



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Time: 10:30 am

**Location: Ngā Hau e Whā, William Fraser Building,
1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra**

(A link to the live stream will be available on the Central Otago District Council's website.)

Peter Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

Notice is hereby given that a Council Meeting will be held in Ngā Hau e Whā, William Fraser Building, 1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra and live streamed via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 at 10:30 am. The link to the live stream will be available on the Central Otago District Council's website.

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Members Her Worship the Mayor T Alley (Chairperson), Cr T Paterson, Cr S Browne, Cr S Duncan, Cr C Laws, Cr N McLean, Cr M McPherson, Cr C Pannett, Cr C Sanders, Cr B Scott

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), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), W McEntee (Governance Manager)

1 KARAKIA

Her Worship the Mayor will begin the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

3 PUBLIC FORUM

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 17 December 2025

**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 WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2025
COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM**

PRESENT: Her Worship the Mayor T Alley (Chairperson), Cr T Paterson, Cr S Browne, Cr S Duncan, Cr C Laws, Cr N McLean, Cr M McPherson, Cr C Pannett, Cr C Sanders, Cr B Scott

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), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), D Rushbrook (Regional Deals Lead), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), T Bates (Project Manager Construction/Airports), G Bailey (Parks and Recreation Manager), P Morris (Chief Financial Officer), G Chrystall (Community Experience Manager), W McEntee (Governance Manager)

1 KARAKIA

Cr Paterson gave a karakia to begin the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Russell Ibbotson – Trees in Centrepoint Mall Carpark

Mr Ibbotson spoke about the trees in the Centrepoint Mall carpark. He noted that they produce a lot of debris around the carpark and wants to see the trees removed and replaced with evergreen trees.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Paterson
Seconded: Browne

That the public minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. Cr Paterson declared an interest in item 25.22.17. She left the room and did not discuss or vote on the item.

6 COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

25.22.2 COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Mark Jessop, Chair of the Teviot Valley Community Board and Jayden Cromb, Chair of the Vincent Community Board joined the meeting to discuss matters of interest to their Boards.

Mark Jessop

Mr Jessop gave an update on recent happenings in the Teviot Valley. He noted work on the Millers Flat bowling pavilion, that Hawkeswood mining had a quarry approved and that work on the possible Lake Onslow project continues. He spoke to the town hall item and noted the engagement with the project. He advocated for a Teviot endowment fund that could possibly be funded by the private sector.

Jayden Cromb

Mr Cromb congratulated returning Councillors. He noted the trees at the Centrepoint mall and argued that there was no need for consultation on those trees, but cited the trees at Molyneux as an example of where consultation was needed.

Note: The public forum resumed.

Mary Molloy – Mine in Bendigo

Ms Molloy spoke to the proposed mine in Bendigo, and noted her worry about the possible pollution coming from the mine on to the Matakanui side of the mountain.

7 REPORTS

Note: Cr Browne assumed the Chair as the Community Vision and Experience portfolio lead.

Note: With the permission of the meeting, item 25.22.23 was moved forward.

25.22.23 ROXBURGH ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE REBUILD PROJECT LOCATION OPTIONS

To consider approval to investigate alternative location options for the Roxburgh Entertainment Centre Project.

After discussion it was agreed that there could be an investigation of other potential sites. It was noted that the draft Teviot Valley Community Plan should feed into this investigation to assess the wants and needs of the community to ensure any site (including the current one) match with their aspirations.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: Pannett

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Approves the following recommendations from the Teviot Valley Community Board taking into account the information on public feedback and opinion poll results tabled at the meeting:

That Council

- (a) Approve for the Roxburgh Entertainment Centre Project Steering Group to investigate current and alternative options for the location of the Roxburgh Entertainment Centre rebuild.
- (b) Approve that once the investigations are complete, a report be provided to the Teviot Valley Community Board and Council in March 2026 outlining the findings on current and alternative location options, to enable a decision on whether to change the project scope.

C. Notes that the recent draft Teviot Valley Community Plan should feed into this investigation phase.

D. Authorises the Chief Executive to do all that is necessary to give effect to Council's recommendation.

CARRIED

Attachments

1 REC Engagement Report tabled at the meeting

25.22.3 CENTREPOINT CARPARK TREES

To consider a recommendation from the Vincent Community Board to remove trees in the Centrepoint Carpark, Alexandra.

After discussion it was agreed that the trees should be removed. The Chief Executive was also directed to investigate and understand the ownership of the carpark and then formalise a maintenance agreement with the private owners.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: McPherson

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Approves that the two *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. *oxycarpa* 'Raywood' – Claret Ash trees and one *Liquidambar* tree are removed prior to autumn 2026 from the Centrepoint carpark Alexandra.
- C. Agrees that a suitable landscaping plan is actioned.
- D. Recommends that this work is carried out in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Tree Policy.
- E. Directs the Chief Executive to understand the ownership of the carpark and formalise a maintenance agreement with the property owners going forward.
- F. Authorises the Chief Executive to do all that is necessary to give effect to the resolution.

CARRIED

25.22.4 DRAFT PARKS AND RESERVES BYLAW

To consider submissions received on the draft Parks and Reserves Bylaw following the Special Consultative Procedure and to adopt the Parks and Reserves Bylaw.

RESOLUTION

Moved: McPherson
Seconded: Scott

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Resolves to consider the submissions on the Draft Parks and Reserves Bylaw.
- C. Adopts subject to amendments the Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025.
- D. That Council apply to the Minister of Conservation for formal approval of the bylaw under section 108 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- E. Authorises the Chief Executive to do all that is necessary to give effect to the resolution.

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Parks and Reserves Bylaw showing changes to the document

Note: Her Worship the Mayor resumed the Chair.

Note: Cr Scott left the meeting at 12.05 pm.

25.22.5 ADOPTION OF THE AUDITED 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT

To consider the adoption of the audited 2024-2025 Annual Report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Paterson
Seconded: Browne

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Approves the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- C. Receives and notes the Audit opinion issued by Audit New Zealand in relation to the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- D. Adopts the Annual Report including the Audit New Zealand audit opinion for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- E. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Annual Report 2024-2025 and Representation Letter on behalf of Council
- F. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any necessary minor edits and corrections to the annual report that may be required prior to publication.

CARRIED

Note: Cr Browne assumed the Chair as the Community Vision and Experience portfolio lead.

Note: Cr Scott returned to the meeting at 12.10 pm.

25.22.6 CROMWELL MEMORIAL HALL & EVENTS CENTRE - FEES AND CHARGES

To consider the fees and charges to hire the spaces/rooms in the new Cromwell venue.

After discussion it was noted that some of the community two rates, shown in appendix 1 of the report, were the same as the community one rates and that they would need to be reduced accordingly. Staff would make those changes as necessary.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Paterson
Seconded: McPherson

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Approves the attached community fees and charges to be included in the 26/27 fees and charges schedule.
- C. Notes the Board will recommend commercial rates after further discussion.
- D. Notes that this is not an exhaustive list and directs staff to continue to develop fees and charges as the operation of the venue evolves.
- E. Notes staff have received multiple bookings for the facility and supports quoted fees and that charges for these bookings are retrospectively approved.
- F. Agrees that the RSA have preferential booking rights on 25 April and 11 November, and that no venue hire will be charged to the RSA on those days, for all bookable areas of the facility.
- G. Agrees that the RSA room would be kept free for RSA use on their meeting days and that the RSA would not be charged any venue hire on these days.
- H. Notes that a workshop would be held on 4 February 2026 to discuss purpose, performance targets and usage projections with the Cromwell Community Board and Council.

