



Friday 5 December 2025

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

Chair: to be elected

Time	Item	Paper
9:00am	1 Welcome [10'] Apologies – received from Alex Parmley, CEO, Waitaki District Council Electing a chair Agenda confirmation	
9.10am	2 Local Government reform announcements [35] The Forum is invited to reflect on the recent Government announcement on local government reform, and its implications for the role and work of the Otago Mayoral Forum in the coming years.	p. 3
9.45am	3 Triennial Agreement [20'] The Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-29 is the foundation document for Otago's cross-council framework. Members are invited to review a draft agreement for councils' ratification in 2026.	p. 5
10.05am	4 Otago Mayoral Forum foundations [20'] Members are invited to discuss how the Forum should operate in the new triennium, with a particular focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• decision points set out in the briefing to incoming members (circulated separately); and• options for engaging with Government Ministers and officials, including with reference to recent correspondence from the Minister for the South Island. Key decisions will be recorded in the Forum's terms of reference, for later ratification.	

10.25am 5 **2026 Forum schedule**

[5'] A 2026 meeting schedule is attached for members' approval p. 14

10.30am - ***Morning tea***

10.45am 6 **Process to develop the Forum's focus areas**

[15'] A process to develop regional focus areas is described in the attached papers for members' consideration. p. 15

11.00am 7 **General business**

[30'] • Proposed letter of support for Wastebusters
• As arising p. 18

11.30pm - ***Forum concludes***

11.30am 8 **CDEM declarations workshop**

[60'] CDEM Otago will host a workshop on the CDEM Emergency Declaration process, including an understanding of the legislation, its application, and the things you should be considering as the decision maker. This workshop will be attended by emergency services representatives who will be available to impart their perspectives on the process.

12.30pm ***Meeting close***

Lunch to follow

CDEM Joint Committee commences at 1.00pm

Otago Mayoral Forum

Item 1

Date: 5 December 2025

Drafted by: Marianna Brook, Principal Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat

Selection of Chair

Purpose

1. This paper outlines the process for selection of the Otago Mayoral Forum Chair.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Otago Mayoral Forum:
 - a. **agree** to use first past the post voting procedure for selecting a Chair; and
 - b. **agree** that, in the event of a tie between the highest polling candidates, a coin toss will determine the successful candidate.

Background

3. The custom is for the Chair of the Otago Chief Executives Forum to chair the first meeting of the Mayoral Forum until the Forum has selected a Chair. This is consistent with the procedure to be followed at the first meeting of a local authority following local body elections (Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 21).
4. The Mayoral Forum is able to agree on the voting system to use to elect its Chair. It is suggested that the Forum agree to use the first past the post voting procedure and, in the event of a tie, that a coin toss will determine the successful candidate.

Role of the Chair

5. Details on the role, responsibilities, term and other matters relating to the Otago Mayoral Forum Chair will be agreed and recorded in the Forum's terms of reference.
6. The role of the Otago Mayoral Forum Chair has in previous trienniums involved:
 - a. presiding over of meetings, ensuring that they run in an orderly fashion,
 - b. acting as spokesperson, both in the media and through correspondence with Ministers and stakeholders,
 - c. championing and facilitating the Mayoral Forum's work programme,
 - d. liaising with the Chair of the CE Forum where appropriate,
 - e. liaising with external invitees such as Ministers, and
 - f. working closely with the Mayoral Forum secretariat.
7. The 2022-25 triennial agreement allows for the chair appointment to be reviewed after 18 months. In practice, the Otago Mayoral Forum Chair has been a three-year role in each of the last two trienniums: Mayor Tim Cadogan from 2019-22 and Mayor Gary Kircher from 2022-25.

Voting process steps

8. The steps involved in the process are as follows:
 - a. the Forum agrees to the voting procedure and the procedure in the event of a tie;
 - b. the interim Chair calls for nominations for the position of Chair, which need to be nominated and seconded;
 - c. nominees may make a brief statement in support of their nomination;
 - d. voting for Chair takes place as per agreed system;
 - e. Chair declared as elected; and
 - f. Chair assumes the chair.

Other matters

9. The proposed process to select the Chair and Deputy Chair complies with the Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7.
10. No honorarium or other remuneration is payable to the Chair.

