

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HELD AT NGĀ HAU E WHĀ, WILLIAM FRASER BUILDING, 1 DUNORLING STREET,  
ALEXANDRA  
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2025  
COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM**

**PRESENT:** Her Worship the Mayor T Alley (Chairperson), Cr N Gillespie, Cr S Browne, Cr L Claridge, Cr I Cooney, Cr S Duncan, Cr S Feinerman, Cr M McPherson, Cr T Paterson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), L Fleck (Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision), J Muir (Group Manager - Three Waters), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Rushbrook (Regional Deals Lead), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), Q Penniall (Acting Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), P Penno (Community Engagement Manager), C Webster (Communications Officer) S Reynolds (Acting Governance Manager)

**1 KARAKIA**

Cr Gillespie gave a karakia to begin the meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

-----  
**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Alley  
**Seconded:** Paterson

That apologies from Cr C Laws and Cr N McKinlay be received and accepted.

-----  
**CARRIED**

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

-----  
**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Browne  
**Seconded:** Feinerman

That the public minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 June 2025 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

-----  
**CARRIED**

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. There were no further declarations of interest.

## 5 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Alley  
**Seconded:** Browne

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
<b>Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Commercial sensitivity
	s7(2)(f)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Council members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment	To protect people from harassment
	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege	Legal professional privilege
	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	To enable commercial activities
	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	To enable commercial or industrial negotiations
	s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage

<b>25.14.3 - Offer for a Land Access Arrangement</b>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> <p>s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open</p> <p>To enable commercial activities</p> <p>To enable commercial or industrial negotiations</p> <p>To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage</p>
--	---	---

**CARRIED**

Note: The public were excluded at 10.33 am and re-admitted at 10.59 am.

Cr Duncan acknowledged the death of former Councillor Michael Dowling and Councillors stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

## 6 PUBLIC FORUM

### Gerry Eckhoff – Consultation Process

Mr Eckhoff spoke with regards to the plans for water service delivery and noted the decision by Waitaki District Council. He stated that whilst he understood the requirements from central government he believed that local government politicians seemed to have forgotten that they serve their communities not the requirements of central government. He also observed that the consultation process did not appear to comply with the Local Government Act regarding providing individuals with an opportunity to give an oral submission as part of the consultation.

Mr Eckhoff then responded to questions.

### Graeme Rae – Consultation Feedback

Mr Rae spoke on behalf of the ratepayers group in the Teviot Valley and detailed the strong support for an in-house business unit within the Teviot Valley. He highlighted significant rate increases in the ward over the past two years and noted that through the Districtisation discussion, despite strong opposition from the ward, Councillors opted to move to district-wide funding.

### Hemi Bedggood – Federated Farmers

Mr Bedggood, representing Federated Farmers, highlighted rural ratepayers' concerns about multi-council water services, emphasising their view that local councils are best suited to deliver and manage water infrastructure. He noted that members were anxious about the affordability of projected infrastructure spending and the anticipated increases in rates, and requested that rural stakeholders be considered in future decisions.

Mr Bedggood then responded to questions.

## 3 REPORTS

### 25.14.2 SOUTHERN WATER DONE WELL

The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 ('the Act') requires all councils to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by 3 September 2025.

The discussion addressed the regulatory framework governing water services delivery and noted that smaller councils had limitations on capital project investments because of their population size and borrowing capacity. It was noted that a joint CCO would provide procurement gains and economies of scale that would allow for more strategic investment in all areas.

Appreciation was expressed to everyone who contributed to the consultation and to those involved in preparing and sharing the detailed information on this matter over several years, supporting informed decision-making throughout the process.

It was discussed that the regulation and the financial implications were the most significant driver, and that ratepayers of the combined councils would be better off from the formation of a joint CCO than if the services remained in-house.

It was noted that a new set of analytics and financials would be provided to the remaining councils to reflect that Waitaki was no longer in the group and that these would be presented to Council.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley  
Seconded: Duncan

---

**Recommendations**

That the Council

1. Receives the report titled 'Southern Water Done Well – Water Services Delivery Model.
2. Agrees to adopt
  - a) Option 1 of the report: being a jointly owned Council Controlled Organisation as the Council's model for the delivery of water services in accordance with section 13(1)(k) of the Local Government (Water services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, subject to receiving further analysis prior to adoption of a Water Service Delivery Plan.
3. Requests staff to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan containing the matters set out in section 13 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and the Council's chosen proposed water services delivery model, to be brought back to Council for its approval, and certification by the Central Otago District Council Chief Executive prior to being submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 for acceptance.
4. Requests staff to prepare further analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the Jointly Owned Council Controlled Organisation model included in the proposed Water Services Delivery Plan (as per recommendation 3), which is anticipated to include a combination of all or some of Central Otago, Clutha and Gore District Councils.
5. Notes the submissions received and thanks all submitters for their feedback.

**CARRIED**

---

**8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 30 July 2025.

The meeting closed at 12.16 pm.