CARRIED

25.22.7 CROMWELL MEMORIAL HALL & EVENTS CENTRE - NAMING DISCUSSION

To consider a name for the new venue in Cromwell.

After discussion Council agreed with the Cromwell Community Board recommendations. Councillors were invited to a workshop in February with the Cromwell Community Board to further discuss the name. A timeline was established for approval of a name ahead of the opening of the facility.

RESOLUTION

Moved: McPherson
Seconded: Scott

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Agrees that the venue is dual named with an English name and a Te Reo Māori name gifted by Mana Whenua.

- C. Notes that the Board will hold a workshop on 4 February 2026 to clarify the purpose and intended use of the facility, and to identify its key stakeholders.
- D. Agrees that a community feedback process on the English name takes place in March 2026.
- E. Agrees that a name be approved via report to the Cromwell Community Board and to Council by the end of April 2026.
- F. Notes the option about Citizens Assemblies and the Cromwell Community Boards recommendation to consider this process for future consultation.

CARRIED

Note: The meeting adjourned at 12.39 pm and resumed at 1.11 pm.

Note: Cr McPherson returned to the meeting at 1.12 pm.

Note: Cr Laws assumed the Chair as the Three Waters and Waste portfolio lead.

25.22.8 SOUTHERN WATERS DEED OF AMENDMENT - COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

To consider the approval of the attached Deed of Amendment to the Southern Waters Commitment Agreement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Paterson
Seconded: McLean

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Deed of Amendment and Cost Sharing set out in Attachment 1 of the report on behalf of the Council.

CARRIED

25.22.9 DELEGATION TO APPOINT THE SOUTHERN WATERS ESTABLISHMENT CHAIR

The purpose of this report is to seek a delegation from Council to the Mayor under the Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 32 (1) for the appointment of the Southern Waters Establishment Chair.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: Pannett

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Agrees to delegate the power to appoint the Southern Waters Establishment Chair to Mayor Alley as the Council's representative on the Southern Waters Councils Executive Group comprising the mayors of Clutha, Gore and Central Otago District Councils.

CARRIED

Note: Cr Paterson assumed the Chair as the Planning and Regulatory portfolio lead.

25.22.10 COLLABORATION ON RECYCLING

To consider Central Otago District Council's involvement in Queenstown Lakes District Council's (QLDC) current procurement for a new Materials Recovery Solution.

RESOLUTION

Moved: **McPherson**
Seconded: **Browne**

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Notes that Queenstown Lakes District Council has completed the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage and is progressing to a Request for Proposal (RFP), targeted for release to market in mid-January 2026.
- C. Agrees that Central Otago District Council's mixed recycling volumes are included in Queenstown Lakes District Council's Request for Proposal.
- D. Notes that any proposal for Central Otago District Council to proceed with an alternative recycling processing solution or enter into a contract arrangement arising from the Queenstown Lakes District Council procurement will come back to Council for decision.

CARRIED

Note: Her Worship the Mayor resumed the Chair.

25.22.11 REVIEW OF RATING ARRANGEMENTS

To consider undertaking a rating review to input into Council's Revenue and Financing Policy and Long-term plan 2027-37.

RESOLUTION

Moved: **Duncan**
Seconded: **Scott**

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Authorises staff to commence a comprehensive rates review.

CARRIED

8 MAYOR'S REPORT

25.22.24 MAYOR'S REPORT

Her Worship the Mayor spoke to her report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Paterson

That the Council receives the report.

CARRIED

9 STATUS REPORTS

25.22.12 DECEMBER 2025 GOVERNANCE REPORT

To report on items of general interest, receive minutes and updates from key organisations, business plans and status report updates.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Sanders

That the report be received and its contents noted.

CARRIED

10 COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES

25.22.13 MINUTES OF THE MANIOTOTO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: McPherson
Seconded: Duncan

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Maniototo Community Board Meeting held on 27 November 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

25.22.14 MINUTES OF THE VINCENT COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: **McPherson**
Seconded: **Duncan**

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Vincent Community Board Meeting held on 18 November 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

25.22.15 MINUTES OF THE CROMWELL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: **McPherson**
Seconded: **Duncan**

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cromwell Community Board Meeting held on 25 November 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

25.22.16 MINUTES OF THE TEVIOT VALLEY COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: **McPherson**
Seconded: **Duncan**

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Teviot Valley Community Board Meeting held on 20 November 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 28 January 2026.

12 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION

Moved: **Browne**
Seconded: **Duncan**

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

Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting	<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)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</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>Legal professional privilege</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>
25.22.17 - Matakanui Gold Limited	<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</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the</p>

	<p>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)(c)(ii) - 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 otherwise to damage the public interest</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</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>information avenue remains open</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to protect the public interest</p> <p>Legal professional privilege</p> <p>To enable commercial activities</p>
25.22.18 - Risk Management Update	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
25.22.19 - Three Waters Construction Tender Information Report	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
25.22.20 - December 2025 Confidential Governance Report	<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)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>To enable commercial activities</p>

	<p>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>To enable commercial or industrial negotiations</p> <p>To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage</p>
25.22.21 - Confidential Minutes of the Cromwell Community Board Meeting held on 25 November 2025	<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)(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>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>To enable commercial activities</p> <p>To enable commercial or industrial negotiations</p>
25.22.22 - Chief Executive Officer Remuneration	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	To protect a person's privacy

CARRIED

The public were excluded at 1.50 pm and the meeting closed at 3.21 pm.

28 January 2026

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

26.1.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER

Doc ID: 2707512

Report Author:	Wayne McEntee, Governance Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

1. Purpose

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

2. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Declarations of Interest [↓](#)

Name	Member's Declared Interests	Spouse/Partner's Declared Interests	Council Appointments
Tamah Alley	Manuherikia Irrigation Co-operative (shareholder) Cliff Care Ltd (family connection) Tenaya New Zealand Ltd (Director and Shareholder) Southern Lakes Trails (Trustee) LGNZ Zone 6 Chair Regional Deals Panel Member LGNZ National Council (Member)	Manuherikia Irrigation Co-operative Society Ltd (shareholder) Emergency Management Otago Group Controller (employee)	Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group Destination Advisory Board Southern Lakes Health Trust (Trustee)
Sarah Browne	Anderson Browne Construction and Development (Director and Shareholder) Infinite Energy Ltd (Shareholder) Central Otago Sports Turf Trust (Trustee) Central Football and Multisport Turf Trust (Trustee) Sutherland Architecture Studio Ltd (Employee)	Anderson Browne Construction and Development (Director and Shareholder) Infinite Energy Ltd (Employee)	
Stuart Duncan	Penvose Farms - Wedderburn Cottages and Farm at Wedderburn (shareholder) Penvose Investments - Dairy Farm at Patearoa (shareholder) Fire and Emergency New Zealand (member) JD Pat Ltd (Shareholder and Director)	Penvose Farms - Wedderburn Cottages and Farm at Wedderburn (Shareholder) Penvose Investments - Dairy Farm at Patearoa (shareholder)	Maniototo Ice Rink Committee Otago Regional Transport Committee
Cheryl Laws	The Message (Director) Wishart Family Trust (Trustee) Wooing Tree (Assistant Manager - Cellar Door) Daffodil Day Cromwell Coordinator	Otago Regional Council (Councillor) The Message (Director)	
Nathan McLean	Alexandra Squash Rackets Club (member)		
Martin McPherson	Alexandra Blossom Festival	CODC (employee) CODC (employee) (Daughter)	