Otago Mayoral Forum

Item 3

Date: 5 December 2025

Drafted by: Marianna Brook, Principal Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat

Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-29

Purpose

1. This paper accompanies the draft Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-29 and discusses a pathway for its ratification by 1 March 2026.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Otago Mayoral Forum:
 - a. **review** the attached Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-29, raising any amendments for discussion;
 - b. **note** that the Forum secretariat is available to support engagement on the draft agreement at Otago's councils; and
 - c. **agree** to refer the (amended) Triennial Agreement to councils for ratification prior to 1 March 2026.

Background

3. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires local authorities within a region to enter into a Triennial Agreement by 1 March following local body elections. A Triennial Agreement sets out how a region's councils will communicate and coordinate for the benefit of their region.
4. The draft Agreement presented for Members' consideration reflects an evolution in approach for the new triennium. Whereas previous versions focused on the Otago Mayoral Forum as the primary mechanism for implementing the agreement, the draft 2026-29 agreement presents the Mayoral Forum within a wider partnership framework for Otago's local authorities.
5. Consistent with this change in approach, a 'track changes' version referencing the previous agreement is not available, and members are invited to review the draft as a standalone document. The draft agreement closely aligns with the presentation titled 'A Partnership Framework for Otago's Councils', provided to members at the Otago Mayoral Forum initial meeting on Wednesday 19 November and presented to Otago Zone 6 attendees later that day.
6. The draft has been reviewed and amended by the Otago Chief Executives Forum. A copy has been provided to the Otago Regional Council Legal Counsel for review.

Proposal

7. A clear and succinct Triennial Agreement will provide a foundation for working together across the region in the new triennium.

8. The proposed agreement acknowledges the benefits of working together for Otago's local authorities, communities and natural environment. Parties to the agreement recognise that working together enables councils to build stronger relationships, share information and resources, coordinate responses to cross-boundary issues, and strengthen collective advocacy for the region.
9. The body of the agreement outlines a cross-council partnership framework for Otago, encompassing various governance and operational arrangements. Covered are the Otago Mayoral Forum, Otago Chief Executives Forum, Hui for Otago, joint committees, and staff working groups.
10. The final parts of the agreement acknowledge the partnership with Kāi Tahu ki Otago through Te Rōpū Taiao Otago, convened under a separate charter of understanding; notes support arrangements for Otago's cross-council framework, including a secretariat hosted by the Otago Regional Council; and sets out the required process for addressing any proposals by the regional council to undertake activities already performed by territorial authorities.

Proposed local government reform

11. On 25 November 2025, the Government announced that it is consulting on a proposal to simplify local government. The proposal includes a collective role for mayors in each region through a 'Combined Territories Board', which would lead regional issues among other responsibilities.
12. The draft triennial agreement is prepared under current legislation and does not attempt to accommodate the proposed reforms. The agreement may, however, be varied at any time by agreement between the Parties.

Engagement with councils

13. The triennial agreement is an agreement across Otago's local authorities. It impacts and must be approved by all six Otago councils.
14. The presentation at Zone 6 on 19 November was designed to introduce key content to councillors across the region. Members are invited to consider how best to facilitate engagement with councillors on the draft agreement before a final draft is put to them for approval in February.
15. The Otago Mayoral Forum secretariat is available to support any such engagement at Otago's councils, working with council chief executives as required.

Next steps

16. Subject to any amendments raised during the meeting, it is recommended that the Forum agree to refer the Triennial Agreement to member councils for their consideration and subsequent ratification by 1 March 2026, as required by the Act.
17. The Forum secretariat is available to support engagement on the agreement in the months ahead and will provide a pro forma Council paper to facilitate the signing process.



Clutha District Council



Otago Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2026–29

Preliminaries

1. The parties to the Agreement are Queenstown Lakes District Council, Central Otago District Council, Waitaki District Council, Dunedin City Council, Clutha District Council, and the Otago Regional Council (the Parties).
2. Under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002, every local authority in a region must enter into a triennial agreement by 1 March following local body elections.
3. The purpose of this agreement is to confirm how Otago's councils will communicate, coordinate, and collaborate during the triennium.
4. This agreement confirms the Parties' shared commitment to working together for the benefit of Otago's people, places, and natural environment.

Benefits of working together

5. The Parties recognise that communication, coordination and collaboration enables them to:
 - a. Build strong relationships between councils, Kāi Tahu ki Otago, and other partners;
 - b. Share information and resources, and reduce duplication of effort;
 - c. Coordinate responses to issues and opportunities that cross boundaries; and
 - d. Strengthen collective advocacy for Otago.

