion focussed on the 'top five' list and whether and how some of the items could be changed and combined. It was agreed to keep it to five items so that the document remains concise. Various suggestions to changes of wording were proposed, and it was agreed that Marianna would take this away to tidy up then return it back to the Forum early the following week, and from there to the recipient MPs. [Note: the final briefing is now on the Forum's website, accessible via the December 2023 meeting page.]

4. OTAGO PUBLIC SERVICE - FENZ

Phil Marsh, Otago District Manager, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), joined the Forum to discuss FENZ's strategic direction for Otago. Steph Voight, Regional Public Service Commissioner for Otago, and Ginny Howden, Regional Public Service Director for Otago, also attended as part of the Forum's commitment to a joined-up public service in Otago.

Ms Voight provided updates on movements in Otago's public sector organisations, notably that Rachael Galway is the new Otago lead for Oranga Tamariki, Shona Low acting Police District Commander, and Te Ara Poutama/Corrections undergoing a national restructure. Initial briefings with new MPs are underway and public servants starting to see clear direction and expectations. The Government's 100-day plan has 49 items affecting the public service.

Mr Marsh reported that the region will start to dry out in the next few weeks. FENZ has been doing a lot of preparation to ensure a larger turnout for fire events. Some areas already have fire restrictions and satellite imagery is now being used to decide on when to move areas in and out of restricted. Mr Marsh noted that new speed restrictions are impacting on the service's ability to reach fires in a timely manner – an exemption is being sought. The Otago team is anticipating the arrival of a new aerial appliance capable of thermal/infrared imagery early in 2024, followed by a new incident support vehicle in April.

All parties agreed that region-wide updates on the public service are useful and should continue.

5. MINISTER MARK PATTERSON

Mark Patterson, Minister for Rural Communities and Associate Minister for Agriculture, visited the Forum to connect with members. The group extended their congratulations on his election and ministerial appointment. Mr Patterson replied that he is highly motivated and aware that he has only three years in this term to make a difference.

The group discussed key challenges facing local government. Mr Patterson noted that three waters legislation was to be repealed but that didn't make the problem go away. His advice to the Forum was to be strategic in the advocacy they sought, suggesting they ask for two or three key areas of change.

6. REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

ORC Deputy Chair Lloyd McCall presented a forward-looking overview of ORC policy matters of significance, including the Regional Policy Statement, Land and Water Regional Plan, Air Plan, and Climate Strategy.

The existing regional plan is well out of date. Otago's council had participated in the process towards a fit-for-purpose replacement and there will be further consultation in 2024.

Work on the Air Plan started about 4-5 months ago so is currently in the early stages.

It was moved:

That the Otago Mayoral Forum note this summary of current and planned ORC policy initiatives.

Moved: Deputy Chair Lloyd McCall

Seconded: Mayor B Cadogan

CARRIED

7. OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL CLIMATE STRATEGY

Francisco Hernandez, Principal Advisor Climate Change, was to have joined the Forum to speak about the Strategy. Due to time constraints, he would now send an email to members instead.

8. ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACROSS OTAGO

Earlier in the meeting the Forum agreed that access to healthcare would be a 'top five' priority for 2024. This was in part prompted by an opinion piece circulated with the agenda which reported a significant undersupply of mental health community staff, particularly outside of Dunedin. The chair suggested that the Forum extend an invitation to the new Minister for Mental Health Matt Doocey and this was agreed.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS AND WRAP UP

Update on regional collaboration priorities

Recruitment for a Regional Waste Officer is underway. This role is a direct outcome of the Forum's previous focus on solid waste and recycling issues across Otago. The position can be based at any of Otago's local authorities and will work to connect council teams and reduce duplication.

Confirmation of 2024 meeting dates

The 2024 schedule was noted and agreed, though it was suggested that future meetings avoid parliament sitting weeks for the best chance of MP attending. The calendar will be reviewed once parliament releases its 2024 dates.