Curtis Pannett	Teviot Valley Irrigation Company Ltd (Director/ Shareholder) Teviot Valley Water Care Group (Member) Rabobank Client Council (Councillor) Hill Springs Farming Company Ltd (Sole Director/Shareholder) Roxburgh Golf Club (Member)		I and H McPhail Charitable Trust Entertainment Group Steering Group/ PSG Tuapeka County Bursary Fund Committee
Tracy Paterson	Matakanui Station (Director and shareholder) Matakanui Development Co (Director and shareholder) A and T Paterson Family Trust (Trustee) A Paterson Family Trust (Trustee) Central Otago Health Inc (Elected Member) Bob Turnbull Trust (Trustee / Chair) New Zealand Wool Classers Association (Chair) Central Otago A&P Association (Member) Waiora Manuherikia Governance Group (Member) Central Otago Riding for the Disabled (Volunteer) Regional Deals Panel Member	Matakanui Station (Director and shareholder) Matakanui Development Co (Director and shareholder) A Paterson Family Trust (Trustee) A and T Paterson Family Trust (Trustee) Federated Farmers (On the executive team) Omakau Irrigation Co (Director) Matakanui Combined Rugby Football Club (Committee) Manuherikia Catchment Group (Co-chair) Omakau Domain Board Omakau Hub Committee (Chair) Manuherekia Valley Community Hub Trust (Trustee) Southern Cross Sheep Ltd (Director) Mt Stalker Ltd (Trustee) Mt Stalker Pastoral Ltd DKIL Ltd (Shareholder) Manuherikia River Limited (Director)	Central Otago Health Incorporated Otago Central Lakes Regional Deals Committee
Charlie Sanders	Cromwell Kilwinning Lodge 98 (Secretary) C&V Trustees Ltd (Director) Sandstone Design (Director)	A Women's Touch Cleaning Service (Director) A Jill of All Trades (Director)	

Bob Scott	Cromwell Golf Club (Chair and Member) Central Football Project Trust (Trustee) Dunes Owners Management Committee (Member)		
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28 January 2026

6 COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

26.1.2 COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Doc ID: 2709528

1. Purpose

Jayden Cromb, Chair of the Vincent Community Board will join the meeting to discuss matters of interest to the Board.

2. Attachments

Nil

7 REPORTS

26.1.3 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE CENTRAL OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Doc ID: 2685380

Report Author:	Paula Penno, Community and Engagement Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Louise Fleck, Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision

1. Purpose of Report

To consider extending the Central Otago Museum Trust's performance agreement with Council for a further 18 months, during which time a sector review of the Trust can be undertaken to feed into Council's 2027-37 Long-term Plan budget development.

Recommendations

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Agrees to extend the amended Performance Agreement between Central Otago District Council and the Central Otago Museums Trust through to 30 June 2027.
- C. Resolves to allocate \$50,000 to the Central Otago Museums Trust in 2025/26 and 2026/27 to enable the implementation of the Performance Agreement during these two financial years.

2. Background

The Central Otago Museums Trust was established in 2021 as a sector-led solution to a consultation topic in Council's 2021-31 Long-term Plan that proposed a district museum function within Council. Council adopted a proposal from the museum sector to develop an independent operating model, comprising representatives from the five local museums – Maniototo Early Settlers, Teviot District, Central Stories, Clyde and Cromwell – as well as the Central Otago Heritage Trust. The entity was to work alongside museum stakeholders to encourage collaborative activities within their network, coordinate training and support opportunities with organisations such as Otago Museum and Te Papa, and to provide advice and sector representation on Council's future investment in the district's community-led museum sector.

With Council's support the Trust was established and, in December 2021, it entered into a Performance Agreement with Council for a trial two-year period¹. The Performance Agreement was extended a further two years and this enabled Council to continue its investigations into the development of a museum investment strategy.²

¹ Council resolution 21.7.3 (September 2021)

² Council resolutions 23.12.4 (December 2023) and 25.3.9 (February 2025)

Council has not completed a strategy for investing in the museum sector, due largely to the complexity of current structures – all museums are currently community-run, some museums occupy Council-administered buildings, some receive annual grants towards operating costs while others do not, and Council's involvement in the future operation of the Cromwell Museum as it moves into the new entertainment centre is still to be determined.

A report presented to Council in October 2024 offered instead an option to ringfence a finite 'pot' of grant funding and property support for the museum sector, while acknowledging that this would be unlikely to be enough to meet all of the sector's needs, and that Council's level of influence over the museum sector would continue to remain at a low level. Council resolved to transfer ongoing grants for the local museums, plus the performance agreement funding for the Central Otago Museums Trust, to grant funding sourced from the district rate – and these funds were included in Council's draft 2025-37 Long-term Plan budgets.³

3. Discussion

The Performance Agreement between Council and the Central Otago Museums Trust requires the Trust to achieve objectives outlined in the District Museum Strategy⁴ and action plan, using a collaborative district-wide approach.

The Trust has now been active for four years and supports this report's recommendation for Council staff to carry out a review of effectiveness in the 2026 calendar year. This review will seek to understand the sector's view of the Trust and its performance, as well as suggestions and ideas for future. Council staff will work collaboratively with the Trust throughout the process. Findings from the review will inform how the sector wishes to collaborate in the future, and this in turn will assist Council's budget setting processes leading into the 2027-37 Long-term Plan.

The Performance Agreement between Council and the Central Otago Museum Trust normally has a twelve-month term, with six-monthly reviews provided by the Trust in March and September. The latest performance agreement expired on 31 December 2025. It is proposed that the amended performance agreement has an 18-month duration to provide time to undertake the sector review and to align with Council's budget reviews leading into the 2027-37 Long-term Plan. A copy of the draft amended performance agreement is included as an appendix to this report.

Also attached to this report is September's performance update and 2025 financial statement from the Central Otago Museums Trust. The Trust is continuing to meet two-three monthly, coordinate training opportunities (e.g. Taonga Tuturu workshops through Otago Museum and professional development through Te Papa), develop processes (e.g. disaster management plans, financial support policies and a visitor survey template), and foster relationships.

4. Financial Considerations

Council's 2025/26 district grant budgets include a \$50,000 allocation for the Central Otago Museum Trust and this sits separately from the museum sector operating grant allocation. The preliminary 2026/27 draft budgets also include a \$50,000 allocation to the Trust. This means that if Council chooses to continue the performance agreement with the Trust, the district grant general ledger will not incur an over-expenditure.

³ Council resolution 24.12.4 (October 2024)

⁴ [Central-Otago-District-Museum-Strategy_FINAL-compressed-2.pdf](https://www.centralotago.govt.nz/assets/documents/strategies/2023-27-Central-Otago-District-Museum-Strategy-FINAL-compressed-2.pdf)

5. Feedback from Community Boards

Community boards have not been involved in the development of this report due the Central Otago Museums Trust operating as a district function. Any functional review of the Trust however will likely seek community board input.

6. Options

Option 1 – (Recommended)

That the amended Performance Agreement between Council and the Central Otago Museums Trust is adopted for a further 18 months, and grant funds of \$50,000pa for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years are allocated to the Trust.

Advantages:

- The Central Otago Museums Trust continues to deliver on the sector's strategy and action plan
- Continued funding would help minimise disruption to the sector while the review is undertaken
- The 18-month extension would align with Council's LTP decision-making timelines
- Council's museum investment platform is not fully determined as yet and the Trust provides a collaborative feedback avenue for Council

Disadvantages:

- Council may view the Trust as no longer effective in delivering on performance agreement outcomes

Option 2

The performance agreement with the Central Otago Museums Trust concludes and Council retains the \$50,000 funds in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 district grant budgets.