Otago's cross-council partnership framework

6. Otago's local authorities work together through various arrangements, including the Otago Mayoral Forum, Otago Chief Executives Forum, Hui for Otago, joint committees, governance-level working groups and advisory groups, and staff working groups. Collectively, these arrangements comprise Otago's cross-council partnership framework.
7. Each group and meeting differs in its role, membership, mandate, statutory requirements and support needs. All Otago cross-council arrangements are part of a connected framework, with governance and executive groups providing strategy and oversight, and staff groups providing support, expertise and practical advice.
8. Otago's cross-council partnership framework complements the work of each council and does not in any way impinge on the right for each of Otago's local authorities to decide policy, agree resourcing and govern its own area as appropriate.
9. At all levels, cross-council groups within the framework:
 - a. Can identify and progress opportunities in councils' shared interest, within given mandates;
 - b. Must ensure appropriate communication with councils; and
 - c. Cannot make binding decisions, unless agreed to by individual councils.
10. Through the cross-council framework, the Parties may pursue shared outcomes through joint work programmes, co-commissioning of studies, policy development and other agreed work. The Parties may explore options to identify, deliver and fund facilities and services of significance to more than one district, as envisaged by the Act.

Forums, meetings, committees and working groups

11. Otago's cross-council partnership framework includes a number of groups, committees and other arrangements. This section describes each group, its role, responsibilities, and how it is supported.

Otago Mayoral Forum

12. The Otago Mayoral Forum brings together Otago's Mayors and the Otago Regional Council Chair to provide shared leadership, coordination, and advocacy for the region.
13. The Otago Mayoral Forum shall be responsible for:

- a. Confirming regional focus areas and a direction of travel for each.
- b. Receiving advice and reports from the Otago Chief Executives Forum on progress towards regional focus areas, opportunities for collaboration, work programmes, or collaborative projects.
- c. Overseeing a regional response to the focus areas through Otago's cross-council partnership framework, escalating to Otago's Councils as needed.
- d. Formalising shared positions through letters of support, submissions and/or public statements as appropriate.

14. The Otago Mayoral Forum shall operate in accordance with a terms of reference approved by members. The Forum receives advice and support from a secretariat hosted by Otago Regional Council.

Hui for Otago

- 15. The Parties may convene a Hui for Otago as needed, bringing together all of Otago's mayors and councillors on topics of shared interest. Hui for Otago provide an opportunity for broader engagement on matters affecting the region. A Hui for Otago could be standalone or part of a series, depending on the issue or opportunity.
- 16. Hui for Otago shall be supported by the Otago Mayoral Forum secretariat.

Otago Chief Executives Forum

- 17. The Otago Chief Executives Forum is an established partnership between Otago's six local authority chief executives. The Otago Chief Executive Forum enables the Otago cross-council partnership framework at the executive level, particularly with regards staff resourcing and funding.
- 18. The Otago Chief Executives Forum shall be responsible for:
 - a. Supporting the Otago Mayoral Forum to prioritise regional focus areas and a direction of travel for each.
 - b. Providing advice and reports to the Otago Mayoral Forum on progress towards regional focus areas, opportunities for collaboration, work programmes, or collaborative projects.
- 19. The Otago Chief Executives Forum operates under a terms of reference to be agreed by its members. The Forum receives support and advice from the Otago Mayoral Forum secretariat.

Joint committees

20. The Parties recognise the role of statutory joint committees and other joint committees established for specific purposes in supporting regional coordination and collaboration. At the time of signing, the following joint committees operate within Otago:
 - a. **Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Committee**, responsible for approving the Otago CDEM Group Plan and providing guidance on civil defence implementation.
 - b. **Otago Regional Transport Committee**, responsible for preparing the Otago Regional Land Transport Plan.
 - c. **Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal Negotiation Committee**, responsible for providing direction to inform the negotiation of a Regional Deal between partner councils and Central Government.
21. Additional joint committees may be established from time to time and should be considered when collaborative activity is likely to involve some or all of: dedicated strategic oversight from more than one Otago council, significant cross-council funding, stakeholder interaction, and/or strong public interest.
22. Joint committees operate in accordance with their establishing legislation, council resolutions, governing agreement, or terms of reference as applicable.

