

Briefing

December 2023

The Otago Mayoral Forum is pleased to provide this briefing for incoming Otago-based and Otago-representative members of parliament.



The briefing provides key information on the Forum and Otago's local authorities.

Overleaf you will find the Forum's 'top five'. These are key issues and messages from the Forum. They are evolving messages and serve to start a conversation as we work alongside each other in the years to come.

The Forum has enjoyed good relationships with Ministers, MPs and central government officials in recent years. We welcome all opportunities to strengthen these relationships, and collectively believe that working together is essential if we are to create positive change – for our region, and for our local government system.

About the Otago Mayoral Forum

The Otago Mayoral Forum is the key mechanism for local authorities to communicate, coordinate and collaborate in the Otago region. Protocols for this purpose in each region are a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Forum enables Otago's Mayors and the Chair of the Otago Regional Council to work together for the benefit of Otago. It meets quarterly to identify shared issues and opportunities, develop collaborative approaches, and review progress and achievements.

The Forum also provides a shared voice to advocate for Otago outside of the region, including with central government. Sometimes this voice will present an agreed position, and at other times convey the different interests and viewpoints of the Forum's members.



Otago Mayoral Forum (L to R): Jules Radich (Dunedin City), Gretchen Robertson (Otago Regional Council Chair, Bryan Cadogan (Clutha District), Gary Kircher (Waitaki District), Tim Cadogan (Central Otago District), and Glyn Lewers (Queenstown Lakes District).

The Otago Mayoral Forum ‘Top Five’

1. Water services reform

- Uncertainty about water services reform is putting huge demands on councils as we head into a Long Term Plan year.
- Some Otago Councils are carrying high levels of debt against their three waters assets, with immediate impacts on borrowing, investment and services.
- Affordability is a serious concern. Under the previous Government’s model, annual estimated costs for households within the proposed Otago-Southland entity were the highest in New Zealand, and almost twice the estimated costs for Canterbury-West Coast households.

2. Resilience and climate change

- There is much to do to support our communities to boost resilience in the face of climate change and natural hazards.
- Otago’s energy infrastructure requires significant investment to meet future demand (including from decarbonisation) and increase resilience, especially in inland districts.
- The South Dunedin Future and Glenorchy/Head of Lake Wakatipu adaptation projects demonstrate the huge commitment and resourcing required to to work hand-in-hand with affected parties towards sustainable, equitable outcomes.

3. Growth and infrastructure

- Queenstown Lakes was New Zealand’s fastest-growing territorial authority area in the year to July 1 2023, with Central Otago also beating the national average. Rapid growth drives a challenging set of issues centred around spatial planning, infrastructure, housing, and the provision of public and community services.
- While we are committed to addressing growth, affordability is a major concern. We welcome the opportunity to explore city and regional deals with the incoming government.
- The Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS) effectively stops at Ashburton and ignores communities further south. If the Government wants transport action in Otago, our share of roading investment needs to be bigger.

4. Funding and reform

- Current rating tools are insufficient and unsustainable. The Forum supports calls for more diverse funding for infrastructure, council services and other pressures, along with new partnerships and operating models that deliver for our communities.
- We share a desire to see wider changes to the local government system and look forward to progressing these.

5. Access to healthcare

- The provision of healthcare is not keeping pace with population growth and change in our region.
- Queenstown, Central Otago, Clutha and Waitaki have very poor access to community mental health services, with between 3.3 and 4.3 community mental health staff per 10,000 people in these districts, beside 22.5 staff per 10,000 people in Dunedin. (Dunedin’s figure excludes inpatient/ward staff, who serve the region.)
- Despite much pressure in recent years, maternity care and facilities in Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago remain lacking, leading to increased risk for hundreds of births each year.