Advantages:

- Council's grant funds could be distributed to other worthy community entities

Disadvantages:

- The collaborative nature of the Trust makes it easier for Council to liaise with the museum sector as a whole
- It may be premature to cease support for the Trust until a formal review has been undertaken

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	This decision promotes the social and cultural wellbeing of communities, through learning about and educating others on the people and environments that were here before us, valuing community involvement in telling local heritage stories, and through supporting sector-led
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	decision-making and the collective voice of the Central Otago museum network.
Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Yes – This decision supports the Central Otago District Museum Strategy and aligns with Council's 2021 and 2025 Long-term Plan decision making.
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	A collaborative approach to museum practises fosters collective learning in environmental and sustainability best practices, operational efficiencies and organisational resilience.
Risks Analysis	As a community-led entity, the success of the Trust relies on the buy-in and support from the entire collective. Building strong and enduring relationships, and demonstrating value to each of the entities within the sector, will be essential to the Trust's ongoing viability.
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	The proposed amended performance agreement (attached) has been reviewed and endorsed by the Central Otago Museums Trust, as representatives of the museum collective. Wider consultation and engagement are not required at this time.

8. Next Steps

Should Council agree to extend the performance agreement, staff will commence planning and development of the sector review process.

9. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Performance Agreement between CODC and COMT 2026 (draft) (under separate cover) [↗](#)

Appendix 2 - COMT Performance Report (Feb-Sep 2025) (under separate cover) [↗](#)

Appendix 3 - COMT Statement of Financial Performance to 30 June 2025 AGM (under separate cover) [↗](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.4 CEMETERIES BYLAW

Doc ID: 2660803

Report Author:	Gordon Bailey, Parks and Recreation Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	David Scoones, Group Manager - Community Experience

1. Purpose of Report

To consider renewal of the Cemeteries Bylaw 2020.

Recommendations

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Determines that a Bylaw is the appropriate legal mechanism for the management of Cemeteries and Burials in accordance with Section 155 of the Local Government Act.
- C. Approves the draft Cemeteries Bylaw for public consultation.
- D. Approves the Statement of Proposal for consultation.
- E. Approves the updated Cemeteries Handbook.
- F. Appoints Councils Hearings Panel to hear any submissions received and make recommendations to Council for adoption or otherwise of the Cemeteries Bylaw.

2. Background

The Cemeteries Bylaw was adopted in November 2020 and became operative on the 18 December 2020.

The Bylaw sets standards to maintain and preserve cemeteries. This includes:

- Directing the positions and depths of all graves within a cemetery.
- Protecting buildings, monuments, lawns, shrubs, plantations, and enclosures in a cemetery from destruction or damage.
- Prescribing conditions for the interment of more than one deceased person in a grave, including ashes.
- Controlling the timing when burials may be carried out.
- Regulating the burial of ashes in a cemetery.
- Regulating the disinterment and removal of bodies, in accordance with legislation.
- Regulating activities undertaken at cemeteries.
- Prescribing fees in relation to cemeteries.

It is aligned with the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 (BC Act) and the Local Government Act 2002 (LG Act).

The LG Act requires the Bylaw to be reviewed 5 years following their additional adoption, then every 10 years. Any new or reviewed Bylaw must follow the Special Consultative Procedure; and a Section 155 Analysis must be undertaken.

Council adopted the Cemeteries Bylaw and Cemeteries Handbook at its November 2020 meeting. This followed consideration of the 5 submissions received. The Bylaw became operative on the 18 December 2020.

Bylaws are reviewed every 5 years following their initial adoption then 10 years after a review.

The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and the Local Government Act 2002 provide Council with the ability to develop bylaws to manage activities within its cemeteries. Any new or reviewed bylaw must follow the special consultative process and requirements specified in section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002.

There are 21 Cemeteries within the Central Otago District. Of those Council is responsible for 16, three of which are closed cemeteries.

It should be noted that Trust operated Cemeteries are not subject to this Bylaw.

Cemeteries Handbook

The Cemeteries Handbook accompanies the Cemeteries Bylaw. The Handbook sets out rules relating to activities and behaviour in cemeteries. These rules can be amended, with community engagement, without having to amend the Bylaw itself.

This means the Handbook can be kept up to date with minor amendments and targeted consultation, rather than a full Bylaw review and Special Consultative Procedure.

The Handbook includes provisions relating to:

- Interments and disinterment's
- The installation and maintenance of vaults, monuments, fences, trees and shrubs, and other items on graves and in cemeteries
- Working in a cemetery
- The purchase of burial plots (including exclusive rights of burial).

3. Discussion

The Cemeteries Bylaw was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Manager and the wider team. The review found the Bylaw has worked well with no issues and has enabled the smooth operation of the Cemeteries covered by the Bylaw.

The separate Handbook has ensured a degree of flexibility for Council and the community to update practices where and when required.

Staff now seek to consult with the community on renewing the Bylaw – with one change – for a ten-year period.

The Cemeteries Bylaw 2020 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The updated Cemeteries Handbook with track changes can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Section 155 Analysis

The Section 155 Analysis was completed by the Policy and Strategy Lead, in consideration with the following additional sections of legislation:

LGA s155	LGA s77(1)(a)	LGA s14(1)(a)(i)	Best practice
Requires Council to ask 'Is a Bylaw the most appropriate way to address the problem?'	Council must seek to identify all reasonably practicable options to achieve the objectives of the decision.	Local authority should give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner.	Options analysis is a key part of the policy cycle and a core competency of the policy profession.

Alternatives that may be considered include legislation, education, providing or delivering services, regulation, or referral to another agency.

The Review included consideration of the analysis undertaken in 2020, when the Bylaw was initiated, and any change in circumstance since. This report is attached in full **Appendix 3**.

The 2020 Report noted the Bylaw is addressing the 'problem' of ensuring cemeteries, and activities within them, are managed in accordance with the BC Act as well as community, social and religious expectations. This 'problem' has not changed and continues to require addressing.

There is no other legal mechanism to meet this problem – a Bylaw is the regulatory tool available to enforce the provisions as required.

The use of the Handbook ensure the Bylaw is used only where required. The scope of the Handbook is provided for in the Bylaw.

The enforcement aspect of some elements necessitates the use of a Bylaw. Therefore, this analysis concludes that a Bylaw remains appropriate.

The Section 155 Analysis also requires that Council determines whether the proposed Bylaw gives rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Section 15 of the Bill of Rights Act provides that:

"Every person has the right to manifest that person's religion of belief in worship, observance, practice, or teaching, either individually or in community with others, and either in public or in private."

The review noted that Islamic Burial occurs as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of death.

The Bylaw sets hours of operation of cemeteries as those in the Handbook. The previous Handbook noted cemeteries are closed on Sundays and public holidays. This has now been updated to ensure Burials are able to take place in line with these customs when required.

Staff seek approval of this meeting for that change in the Handbook.

With this change, the review concluded that the use of this Bylaw does not give rise to any implications under the Bill of Rights Act.

Consultation

A Statement of Proposal is attached as **Appendix 4**, with dates to be inserted. The Special Consultative Procedure will be followed in accordance with the LG Act.

4. Financial Considerations

There is no financial implication from adopting this Bylaw.

5. Feedback from Community Boards

All Community Boards will be asked for feedback.

6. Options

Option 1 – (Recommended)

Approve the Cemeteries Bylaw for public consultation using the Special Consultative Procedure.

Advantages:

- The public have the opportunity to engage with the process.

Disadvantages:

- No disadvantages have been identified.

Option 2

Do not approve the Cemeteries Bylaw for public consultation.