Governance-level advisory and working groups

23. The Parties recognise the role of governance-level advisory and working groups within Otago. These can operate at a regional or sub-regional level, and may involve central government, iwi or wider stakeholders. Advisory and working groups are less formal than joint committees and can be a useful mechanism for sharing information and working towards shared goals.
24. Current examples of governance-level advisory and working groups include the Dunedin Transport Working Group, Queenstown Transport Working Group, and the Grow Well Whaiora Partnership.

Staff working groups

25. Council staff across Otago are encouraged to discuss issues of shared interest or concern with one another.

26. Staff may form cross-council working groups to discuss regional issues and, where relevant, progress joint work programmes or collaborative projects. These groups also enable staff to share knowledge and expertise across councils.
27. Established cross-council staff working groups include:
 - a. Otago Regional Economic Development Working Group,
 - b. Otago Waste Network,
 - c. Otago Biodiversity Forum,
 - d. Otago Climate Officers' Group, and
 - e. Otago Strategy Managers' Group
28. All cross-council working groups will have terms of reference defining their purpose, membership, key objectives and outcomes. The terms of reference will be reviewed periodically by the Otago Chief Executives Forum and not less than every 18 months. Participation in such working groups is made possible with the support of participants' employers.
29. The Otago Mayoral Forum secretariat provides support and advice for working groups and collaborative activity as needed.

Partnership with Kāi Tahu ki Otago

30. Te Rōpū Taiao Otago is the formal structure supporting the partnership between Kāi Tahu ki Otago and Otago's councils. Te Rōpū operates under a separate charter.
31. Through Te Rōpū Taiao, Otago's councils and Kāi Tahu representatives build regional relationships, identify shared priorities and share information. Meetings are typically scheduled alongside those of the Otago Mayoral Forum.
32. This partnership complements the many other iwi relationships and agreements maintained by individual councils.

Support and resourcing

33. The Parties acknowledge that Otago's cross-council framework depends on the participation and commitment of mayors, councillors and staff across all Otago councils. The rewards from working together increase with participation and engagement.

34. The Otago Regional Council hosts a permanent secretariat to support and advise the Otago Mayoral Forum, Otago Chief Executives Forum, Te Rōpū Taiao Otago and cross-council working groups, and to facilitate collaboration across Otago's local authorities as needed. The secretariat also holds a small discretionary budget to facilitate the Forums' work.
35. The Parties recognise the value of dedicated regional support roles, including the Otago Regional Waste Officer and other jointly-funded positions as may be established from time to time.

Section 16 of the Local Government Act 2002

36. A triennial agreement must include a statement of the process by which the local authorities will comply with section 16 of the Local Government Act 2002 in respect of proposals for new regional council activities. This section fulfils this requirement.
37. If a regional council or a regional council-controlled organisation proposes to undertake a significant new activity AND one or more territorial authority is/are already undertaking the significant new activity or have notified their intention to do so in their long-term plans, the following process will apply:
 - a. The Regional Council will advise all territorial authorities of the proposal and its reasons.
 - b. Territorial authorities may provide comments or objections.
 - c. The councils will seek to reach agreement through discussion.
 - d. If agreement is not reached, either party may seek mediation by an agreed mediator or, if needed, by a process specified by the Minister of Local Government.
 - e. If mediation is unsuccessful, either party may ask the Minister to make a binding decision.
38. New activity does not include an activity authorised by or under an enactment. Section 16 does not apply to a proposal by a regional council to establish, own, or operate a park for the benefit of its region; or a proposal to transfer responsibilities; or a proposal to transfer bylaw-making powers; or a reorganisation under Schedule 3 being Reorganisation of local authorities; or a proposal to undertake an activity or enter into an undertaking jointly with the Crown.

Variation and Review

39. This agreement remains in force until it is replaced by a new triennial agreement following the next local elections.
40. It may be varied at any time by agreement between the Parties.
41. The agreement will be reviewed by the Otago Chief Executives Forum and Otago Mayoral Forum at the conclusion of the triennium, and a new agreement proposed for consideration following the next local elections.