Agenda items for the next Regional Leadership Group

The Forum agreed to raise access to mental health for discussion at the next Regional Leadership Group meeting. Te Whatu Ora is represented at the hui.

General business

Sandy Graham advised that DCC is holding the pen on a paper looking at how a coalition of the willing for three waters might work across Otago and Southland. A draft is expected by February.

Mayor Kircher acknowledged all the work Marianna had done to pull together the agenda for this meeting and to get the MPs along.

10. WARREN ULUSELE

Prior to breaking for lunch, the Forum was joined by Warren Ulusele, Partnership Director for Otago at the Central/Local Government Partnerships Group, Department of Internal Affairs. Mr Ulusele advised that Ministers were starting to share their priorities with DIA, focusing on the 100-day plan.

The repeal of three waters legislation is a key focus for DIA. Correspondence from the Minister is due to be released prior to Christmas, with the intention of providing clarity to those working on LTPs. It was agreed that the Forum would write to the Minister for Local Government requesting that any statement contains sufficient detail for LTP documents to be released, and ask that information on the Government's future water policy be released as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 12.42pm



Chair Gary Kircher

15 March 2024

Date



Proposal

Otago and Southland options for working together on water services delivery

Otago and Southland Mayoral Forums
March 2024



Background and introduction

The Joint Otago and Southland Mayoral Forum agreed in February 2024 to explore options for working together on water services delivery across the two regions.

The regions' chief executives were tasked with developing a way forward.

This slide pack introduces three parallel groups of activities in response to this brief.

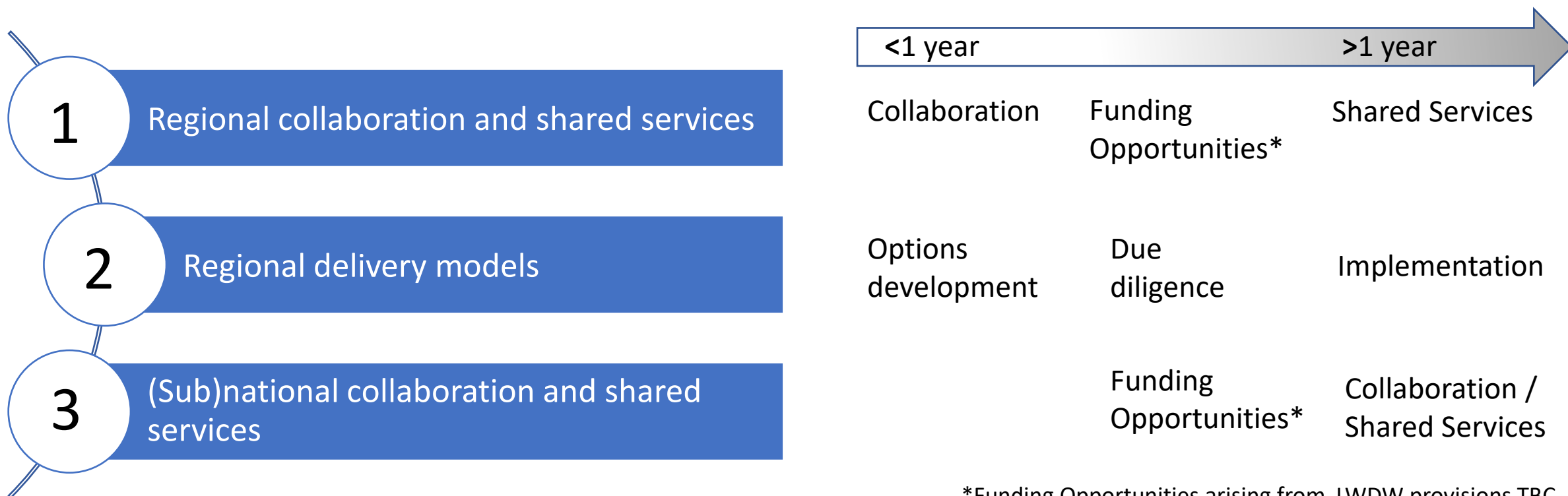
The final slide proposes a way forward.