Advantages:

- No advantages have been identified.

Disadvantages:

- Public will not be engaged in the process.
- The existing Bylaw will expire and become inoperative.

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities through the special consultative procedure.
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Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Cemeteries Bylaw 2020 and Cemeteries Handbook 2024.
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	There are no perceived impacts with adopting the resolution.
Risks Analysis	There are no perceived risks in adopting the reports resolutions.
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	Both the Local Government Act 2002 and the Burial and Cremations Act 1964 require public consultation for Bylaw reviews. This will use the special consultative procedure.

8. Next Steps

The proposed Cemeteries Bylaw and Cemeteries Handbook will be publicly advertised calling for submissions in the new year.

9. Attachments

[Appendix 1 - Cemetery Bylaw 2020 \(under separate cover\)](#)

[Appendix 2 - Cemeteries Handbook 2025 \(under separate cover\)](#)

[Appendix 3 - July 2020 Council Cemetery Bylaw Report \(under separate cover\)](#)

[Appendix 4 - Summary Statement of Proposal \(under separate cover\)](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.5 RESERVE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

Doc ID: 2666387

Report Author:	Gordon Bailey, Parks and Recreation Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	David Scoones, Group Manager - Community Experience

1. Purpose

To advise Council of amendments to the process for collecting the Reserve Land Acquisition Contribution.

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

2. Discussion

As part of the 2025–2034 Long Term Plan, Council adopted an updated Development and Financial Contributions Policy. The policy provides for reserve-related contributions to be met in different ways depending on what is appropriate for the development. These include the following contribution that can be paid in cash, or with land provided in lieu of cash:

- Reserve Land Development Contribution - \$10,000/ Household Equivalent Units (HUE) (incl GST)
- Reserves Improvements Development Contribution - \$304/HUE (incl GST)
- Reserves Financial Contribution - \$2,900/HUE (incl GST)

The 2025–2034 Long Term Plan does not include a forward reserve land purchase programme or any identified funding requirement to acquire additional reserve land, given the reserve land Council already holds that can be developed over time, e.g. the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve. Council has not purchased any reserve land in recent years.

In the absence of a defined programme to purchase reserve land through the Long-Term Plan, it is not appropriate to charge a Reserve Land Development Contribution on smaller infill subdivisions.

Reserve Land and Reserve Improvement Development Contributions may remain appropriate for new greenfield developments where new neighbourhoods are being created and there is a need to ensure sufficient green space is provided for recreation. By way of example, a 100-lot subdivision may be required to provide 2,000m² (0.2 Ha) of reserve land to ensure residents have access to parks and open space.

In established areas and for infill development, the need to acquire new reserve land is generally less pronounced because parks and reserves typically already exist within the surrounding neighbourhood. In these situations, it is more appropriate that contributions support the enhancement and betterment of existing open space and recreation assets to

respond to increased use and demand.

Council has identified that the policy was applied incorrectly in some cases, with a Reserve Land Development Contribution being charged on smaller/infill developments where a Reserve Financial Contribution (to support improvements to existing reserves) should have been applied instead.

Council is correcting this approach going forward. The Reserve Land and Reserves Improvements Development Contributions will not be charged for smaller/infill developments, and any payments already made under this provision will be refunded. A Reserves Financial Contribution will be levied. This element of the policy will be reviewed as part of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan to ensure any future contributions approach is clear. The total refunds will be under \$20K (exc GST).

3. Attachments

Nil

28 January 2026

26.1.6 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PREPARE CROMWELL WARD AND VINCENT WARD RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Doc ID: 2672977

Report Author:	Maria Burnett, Parks Officer - Planning and Strategy Gordon Bailey, Parks and Recreation Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	David Scoones, Group Manager - Community Experience

1. Purpose of Report

To request that Council resolves to notify its intention to prepare two Reserve Management Plans (RMPs):

- Cromwell Ward Reserve Management Plan
- Vincent Ward Reserve Management Plan

Each plan will incorporate multiple reserves within its respective Ward. The report also seeks Council's approval to delegate the Cromwell and Vincent Community Boards to hear submissions on the draft plans and recommend the final plans to Council for adoption under delegated authority.

Recommendations

That the Council

- Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- Agrees in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, to prepare draft Reserve Management Plans for the Cromwell and Vincent Ward reserves listed in Appendix 1.
- Authorises the Cromwell Community Board and Vincent Community Board to hear submissions on their respective draft Reserve Management Plans and recommend the final plans to Council for adoption under delegated authority.

2. Background

Council has many of reserves covered by Reserve Management Plans (RMP). In the Maniototo and Teviot wards omnibus RMPs have been developed which cover all the reserves within that ward in a single RMP.

Cromwell and Vincent wards have a number of individual RMPs, developed mainly due to the complex nature of the individual reserves and how they are used, e.g., Cromwell Racecourse Reserve and Molyneux Park.

During 2025 Council approved the classification of a number of reserves in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 (RA). Many of those reserves along with others that were already classified are proposed to be included in the omnibus RMPs. Several reserves that had older RMPs such as Neplasultra and Dunstan Recreation reserve have also been included.

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that all recreation reserves have a Reserve Management Plan prepared by their administering body. These plans must be kept under continuous review to ensure they reflect changing circumstances and community needs.

Preparing Ward-wide RMPs will:

- Ensure consistency in management policies across reserves.
- Provide a framework for future development.
- Reflect growth pressures and community expectations.
- Streamline consultation and planning processes.

3. Discussion

The Reserves Act requires public consultation when preparing a management plan. The process will include:

- Preparation of draft plans followed by public notification of the draft plans calling for submissions (minimum two months).
- Hearing of submissions by the Vincent and Cromwell Community Boards and recommending final plans to Council.

Delegating the respective Community Boards to hear submissions will ensure local input and efficient decision-making.

Relevant Sections of the Reserves Act	Public Consultation	Description of Activity	Phase
Section 41 (5)	Optional	Council notifies the public that it is preparing a management plan and calls for submissions (one month) ↓ Public submissions are received and incorporated into a draft management plan	Not required
Section 41 (5) c			
Section 41		↓	
Section 41 (6) a - c	Mandatory	A draft management plan is prepared and made available to the public for further comment (two months) ↓	Current stage
Section 41 (6) d	Mandatory	Submissions are heard and the draft management plan is edited to incorporate input from public submissions ↓ The final document is presented to Council for adoption	
Section 41 (6) e			
Section 41			
Section 41 (4)	Mandatory	Council adopts management plan under its delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation ↓ All policies come into effect and are enforceable by Council ↓ The management plan is monitored and reviewed as required	Implementation

4. Financial Considerations

Costs will be met within existing budgets.

5. Feedback from Community Boards

Feedback from the Community Boards has not been sought as they will play an active role in hearing submissions and making recommendations to Council.

The report seeks Council's approval to delegate the Cromwell and Vincent Community Boards to hear submissions on the draft RMPs and recommend the final plans to Council for adoption under its delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation.

6. Options

Option 1 – (Recommended)

Resolves to prepare draft Reserve Management Plans for the Cromwell and Vincent Wards and delegate the respective Community Boards to hear submissions.

Advantages:

- Meets statutory obligations under the Reserves Act 1977.
- Provides clear policy direction for managing reserves.

Disadvantages:

- None identified.

Option 2

Do not resolve to prepare the plans.

Advantages:

- None identified.

Disadvantages:

- Fails to meet statutory obligations.
- Decision-making will remain ad hoc.