Signatories

42. This agreement is signed by the following on behalf of their local authority:

Council and signatory	Signature	Date
Mayor Tamah Alley Central Otago District Council		
Mayor Jock Martin Clutha District Council		
Mayor Sophie Barker Dunedin City Council		
Chair Hilary Calvert Otago Regional Council		
Mayor John Glover Queenstown Lakes District Council		
Mayor Melanie Tavendale Waitaki District Council		

Otago Mayoral Forum meeting dates 2026: March, May, July, September, November

Item 5

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
s								1					s
s		1	1					2			1		s
m		2	2			1 King's Birthday		3 Cant CE Forum			2		m
t		3	3			2		4	1		3	1	t
w		4	4	1		3	1	5	2		4	2	w
t	1 New Year's Day	5	5	2		4	2	6	3	1	5	3	t
f	2 Public Holiday	6 Waitangi Day	6 Otago Mayoral Forum	3 Good Friday	1 Otago CE Forum	5	3 Otago Mayoral Forum	7	4 LGNZ NC	2	6	4 LGNZ NC	f
s	3	7	7	4	2	6	4	8	5	3	7	5	s
s	4	8	8	5	3	7	5	9	6	4	8	6	s
m	5	9	9	6 Easter Monday	4 Cant CEs Forum	8	6	10	7	5	9	7	m
t	6	10	10	7	5	9	7	11	8	6	10	8	t
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t	8	12 LGNZ NC	12	9	7	11	9	13	10	8	12	10	t
f	9	13 LGNZ NC	13	10 LGNZ NC	8 LGNZ NC	12	10 Matariki	14	11	9	13 Otago Mayoral Forum	11	f
s	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	15	12	10	14	12	s
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m	12	16	16	13	11	15	13	17	4	12	16	14	m
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w	14	18	18	15	13	17	15	19	16	14	18	16	w
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f	16	20 Cant Mayoral Forum	20 LGNZ NC	17	15 LGNZ Sector mtgs	19 Otago CE Forum LGNZ NC	17	21 Otago CE Forum	18 Otago Mayoral Forum	16 LGNZ NC Otago CE Forum	20 Cant Mayoral Forum	18	f
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t	22	26 LGNZ AoLG	26	23	21	25	23 LGNZ NC	27 CMF dinner	24	22	26 LGNZ AoLG	24	t
f	23	27 LGNZ Sector Mtg	27	24	22 Otago Mayoral Forum	26	24	28 Cant Mayoral Forum	25	23	27 LGNZ Sector Mtg	25 Christmas Day	f
s	24	28	28	25	23	27	25	29	26	24	28	26	s
s	25		29	26	24	28	26	30	27	25	29	27	s
m	26 Cant CEs Forum		30	27 ANZAC Day	25	29	27	31	28	26 Labour Day	30	28 Boxing Day (observed)	m
t	27		31	28	26	30	28 LGNZ Conference		29	27		29	t
w	28			29	27		29 LGNZ Conference		30	28		30	w
t	29			30	28 CMF dinner		30 LGNZ Conference			29		31 New Years Eve	t
f	30 Otago CE Forum				29 Cant Mayoral Forum		31 LGNZ Conference			30			f
s	31				30					31			s
s					31								s

Date: 5 December 2025

Drafted by: Marianna Brook, Principal Advisor, Mayoral Forum Secretariat

Process to develop Mayoral Forum focus areas

Purpose

1. This paper provides a suggested process to develop focus areas for the Mayoral Forum.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Otago Mayoral Forum:
 - a. **review and adopt** the suggested process.

Background

3. The draft triennial agreement (presented for review at today's meeting) envisages that the Otago Mayoral Forum is responsible for confirming regional focus areas and a direction of travel for each. Under the agreement, the Forum would also oversee a regional response to the focus areas through Otago's cross-council partnership framework, escalating to Otago's Councils as needed.
4. Similarly, the Otago Chief Executives Forum would be responsible for supporting the Otago Mayoral Forum to undertake this role.
5. A workshop to develop focus areas is scheduled for March 6, 2026, at which point the triennial agreement is required to be in place (the Local Government Act requires this to be in place by 1 March).

Rationale

6. The need for region-wide priorities was discussed multiple times during the previous triennium. Central Government leaders have sought to understand Otago's priorities on multiple occasions, and this is likely to continue. The benefits of focus areas for the Mayoral Forum include they:
 - a. Create a shared direction for the Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives Forum, staff working groups and other cross-council initiatives, ensuring alignment.
 - b. Concentrate the Forum's limited resources and efforts on priority issues rather than spreading too thin across numerous initiatives, enabling greater impact.
 - c. Provide a mechanism for the Forum to better communicate its activities, improving awareness and supporting its effectiveness.