Three parallel activities

Three groups of activities are introduced in the figure below and detailed in the slides that follow



*Funding Opportunities arising from LWDW provisions TBC





Regional Collaboration Opportunities – year 1

The first set of activities can be pursued (and in some cases implemented) in year one without further policy change. Councils can:

- Maximise **financial** benefit by reducing the cost of infrastructure creation, including through:
 - A common planning approach (already started under NTU model)
 - Common design standards (already started under NTU model)
- Maximise **regulatory** improvements by working with regulator(s) on compliance monitoring and reporting, including through:
 - Common Water Safety Plans
 - A common Operating Strategy
- Maximise **cultural** improvement by developing unified approach with Ngāi Tahu on the adoption and implementation of Te Mana o te Wai.





Regional Shared Services Opportunities – beyond year 1

Formal shared services are an option over the longer term, including:

- A regional long-term engineering services panel
- A regional physical works panel
- Regional manufacturing strategy (mechanical/electrical equipment)
- Digital services
- Operations and insights ‘nerve centre’
- Call centre
- Customer billing





Regional Delivery Models – year 1

The second activity is to develop an analysis of regional delivery models.

The analysis should capture councils’ objectives, then provide a set of conceptual options, explain how each would work, and outline the pros and cons of each.

The table below provides a starting point for this work. More will be known about available options as the Government reveals details of its proposed legislation.

NB Minister of Local Government refers to ‘*dilution*’ of CCO ownership, meaning 3 or more Councils forming a CCO.

Shared Services	Management	Asset Owning
<p>Staff from each council seconded into a single group but continue to be employed by their respective councils. Likewise, assets would continue to be owned by respective councils.</p>	<p>3 waters assets would be owned by each respective council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCO would employ its own staff and provide its own support services. • Public would deal directly with the CCO for three waters matters. • CCO would have regional strategic responsibility for network management and asset management strategies and deliver all capital and operational works. 	<p>The CCO would own the 3 waters assets and would be responsible for investment required for new infrastructure and meeting standards. It would consolidate operational and infrastructure costs to develop economies of scale.</p>

Source: Hawke’s Bay Three Waters Business Case of Three Waters Service Delivery Options, Morrison Low July 2020