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities by preparing Reserve Management Plans for Cromwell and Vincent Wards by providing clear policy direction for the management of reserves.
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Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Yes. This decision is consistent with the Central Otago District Council Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy and supports strategic objectives and policies for recreation and open space management.
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	A well-planned and functional reserve network contributes to environmental sustainability and resilience.
Risks Analysis	Council has an obligation under the Reserves Act 1977 to prepare and review reserve management plans. Failure to proceed would result in ad hoc decision-making for reserve management.
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	Public consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Section 119 of the Reserves Act 1977. Media releases and notices will invite community input.

8. Next Steps

- Prepare draft plans for public notification.
- Cromwell and Vincent Community Boards to hear submissions and recommend final plans to Council.

9. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Reserve List for Ward RMPs (under separate cover) [↗](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.7 ADOPTION OF CENTRAL OTAGO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2025-35

Doc ID: 2674572

Report Author:	Nick Lanham, Economic Development Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Louise Fleck, Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval of the revised draft Central Otago Economic Development Strategy 2025-35 following community consultation.

Recommendations

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Resolves to consider the submissions on the draft Central Otago Economic Development Strategy.
- C. Adopts, subject to amendments, the proposed Central Otago Economic Development Strategy 2025-35.

2. Background

Economic development is about lifting our community's standard of living through influencing economic growth in line with our values to provide employment, sufficient incomes, and the resources required to achieve a healthy standard of living and quality of life. Economic development is a community-driven process originating in the public sector.

The economic development strategy identifies opportunities and guides Council's efforts.

Central Otago's current Economic Development Strategy 2019-2024 has come to the end of its life. Work to develop a new Economic Development Strategy began in 2024. Community engagement took place in August and September 2024 and involved 11 workshops and an online survey over the same period that received over 200 responses. Engagement with mana whenua was also undertaken and included in the draft strategy.

In September 2025 Council approved the draft Economic Development Strategy 2025-35 to go out for community engagement, to check 'have we got it right?'.

3. Discussion

Public consultation on the draft strategy was carried out over a six-week period, from 13 October to 28 November 2025. A total of 18 submissions were received, including three from groups or organisations. Council's Let's Talk platform was the main platform for submissions receiving 15 responses. Three other submissions were received by email.

The *Draft Economic Development Strategy 2025 Survey Report* (attachment #1) provides a detailed collation of the survey results, survey methodology, and letter of support from mana whenua.

The consultation survey was structured into six key sections: the target, each of the four pillars, and opportunities for collaboration. For each section, respondents were asked if they support the target, pillar, opportunity to collaborate, and were asked for comments.

The Target: Increase the average Central Otago wage income to the national average by 2035.

Do you agree that this is the right target for the strategy? (Survey results)

Yes: 8

No: 3

Unsure: 4

In addition to the survey responses where the majority supported the target, one written submission explicitly supported the target, one supported the draft strategy, and one was silent on the target.

Respondents' comments

Respondents questioned whether our wages were lower than the national average due to our industry make up and the size of businesses, whether productivity automatically leads to higher wages, and whether the target is realistic.

They noted the need to balance growth against environmental sustainability and natural resource limits.

Several comments did not relate to the target, referring instead to housing affordability, critique of council, and implementation. These comments are picked up elsewhere in this report where relevant.

Staff response

Increasing productivity (and thus wages) is relevant to all industries and businesses of all sizes. The argument of why we have a lower average wage does not mean that the productivity cannot be improved regardless of industry or business size. Economic theory shows increased productivity supports higher wages.

The strategy is aligned to the District Vision: Central Otago – Our Place in World which incorporates the community outcomes: *Respect for the Environment, Robust Social Fabric, Expressions of Culture, and Increased Economic Prosperity*. The means by which the target is achieved, including pillars incorporate these community outcomes and balance.

Recommendation: no change to the target.

Pillar 1: Sustainable Growth and Innovation

Do you agree with the objectives of Pillar 1? (Survey results)

Yes: 9

No: 4

Unsure: 1

Respondents' comments

- Expressed strong concern regarding large scale projects fearing displacement of existing industries, damage to the environment, and altering the regions character.
- Emphasised the need for sustainable tourism and the risk of over tourism.

- Called for environmental protection, defining and monitoring ecological and biodiversity limits.
- Prioritised strengthening local business resilience over attracting new industries.

Staff response

There was a strong theme from some respondents around protecting the environment and character of the region, this is likely heightened by some proposed large-scale projects, and level of development in neighbouring regions. The strategy is neutral on the proposed large-scale projects given information to hand and councils role in consenting. The projects are referenced in the strategy to provide context rather than endorsement.

The strategy supports sustainable actions and activities. It builds on the District Vision: Central Otago – Our place in the world, World of Difference values, and references the Destination Management Plan. To help make this strategy's intent clearer, a definition of sustainable development could be included. Council also has planning and regulatory settings including the district plan and consenting processes to support sustainable development.

The call to focus on existing businesses over attracting new businesses to the district can be referenced and reflected in the annual workplan.

Recommendation

On page 19 of the strategy (attachment #2) include the United Nations Brundtland Commissions definition of sustainable development as "*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*" This definition is consistent with Councils Sustainability Strategy 2019-2024.

Pillar 2: Building Thriving and Inclusive Communities

Do you agree with the objectives of Pillar 2? (Survey results)

Yes: 10

No: 2

Unsure: 2

Respondents' comments

Respondents had a high level of support for this pillar and in their comments emphasised support for

- local businesses and startups through direct aid and resources.
- development of the local workforce to meet future economic needs.
- affordable housing and vibrant town centres but with diverse views on how this could be achieved.
- physical and digital infrastructure to facilitate business growth and activity.

Staff response

Comments are consistent with the detailed project pages of the strategy for the pillar which is also reflected in the highest number of "Yes" results. One respondent questioned focusing on economic development given possible future changes to local government. Future possible changes to legislation are difficult to factor into planning but the strategy can be reviewed if changes eventuated.

Recommendation: No changes made to pillar 2.

Pillar 3: Connected and Resilient Infrastructure

Do you agree with the objectives of Pillar 3? (Survey results)

Yes: 10

No: 4

Unsure: 1

Respondents' comments

- Expressed the need for improved transportation infrastructure with a focus on public transport between towns, road maintenance and active transport.
- Supported improved digital infrastructure but noted potential social impact of reducing physical contact.
- Urged a practical approach to climate resilience and the need to plan infrastructure for long term population trends.

Staff response Comments are consistent with the draft strategy.

Recommendation: No change to pillar 3.

Pillar 4: Partnership and Collaboration

Do you agree with the objectives of Pillar 4? (Survey results)

Yes: 10

No: 4

Unsure: 1

Respondents

- Expressed strong support for partnerships and collaboration, with mana whenua, community and industry.
- Requested a strategic overview of how the pillars interact and link with regional partners.
- Requested industry engagement through a structured engagement process and strengthening procurement guidelines to preference local suppliers.

Staff response

A high level of support for this pillar, partnership, collaboration and engagement opportunities can be advanced with the annual business plan.

Recommendation: No change to pillar 4.

Do you see an opportunity to collaborate or partner with Council on a project or activity?"

Yes: 10

No: 5

In addition to the survey responses Mana whenua and Business South expressed a desire to partner and collaborate on the implementation of the strategy.

Respondents' comments

- Identified a need to get information on large scale projects into the community for the public to be informed.
- Opportunity to support large projects to partner with council and community to integrate initiatives into the community
- Opportunity to improve engagement and planning such as Business South's suggestion of quarterly business-Council economic roundtables.
- Targeted support for business support and workforce upskilling.
- Revitalising Cromwell Mall and upgrading facilities for the Alexandra football club.
- Creation of permanent markets and small business collectives that are jointly located and marketed.
- Encourage private – public support for vocational pathways aligned to Central Otago's economy.