Suggested process

7. The following process for developing focus areas has been informed by discussions with the Otago Strategy Managers Group and Otago Chief Executives Forum. These discussions approached this work from a range of perspectives and concluded that:

- a. The Otago Mayoral Forum should own the work, but all six councils need to be involved at staff and chief executive-level for a robust, jointly owned process.
- b. Issues both within and outside local government's direct influence are within scope, consistent with mayors' role as leaders of both their council and the people in their district.
- c. The focus areas should have relevance for all Otago councils, to a greater or lesser degree.
- d. They should be areas where a regional approach can improve outcomes through an additional layer of advocacy, greater efficiencies, enhanced capacity to deal with opportunities and challenges and/or a broader perspective on existing strategic goals.
- e. It is anticipated that some areas will be 'must do', including Government policy changes that require a regional approach.

8. Drawing on the above, it is proposed that the secretariat bring to the Forum's March meeting a 'long-list' of possible regional focus areas. High-level information on each proposed area would be informed by cross-council staff working groups and reviewed by the Otago Chief Executives Forum, using the template attached at Appendix A.
9. Members are invited to consider how they might be supported to review and comment on the proposed focus areas, including through early provision of the long list and related information.
10. At the March 6 meeting, members would be invited to assess the 'long list' and collectively agree on a manageable number of focus areas. It is not proposed that there be a fixed number of areas, as what is manageable will be determined by the demands of each area.
11. The agreed focus areas would, in effect, be standing or regular items at Forum meetings throughout 2026 or for a period agreed by members. They would also guide the Forum's communications with staff, councillors and the public (where applicable).

Local government reform

12. On Tuesday 26 November, the Government announced consultation into significant local government reorganisation proposals. These proposals include a significant new role for the region's mayors, through a future Combined Territories Board (CTB). The CTB would oversee two key deliverables: a 'regional reorganisation plan' (RRP), and a regional spatial plan.
13. It is probable – and likely inevitable – that these deliverables will each become a focus area for the Forum in the medium term. There is also scope to consider Otago's 'home-grown' collaboration initiatives in a new light following the announcements. For example, the work of the Regional Waste Officer appears similar to what is envisaged for the RRP, and may well help to inform that process in the years to come.

Next steps

14. The Forum is invited to review the approach outlined in this paper. The Forum secretariat will implement any suggested changes as part of preparations for the March workshop.

Appendix A: Suggested template for focus area long-list

Focus area name

[Focus area in a sentence]

Details

Description of issue
Objective/outcome
Benefit of collaboration
High-level actions

Context

Central government policy
Regional and local initiatives/priorities

Connections

Individuals, organisations and cross-council groups with a role in addressing the priority.

Evidence base

Existing strategies, Regional Deal information, data, existing analyses etc



5 December 2025

To the General Manager, Wastebusters
By email

Dear Gina,

Letter of Support for Wastebusters 2.0 Zero Waste Hub

The Otago Mayoral Forum recognises and appreciates the important role Wastebusters has played over the past 25 years in supporting waste minimisation and zero waste outcomes across the Queenstown Lakes District and the wider Otago region.

As a regional forum, we commend your collaborative approach and recognise that the impact of your work is not just contained to the Queenstown Lakes district, but spreads across the Otago region and beyond.

The Forum understands that Wastebusters is now seeking support from the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund to progress the development of a next-generation "Wastebusters 2.0 Zero Waste Hub" in Wānaka. We recognise the strategic importance of this proposal, which will expand local capacity for construction and demolition material recovery, strengthen regional infrastructure resilience, and reduce the transport of waste to distant disposal facilities. This proposal clearly supports objectives shared by many of Otago's councils, including emissions reduction, improved resource recovery systems, improved disaster resilience and the reduction of waste to landfill across Otago.

While the Forum is not a direct funding or consenting authority, it endorses the objectives of this proposal and encourages national investment in local solutions such as Wastebusters that demonstrate measurable social, environmental and economic benefits. The project exemplifies the type of scalable, community-led zero waste hub infrastructure that can serve as a model for other regions across Otago and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Otago Mayoral Forum is happy to support the proposed project.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Tavendale".

Melanie Tavendale
Mayor, Waitaki District
Chair, Otago Mayoral Forum
On behalf of the Mayors of Dunedin City, Queenstown Lakes District, Central Otago District, Waitaki District and Clutha District, and Chair of the Otago Regional Council