

# Otago Mayoral Forum

Friday 7 June 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 <b>Welcome</b> Apologies received from Mayor Tim Cadogan and Mike Theelen Attending will be Deputy Mayor Ken Payne, Clutha District Minutes of the previous Otago Mayoral Forum on 15 March 2024	p. 3
9.05 [55']	2 <b>Water services collaboration</b> Southland Mayoral Forum members will join via Zoom to discuss the progress and direction of work underway to better understand water services options across the two regions. Dave Ward, General Manager 3 Waters & Transition, Dunedin City Council, and Erin Moogan, GM Infrastructure, Invercargill City Council, will present on behalf of the working group.	
10.00 [30']	3 <b>Regional Public Service – Ministry of Education</b> Julie Anderson, Director of Education for Otago and Southland, Ministry of Education, will join the Forum to discuss education matters, with a focus on school attendance and engagement. Steph Voight, Regional Public Service Commissioner for Otago, and Ginny Howden, Regional Public Service Director - Otago, will attend as part of the Forum's commitment to a joined-up public service in Otago. Steph Voight's update will include MSD insight into the Government's jobseeker reduction target.	
10.30	- <b>Morning tea</b>	

10.45 [30']	5	<p><b>Mike Collins – Business South</b></p> <p>Mike Collins, Chief Executive at Business South, will join the Forum to discuss business and the economy in Otago. Business South is creating a Business Development Plan for Dunedin, with the next phase being to develop a high-level Business Development Plan for the Otago region working in partnership with the business community.</p>	
11.15 [15']	6	<p><b>Advocacy, regional economic development, and regional/city deals</b></p> <p>An opportunity for the Forum to consider opportunities to advocate and work together in anticipation of regional/city deals and related economic development opportunities for Otago.</p>	
11.30 [30']	7	<p><b>General Business and wrap up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtable on Long Term and Annual Plans</li> <li>• Update on regional collaboration priorities</li> <li>• Agenda items for the next Regional Leadership Group hui</li> <li>• General business as arising</li> </ul>	
12.00	-	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>Te Rōpū Taiao Otago to follow</p>	

Minutes of a meeting of the Otago Mayoral Forum  
held on Friday 15 March 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**

Marianna Brook, Principal Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat  
Kelly Taylor Covey, Executive Assistant, Otago Regional Council

**1. WELCOME**

**1.1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jules Radich and Richard Saunders for lateness.

It was moved:

*That the apologies 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 8 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

Moved: Mayor B Cadogan

Seconded: Cr Robertson

CARRIED

## **2. UPCOMING MEETING WITH MINISTER SIMEON BROWN**

A discussion was held in preparation for the Forum's meeting with Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, Local Government, and Energy, on April 4th. The meeting is an opportunity to speak with the Minister in person while he is in the region for transport-related announcements.

Forum members agreed to each put forward a one page view from their respective Councils by Monday, in order to have a briefing ready to share with the Minister's staff by Wednesday. Each briefing would broadly address councils' 'offer' and aspirations, outline obstacles and challenges ahead, and conclude with a way forward. Briefings should be shared with Marianna Brook, who will produce an agenda drawing on their themes, to be finalised by round-robin email.

## **3. FAST TRACK CONSENTING BILL AND CITY/REGIONAL DEALS**

Mike Theelen gave a verbal update on the implications of these rapidly developing policy areas. He noted that when the CEs last met they were anticipating the fast track legislation. The legislation had since been introduced to the House. Key issues are similar to the fast track laws introduced during Covid, but with important differences. Crucially, Ministers have final decision-making rights on all projects; Councils will need to process and administer consents once approved.

In contrast, there is little detail on promised city/regional deals. The Government has indicated that it will release a framework mid-year for feedback and refinement.

## **4. REGIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE - HEALTH**

Stuart Barson, WellSouth, and Aroha Metcalf and Nancy Todd, Te Whatu Ora, joined the Forum to discuss health reform, issues and services in Otago. Ginny Howden, Regional Public Service Director – Otago, attended in place of Steph Voight, Otago's Public Service Commissioner.

