

Otago Mayoral Forum

Friday 13 December 2024

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

Chair: Mayor Gary Kircher

Time	Item		Paper
9:00 [15']	1	Welcome Apologies – none received Welcome to Mayor Tamah Alley Minutes of the previous Otago Mayoral Forum on 6 Sep 2024	p. 3
9.15 [45']	2	Hon Kieran McAnulty MP Kieran McAnulty, Labour Spokesperson for Housing, Local Government and Regional Development, will join the Forum to discuss issues of shared interest.	
10.00 [15']	3	Water services reform – general discussion An opportunity for reflections and updates on water services reform, ahead of DIA's visit later in the meeting.	
10.15	-	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.30 [15']	4	Wastewater standards Otago Regional Council CE Richard Saunders will lead a discussion on new wastewater performance standards and their potential impact on consenting processes in Otago.	
10.45 [45']	5	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agenda items for meetings on February 5, 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">Joint Otago and Southland Mayoral ForumJoint Otago and Southland Te Rōpū TaiaoWaste funding advocacy: draft letter for the Forum's considerationAgenda items for the next Regional Leadership Group hui2025 meeting scheduleGeneral business as arising	p. 10

11.30 [30']	6	Water services reform - DIA Bex Sullivan, Deputy Executive Director, Water Services Policy, Legislation & Stewardship and Marlon Bridge, Chief Technical Advisor from the Department of Internal Affairs will join the Forum to discuss ongoing water services delivery reform matters. Central/Local Government Partnership Director Warren Ulusele will also be in attendance.	
12.00	-	<i>Close</i>	

Minutes of a meeting of the Otago Mayoral Forum
held on Friday 6 September 2024 at 9.00am
in the 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

Scott Maclean (for Sandy Graham), Dunedin City Council
Marianna Brook, Principal Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat
Kelly Taylor Covey, Executive Assistant, Otago Regional Council

1. WELCOME

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sandy Graham.

It was moved:

That the apology be accepted.

Moved: Mayor B Cadogan

Seconded: Cr Robertson

CARRIED

1.2 Minutes confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of the Otago Mayoral Forum meeting held on 7 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor B Cadogan

Seconded: Cr Robertson

CARRIED

Gary noted his appreciation for Bryan stepping in at the last meeting.

2. HON RACHEL BROOKING MP

Rachel Brooking, MP for Dunedin, and Glen Bennett MP, Labour spokesperson for Economic Development and associate for Energy, joined the Forum as part of its ongoing initiative to build relationships with Otago-based and Otago-representative Members of Parliament.

Ms Brooking invited Forum members to think about the policy direction they'd like to see and the messages they want to be sending. Discussion focussed on the Fast Track Approvals Bill, with members citing much uncertainty about its implications for their districts and the role of councils.

The New Dunedin Hospital was also raised, with those present expressing concern about potential cuts signalled by Central Government.

3. NEW DUNEDIN HOSPITAL

Blake Lepper, Head of Infrastructure Delivery, Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora, joined the Forum to update members on the New Dunedin Hospital project.

Mr Lepper outlined his experience and personal connections to the Otago region. He noted that the Dunedin hospital is an acute focus for everyone and that he was limited at this point as to how much he could say on it. Health NZ received additional funding for the hospital earlier in 2024, but a shortfall remains. They were working hard to try and close the gaps and to get a contract on the table that could be recommended to government and would deliver a hospital that was fit for purpose.

Mr Lepper noted that more information would be made available to the public shortly as to which direction that was heading, and once that was done, he was happy to come back to the Forum and take them through it step by step.

4. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL WORKING GROUP

[Notes from the joint discussion with the Southland Mayoral Forum have been circulated separately]

5. ENGAGEMENT WITH MINISTERS, INCLUDING UPCOMING REGIONAL SUMMIT

Members discussed options for engagement with Ministers and Members of Parliament as a Forum. Minister Shane Jones will be in Dunedin for a Regional Economic Development Summit on October 4. It was suggested that Mark Patterson MP be invited to the next Mayoral Forum or dinner.

Mayor Kircher noted that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is planning to travel to Wellington early in 2025 for a series of Ministerial meetings at Parliament, and suggested that the Otago Mayoral Forum may wish to pursue a similar event. It was **agreed** that the Chair and secretariat would look into options, noting that Forum members would need to be cohesive in their messaging and to pull key messages together in advance of any meeting.