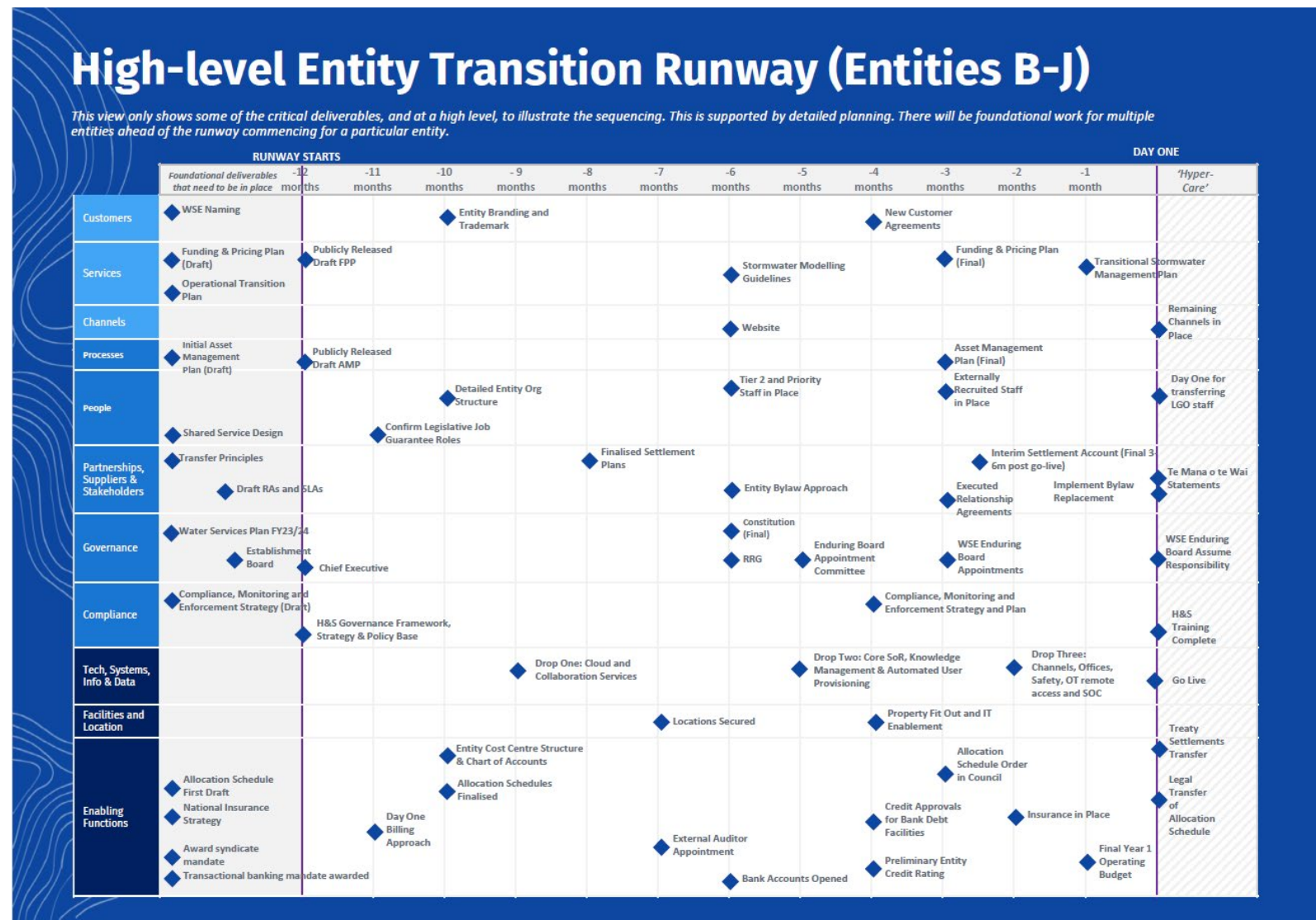
<https://www.hb3waters.nz/assets/Uploads/HB-3-Waters-Delivery-Detailed-Analysis-29.07.20-Full-Report.pdf>





Regional Delivery Models – beyond year 1

Implementing any new delivery model will be a significant undertaking, as illustrated by the NTU's 'runway' model.





(Sub)-national Collaboration and Shared Services Opportunities

The third group of activities involve national- and sub-national collaboration and shared services models. Many of these activities were initiated by the NTU but offer value to councils under various future scenarios.

Options include:

- Maintaining strong connections with Canterbury and West Coast councils, including for Takiwā-wide engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
- Common approaches to National Environmental Standards
- Offsite manufacturing hubs
- Asset management systems and systems of record





Funding Opportunities

Local Water Done Well (LWDW) intimates new funding models will be made available

If this includes public-private partnerships (PPPs) then established uses of this model typically involve either:

- Build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT), or
- Design, build, maintain, and operate (DBO or DBMO)

The above works best for new infrastructure where a high level of funder control can be exercised





Next Steps

Feedback is sought from the Otago and Southland Mayoral Forums on the high-level approach outlined in this presentation.

With continued support, the next step is for CEs to further develop the proposal, including by addressing two key questions:

- What is required – in terms of people and funding – to resource these activities?
- Who needs to be involved to ensure the work has appropriate leadership and reflects the needs and interests of councils across the region?

It is proposed that staff from three councils across the two regions, including DCC, form a small scoping group to progress these issues. The scoping group can prepare a detailed scope of work by the end of April 2024, for discussion with the regions' leaders.