Staff response

The majority of respondents saw an opportunity to collaborate with Council on a project or activity. A number of the opportunities referred to focussed more on Council partnering with another party rather than with the respondent.

Council doesn't distribute information on behalf of third parties for large scale projects and it is difficult for council to engage publicly with large-scale projects while in a consenting process, however council can encourage projects to engage with the community.

These comments are consistent with activities in the strategy

- Revitalising Cromwell Mall (Pillar 2)
- Private – public support for vocational pathways (Pillar 2)
- Targeted support for business support and workforce upskilling (Pillar 2)
- Creation of permanent markets and small businesses collectives (Pillar 4)

Recommendation: On page 41 of the strategy (attachment #2) under Project 4.2 Activities: Knowledge Sharing, add activity: *"Where applicable encourage new projects to the region to engage with community to promote an understanding of their work."*

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations with adoption of the strategy, actions from the strategy are set in the annual work plans that can be undertaken within approved operational budgets. Actions that require spending above allocated budget will be brought to council for consideration and approval.

5. Feedback from Community Boards

Each community board was presented to. The focus of the presentations was on raising awareness of the content of the draft strategy, that it was currently out for community consultation, and encouraging community board members to submit and/or encourage members of their community to submit.

6. Options**Option 1 – (Recommended)**

Approve the draft strategy with revisions as noted in this report.

Advantages:

- Provides greater level of confidence in the strategy
- Community ownership of 10-year approach to economic development
- Ensures that the strategy can move to implementation

Disadvantages:

- No disadvantages known

Option 2

Approve the draft strategy with changes other than the revisions in this report.

Advantages:

- Ensures strategy moves to implementation
- Greater level of confidence in the strategy versus it being not approved

Disadvantages:

- Changes may not reflect public sentiment

Option 3

Do not approve the draft strategy.

Advantages:

- No advantages known

Disadvantages:

- Decreased level of confidence in the strategy
- Reduced community ownership
- Delays implementation of the strategy

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	<p>This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities by articulating the economic development strategy for the community.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>This decision promotes the social, cultural, economic, environmental wellbeing of communities, in the present and for the future by adopting the strategy and enabling implementation.</p>
Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Yes. The process to develop the strategy along with the strategy presented for adoption is consistent with council plans and policies.
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	Council's Sustainability Strategy has been considered in the development of this strategy. This work is also aligned to Central Otago's District Vision.
Risks Analysis	There are no inherent risks with the associated option.
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	This strategy has an impact across the Council and the District. Engagement has been

	undertaken to date internally, with community, Aukaha, and mana whenua.
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8. Next Steps

An annual work plan identifying the key focus projects to be progressed will be presented to Council each year, with six monthly progress reports.

9. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Draft Economic Development Strategy Survey Report (under separate cover) [✉](#)

Appendix 2 - Central Otago Economic Development Strategy - draft (under separate cover) [✉](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.8 USE OF TOURISM RESERVES

Doc ID: 2694258

Report Author:	Anthony Longman, Head of Destination
Reviewed and authorised by:	Louise Fleck, Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a recommendation for use of Tourism Reserves to fund two projects in 2026 and 2027.

Recommendations

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Approves \$280,000 from the Tourism Reserves account to fund the identified projects.

2. Background

As part of the submission process on the 2025-2034 Long-term plan and the draft Long-term Plan document on 20 May 2025 Council passed the resolutions below:

- Requests a report from the Chief Executive Officer to investigate possible uses for the tourism reserves for 2026-27 Annual Plan.
- Requests the Chief Executive Officer to consider the feasibility of a district event fund in the wider ratings review in 2025-26.

Council's Tourism function is funded via a targeted tourism rate. This funding mechanism means any budget underspent at year end falls to the tourism reserves account. Reserves accumulated as during COVID, CODC received additional tourism funding from the Ministry of Business and Innovation (MBIE), which was required to be spent in a set period on specific projects. As a result, the targeted tourism rate was not fully spent during the period.

The opening balance of the Tourism Reserves account for 2025/2026 is \$475,845 and the current estimated closing balance at end of AP 2026/2027 is \$283,361.

3. Discussion

Tourism Central Otago (TCO) is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for Central Otago. Our role is to coordinate and facilitate the management and marketing of Central Otago as a visitor destination for the benefit of our communities. This work is guided by the Central Otago Destination Management Plan (DMP), which outlines the aspiration of our communities and mana whenua for how tourism can enrich our communities' outcomes.

At the request of Council, staff have identified two projects that support the Destination Management Plan outcomes that are not achievable with current resourcing or budget. These projects have been discussed with and supported by the Central Otago Destination Advisory Board.

Project 1 – Investment Prospectus and Business Productivity Accelerator.

- Develop an investment prospectus for key enabling projects such as hotels, campgrounds and visitor experiences.
- Develop and pilot a Tourism Accelerator and Cluster programme; providing specialist support and training in visitor experience, digital marketing, and integration of technology tools. A key outcome will be enhancing existing offering across the district and developing case studies to encourage future investment in product development and experiences.

Resourcing and project costs to be funded through \$100,000 of tourism reserves.

Project 2 – Attraction and support of District wide events

- Establish a district wide events fund and application process.
- Secure at least three new destination events through event funding, attracting significant visitation and value to the region.
- Develop and implement an event impact assessment tool.
- Support the continued implementation of the Eventful Development Framework.

Resourcing and project costs to support the delivery and associated project costs - \$30,000 and create a one-off \$150,000 District Wide Events Fund.

4. Financial Considerations

Council's Tourism function is funded via a targeted tourism rate. This funding mechanism means any budget underspent at year end falls to the tourism reserves account. The use of reserves has no impact on rates.

Reserves are held to ensure that funds received for a particular purpose and any surplus created is managed in accordance with the reason for which the reserve was established.

The current estimated closing balance at end of AP 2026/2027 is \$283,361

5. Feedback from Community Boards

The Central Otago Destination Management Plan was developed in consultation with community and engaged with Community Boards and Council.

6. Options

Option 1 – (Recommended)

Council supports the use of \$280,000 of Tourism Reserves for Project 1 and Project 2

Advantages:

- Tourism Reserves are used for key enabling projects in the DMP and Eventful Central Framework in a timely way.
- Addresses the build up of Tourism Reserves

Disadvantages:

- The reduction of the reserves limits potential future uses of the fund.

Option 2

Council supports the use of Tourism Reserves for Project 1 or Project 2 only.

Advantages:

- Advances one project in the DMP
- Leaves funds in the Tourism Reserves account for potential future uses.

Disadvantages:

- The reduction of the reserves limits potential future uses of the fund.
- A key enabling projects in the DMP will not be progressed.

Option 3

Council declines the use of Tourism Reserves for the identified projects

Advantages:

- Leaves funds available for future uses.

Disadvantages:

- Does not address the use of Tourism reserves as requested by Council

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	This decision promotes the (social/cultural/economic/environmental) wellbeing of communities, in the present and for the future by supporting the goals of the Destination Management Plan.
Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Yes. This decision is aligned to the Destination Management Plan, Events Framework and supports the Economic Development Strategy
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	No implications
Risks Analysis	No substantial risks
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	The proposal does not trigger any significance thresholds and finance staff have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. Next Steps

Each project will be undertaken following Councils procurement guidelines. A further report will come to Council to confirm the application and distribution process for a District event fund.