6. REGIONAL DEALS: FRAMEWORK ANNOUNCEMENT

In the light of the newly-released Regional Deals Strategic Framework, the Forum considered implications for Otago as summarized in an agenda paper. Mayor Lewers noted that the Framework allowed for sub-regional deals and said that Queenstown Lakes was actively looking at options that might leverage their

existing Regional Growth Partnership arrangements.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS AND WRAP UP

- Update on regional collaboration priorities: Otago's new Regional Waste Advisor, Anna Robinson, has now started in her role. The role is direct outcome of the 2019-2022 Forum's prioritisation of waste and recycling collaboration. Ms Robinson is making an effort to get around the region as a priority.
- Agenda items for the next Regional Leadership Group hui: none identified.
- General business:
 - Winterstellar Charitable Trust briefing note. Forum members noted a written update received from Brian Boyle, who had been a previous visitor to the Forum speaking about dark sky initiatives.
 - Matters arising from the LGNZ conference and AGM. Mayor Tim Cadogan reported that these had gone well. There had been good feedback about combining the community board conference with that traditionally targeting councillors and mayors.
 - Unitary councils. Members acknowledged proposals looking into unitary councils, notably at Dunedin City Council and in the Southland region. Mayor Radich clarified that the DCC initiative is at the point of identifying possible arrangements for looking at the matter, and no detailed work is underway.
 - Waitangi Day / Te Rōpū Taiao funding and attendance. Mayor Lewers advised that planning for 2025 Waitangi Day commemorations in Queenstown Lakes is underway. Councils will be asked to signal who will be attending, and QLDC is likely to request a small financial contribution from other councils. An application was also in preparation seeking funding from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.
 - DIA restructure. Mayor Lewers reported that DIA is undertaking a restructure, affecting the Local Government branch and partnership director roles. LGNZ has written to the department on the matter. It was **agreed** that the Forum would write to DIA advocating for strong policy and engagement on local government matters.

The meeting closed at 12.29pm



Chair Gary Kircher

13 December 2024

Date

Otago Mayoral Forum meeting dates 2025							Key		Otago meetings	Canterbury meetings			
As at 11 November							LGNZ meetings		Public holidays/weekends	School holidays			
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
s		1	1								1		
s		2	2			1					2		s
m		3	3			2 King's Birthday			1		3	1	m
t		4	4	1		3	1		2			2	t
w	1 New Year's Day	5 Joint Otago and Southland Te Rōpū Taiao and Mayoral Forum	5	2		4	2		3	1	5	3	w
t	2 Holiday	6 Waitangi Day	6	3	1 LGNZ Combined	5	3		4	2	6	4	t
f	3	7		4	2 LGNZ Sector	6	4	1 LGNZ National	5 Otago Mayoral Forum	3	7	5 Otago Mayoral Forum	f
s	4	8	8	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	8	6	s
s	5	9	9	6	4	8	6	3	7	5	9	7	s
m	6	10	10	7	5 Cant CEs Forum	9	7	4	8	6	10 Cant CEs Forum	8	m
t	7	11	11	8		10	8	5	9	7	11	9	t
w	8	12	12	9	7	11	9	6	10	8	12	10	w
t	9	13 CMF dinner	13	10	8	12	10	7	11	9	13 LGNZ Combined	11	t
f	10	14 Cant Mayoral Forum	14	11	9	13 Otago Mayoral Forum and Te Rōpū Taiao	11	8 Otago CE Forum	12 LGNZ National	10	14 LGNZ Sector	12	f
s	11	15	15	12	10	14	12	9	13	11 LOCAL ELECTIONS	15	13	s
s	12	16	16	13	11	15	13	10	14	12	16	14	s
m	13	17	17	14	12	16	14	11	15	13	17	15 LGNZ National	m
t	14	18	18	15	13	17	15 LGNZ National	12	16	14	18	16 LGNZ National	t
w	15	19	19	16	14	18	16 LGNZ Conference	13	17	15	19	17	w
t	16	20 LGNZ National	20	17	15	19	17 LGNZ Conference	14	18	16	20	18	t
f	17	21 Otago CE Forum LGNZ National	21 LGNZ National	18 Good Friday	16 LGNZ National	20 Matariki	18	15 LGNZ Regional	19	17	21 Otago CE Forum	19	f
s	18	22	22	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	22	20	s
s	19	23	23	20	18	22	20	17	21	19	23	21	s
m	20	24	24	21 Easter Monday	19	23	21	18	22	20 Cant CEs Forum (online)	24	22	m
t	21		25	22	20	24	22	19	23	21	25	23	t
w	22	26	26	23	21	25	23	20	24	22	26	24	w
t	23	27 LGNZ Combined	27	24	22	26	24	21 CMF dinner	25	23	27 CMF dinner	25 Christmas Day	t
f	24	28 LGNZ Sector Mtg	28 Otago Mayoral Forum	25 ANZAC Day	23 Otago CE Forum	27 LGNZ National	25	22 Cant Mayoral Forum	26	24	28 Cant Mayoral Forum	26 Boxing Day	f
s	25		29	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	29	27	s
s	26		30	27	25	29	27	24	28	26	30	28	s
m	27 Cant CEs Forum		31	28 LGNZ National	26	30	28 Cant CEs Forum	25	29	27 Labour Day		29	m
t	28			29	27			26	30	28		30	t
w	29			30	28		30	27		29		31 New Years Eve	w
t	30				29 CMF dinner		31	28		30			t
f	31				30 Cant Mayoral Forum			29		31			f
s					31			30					s
s								31					s