Central Otago District Council

Mayor: Tim Cadogan

Councillors in 2023: 11 (excluding Mayor)

Council employees in 2023 (FTE): 158

Chief Executive: Peter Kelly, peter.kelly@codc.govt.nz

Web site: www.codc.govt.nz



Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

	\$ (000s)
Public Equity	1,094,886
Operating Revenue	57,441
Operating Expenditure	55,162
Capital Expenditure	51,150
Rates Revenue	35,355

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population - 2023 estimates	26,000
Usually resident population - 2018 estimates	22,200
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	17.1%
Land Area km2	9,933
People per km2 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	2.6
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$33,300

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Clutha District Council

Mayor: Bryan Cadogan

Councillors in 2023: 14 (excluding Mayor)

Council employees in 2023 (FTE): 120

Chief Executive: Steve Hill, steve.hill@cluthadc.govt.nz

Web site: www.cluthadc.govt.nz



Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

	\$ (000s)
Public Equity	1,323,349
Operating Revenue	43,047
Operating Expenditure	59,054
Capital Expenditure	28,470
Rates Revenue	28,455

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population - 2023 estimates	18,900
Usually resident population - 2018 estimates	18,050
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	4.7%
Land Area km2	6,334
People per km2 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	3.0
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$30,900

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Dunedin City Council

Mayor: Jules Radich

Councillors in 2023: 14 (excluding Mayor)

Council employees in 2023 (FTE): 866

Chief Executive: Sandy Graham, sandy.graham@dcc.govt.nz

Website: www.dunedin.govt.nz



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
ōtepoti

Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

	\$ (000)
Public Equity	4,309,630
Operating Revenue	270,721
Operating Expenditure	296,918
Capital Expenditure	150,121
Rates Revenue	179,556

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population – 2023 estimates	134,600
Usually resident population – 2018 estimates	131,200
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	2.6%
Land Area km²	3,286
People per km² 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	41.0
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$25,500

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Otago Regional Council

Chair: Gretchen Robertson

Councillors in 2023: 11 (excluding Chair)

Council employees in 2023 (FTE): 291

Chief Executive: Richard Saunders, richard.saunders@orc.govt.nz

Website: www.orc.govt.nz



Otago
Regional
Council

Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

	\$ (000s)
Public Equity	828,565
Operating Revenue	86,258
Operating Expenditure	89,488
Capital Expenditure	4,497
Rates Revenue	4,0210

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population - 2023 estimates	254,600
Usually resident population - 2018 estimates	235,000
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	8.3%
Land Area km²	31,209
People per km² 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	8.2
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$30,000

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Mayor: Glyn Lewers

Councillors in 2023: 10 (excluding Mayor)

Council employees in 2023: 470

Chief Executive: Mike Theelen, mike.theelen@qldc.govt.nz

Web site: www.qldc.govt.nz

Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

	\$ (000s)
Public Equity	2,346,243
Operating Revenue	157,252
Operating Expenditure	182,834
Capital Expenditure	188,541
Rates Revenue	95,854

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population - 2023 estimates	52,800
Usually resident population - 2018 estimates	42,500
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	24.2%
Land Area km²	8,720
People per km² 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	6.1
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$40,600

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Waitaki District Council

Mayor: Gary Kircher

Councillors in 2023: 10 (excluding Mayor)

Council employees in 2023 (FTE): 200

Chief Executive: Alex Parmley, aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz

Website: www.waitaki.govt.nz



Key financial statistics (FY 2022)

\$ (in thousands)	\$ (000s)
Public Equity	1,063,254
Operating Revenue	48,016
Operating Expenditure	59,401
Capital Expenditure	27,261
Rates Revenue	34,555

Source: Local Authority Financial Statistics, Statistics New Zealand

Community statistics

Usually resident population – 2023 estimates	24,300
Usually resident population - 2018 estimates	22,900
Change from 2018 to 2023 (All NZ: 6.6%)	6.1%
Land Area km²	7,108
People per km² 2023 (All NZ: 19.4)	3.4
Median personal income - 2018 Census (All NZ: \$31,800)	\$27,700

Source: Statistics New Zealand