Ginny Howden outlined a number of changes affecting Otago's public services, including the recent disestablishment of the Otago Regional Skills Leadership Group, and changes to emergency housing priorities seeing those in emergency housing for more than 12 weeks moving to the top of the list. The Regional Leadership Group is continuing to progress work on Otago's regional funding footprint, a data dashboard led by the Social Wellbeing Agency, and cross-agency approaches to type 2 diabetes, among other issues.

The Forum's discussion on health changes covered a broad range of issues. Forum members asked about changes to proposed health localities, learning that the new Minister of Health has shifted the date by which locality boundaries are to be set to 2029, with locality plans not due until 2030. It is likely that shifting these dates heralds a significant change in approach. The new Dunedin Hospital outpatient building is now at full height, heading towards a 2026 opening date. Primary care is facing challenges, especially as regards after-hours care. Contracts established during Covid are coming to an end on June 30 which is adding to challenges for some. A positive change from the Labour Government's reform is fewer barriers for Waitaki residents to access healthcare from Timaru, which previously sat under a separate DHB. Mayor Bryan Cadogan asked about GP capacity in the Clutha district, and Stuart Barson undertook to follow up with providers.

## **5. OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND WATER SERVICES**

Members of the Southland Mayoral Forum joined the meeting to explore options for working together on water services delivery across the two regions. Sandy Graham spoke to the agenda presentation, noting the suggestion that relevant council staff form a small group, and that DCC was ready to start and was happy to work collaboratively. There was general agreement from the group on a willingness to work together, and on the three proposed workstreams: regional collaboration and shared services; regional delivery models; and (sub) national collaboration and shared services. It was decided that CEs should continue to lead this work as it is operational and/or analytical at this stage. It was noted that the DCCs work on this is appreciated.

## **6. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH MANA WHENUA; TE RŌPŪ TAIAO OTAGO**

The Forum was 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. The Otago Chief Executive Forum has expressed support for a renewed effort to review the Te Rōpū Taiao Governance Charter.

Alex Parmley advised the discussion at the CE Forum noted that the existing charter was out of date and in need of a review. The next Te Rōpū Taiao hui is in June, and some preparatory work would be good to see. There was discussion about the value of having a hui of both parties to discuss mutual expectations around the charter, and whether this should take place at or before the next partnership meeting.

It was suggested that if the aim was to make it genuinely a partnership, then meetings might be held on marae on occasion, rather than solely in council offices. It was agreed there was a need to look at how more value can be added to the partnership, rather than simply just maintaining it.

It was agreed that Gary Kircher and Marianna meet with Te Rōpū Taiao Co-Chair Edward to delve into this more and discuss how to proceed.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS AND WRAP UP**

Tim Cadogan provided an update on issues discussed at LGNZ's National Council. The last meeting was two weeks ago and focused on LGNZ's budget and fee proposals. He noted also that CouncilMARK (under a new name) is being relaunched.

## **8. SCOTT WILLIS MP**

Scott Willis, a Green Party list MP based in Dunedin, joined the Forum as part of an ongoing initiative to build relationships with Otago-based and Otago-representative Members of Parliament.

Gary welcomed Scott and noted this was an opportunity to hear from him how things were going for him.

Scott listed the portfolios he holds on behalf of the Green Party - Dunedin Issues, energy, firearm regulation, regional development, rural communities, small business and manufacturing, and sport and recreation – and noted that he is a new MP.

The conversation traversed policy developments in the areas of three waters, EV policy, public transport, infrastructure and climate adaptation. Two local issues Scott said he has been advocating for are South Dunedin Futures and the new Dunedin hospital. Alongside others, he is seeking clarity on funding for the hospital. He was hopeful that the work on South Dunedin Futures might be able to be shared with other political parties, and he wanted the program to go to Central Government so that they could give it the best chance.

Scott expressed a willingness to continue to engage with the Forum, noting that he has the Green Party mandate to advocate strongly for Dunedin.

The meeting closed at 12.33pm

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Chair Gary Kircher

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Date

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