9. Attachments

Nil

28 January 2026

26.1.9 STATUS REPORTS - THREE WATERS CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME

Doc ID: 2644130

Report Author:	Patrick Keenan, Capital Projects Programme Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Julie Muir, Group Manager - Three Waters

1. Purpose

To consider the progress of key projects within the Three Waters Capital Projects Programme.

The status reports are appended.

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

2. Discussion

Status Reports - Three Waters Capital Projects Programme

Alexandra Watermain Renewals Project (Appendix 1):

The purpose of the project is to renew existing watermains replacing ageing infrastructure and improving resilience.

The scope of work includes two key sites: Bridge Hill and Enterprise Street.

Cromwell Drinking Water Upgrade Project (Appendix 2):

The scope of work includes constructing a new water treatment plant near the McNab Road reservoirs and upgrading the source water take via construction of three bores near the Alpha Street playing fields.

The purpose of the project is to meet Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and enable growth.

Ranfurly and Patearoa Water Treatment Upgrades (Appendix 3):

The scope of work includes upgrading of water treatment plants at Ranfurly and Patearoa via installation of protozoa barriers (ultraviolet treatment).

The purpose of the project is to meet Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and improve resilience of the drinking water supplies for the two communities.

Ranfurly Wastewater Treatment Plant Ponds Desludging Project:

In January 2023, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) undertook an audit of wastewater treatment plants operated by the Central Otago District Council. The audit identified several maintenance deficiencies and instances of non-compliance with resource consent conditions. As a result, abatement notices were issued for several facilities, including the Ranfurly wastewater treatment plant.

The Ranfurly site received its abatement notice in April 2023. Since then, extensions have been granted to allow sufficient time for planning and implementation of remedial works aimed at achieving compliance. On 23 June 2025, ORC approved a further extension of the compliance deadline, moving the date from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Council staff have progressed investigation, design, and procurement activities for desludging the oxidation ponds and wetlands to improve performance. Following an open tender process, Glasgow Contractors have been awarded the contract. Updated sludge survey work occurred in December 2025 and site establishment in January 2026.

Final programme and financial forecast are being developed. Full status report to be provided at March 2026 Council meeting.

Bannockburn watermain upgrade and reservoir installation Projects:

On 27 August 2025, Council approved the procurement of renewal of watermains in Bannockburn and construction of a new water reservoir.

The purpose of the project is to address current infrastructure limitations and prepare for future growth.

The watermain renewal and construction of a new 500m³ reservoir were tendered separately in September 2025 and awarded in October 2025. The watermain work was awarded to Southroads Ltd and the reservoir work awarded to Reliant Solutions Ltd.

Final programme and financial forecast are being developed. Full status report to be provided at March 2026 Council meeting.

Dunstan Road Water and Wastewater Reticulation Project:

Plan Change 19 was approved in 2024 and rezoned land on Dunstan Road from Rural Residential to Large Lot Residential. The area extends approximately 1.2km along Dunstan Road.



Figure 1: Dunstan Road Plan Change 19 area of Large Lot Residential Zone. Also depicting two current developments sites.

On 27 August 2025, Council approved the detailed design and procurement of pumped pressure sewer and water reticulation to service the Dunstan Road Large Lot Residential Zone.

The purpose of this project is to enable growth in the area and provide resilient infrastructure to support ongoing development.

The tender for this work was advertised in November 2025 and closed on 18 December 2025. Five tenders were received, and negotiations are being undertaken with the preferred supplier.

Full status report to be provided at March 2026 Council meeting.

3. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Alexandra Watermains Renewal Project - Status Report December 2025 (under separate cover) [🔗](#)

**Appendix 2 - Cromwell Water Treatment Upgrade - Status Report December 2025
(under separate cover) [✉](#)**

**Appendix 3 - Ranfurly and Patearoa Protozoa Barriers Project - Status Report
December 2025 (under separate cover) [✉](#)**

28 January 2026

26.1.10 JANUARY WASTEWATER COMPLIANCE STATUS UPDATE

Doc ID: 2692919

Report Author:	Philippa Bain, Water Services Customer and Compliance Team Leader
Reviewed and authorised by:	Julie Muir, Group Manager - Three Waters

1. Purpose

To consider progress on achieving Otago Regional Council Consent (ORC) compliance for Central Otago District Council (CODC) wastewater activities.

Recommendations

That the report be received.

2. Discussion

The Council operates seven wastewater treatment plants in Cromwell, Alexandra, Lake Roxburgh Village, Roxburgh, Omakau, Ranfurly, and Naseby. These plants operate under 12 resource consents, each with different conditions and expiry dates. Table 1 gives an overview of each plant and the consents that allow them to operate.

Location	Consent Number	Consent Type	Expiry
Omakau	RM21.566.01	Discharge to Water	2027* 2028
Lake Roxburgh Village	RM23.613.01	Discharge to Land	2029
Alexandra	RM12.517.02.V1	Discharge to Water	2038
	RM12.517.03.V1	Discharge to Land	2038
	RM12.517.01	Discharge to Air	2038
Roxburgh	RM10.306.01.V2	Discharge to Land	2045
Ranfurly	RM15.004.02	Discharge to Water	2050
	RM11.110.03	Discharge to Air	2047
Cromwell	RM13.233.02.V3	Discharge to Water	2049
	RM13.233.03.V1	Discharge to Land	2049
	RM13.233.01	Discharge to Air	2049
Naseby	RM15.258.01.V1	Discharge to Land	2051

Otago Regional Council (the ORC) audit the wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) annually. In January 2023, the audit identified several maintenance issues and non-compliances with resource consent conditions, resulting in issuing of abatement notices for five of our seven wastewater treatment plants.

Of the five, Alexandra, Cromwell and Naseby have had abatement notices lifted (Alexandra in May 2024, Cromwell July 2024 and Naseby in May 2025). The remaining two sites

(Roxburgh and Ranfurly) are still operating under abatement notices. The current compliance dates are as follows: Roxburgh by 30th April 2026 and Ranfurly by 30 June 2026.

This report provides an update on the progress of the works to address these issues.

National Wastewater Performance Standards

New Zealand's first national wastewater standards became law on 19 December 2025.

Wastewater standards determine what kind of treatment is needed before wastewater can be released into the environment. The rules vary depending on how sensitive the local environment is. In areas that are more sensitive, stricter treatment is required. In places where the risk to the environment or public health is lower, the treatment requirements are less strict, which will reduce capital upgrade costs.

Under the transition provisions to the new standards any existing resource consent which expires before 27 August 2027 will be automatically extended to 27 August 2028. The Omakau treatment plant consent will therefore be extended. Increased monitoring and reporting requirements will be included in the new consents.

The new standard introduces consistent monitoring and reporting requirements relating to overflows, and a new consent will be required for these. These requirements come into force on 19 December 2028. Prior to this stormwater and wastewater risk management plans are required to be prepared and submitted in 2028.

The risk management plans are required to include mapping and will provide the background information required for the resource consent application. Council staff are progressing development of the risk management plans. Stormwater risk management plans are being prioritised on schemes where there are existing stormwater infiltration management requirements under current resource consents, and in high growth towns. These plans are required to be reviewed every five years and provided to the Water Services Authority.

It is anticipated that Southern Waters CCO will be responsible for applying for the overflow and bypass resource consent in 2027/28.

If existing consent conditions are more stringent than the new performance standards, and there are risks of breaching existing consented limits then there may be benefit in applying for new consents earlier. A technical review of all sites is being undertaken to compare existing performance and consent conditions against the new standards. This information will also inform future upgrade requirements. A report will be provided in mid-2026 when this information is available.

Roxburgh

The Roxburgh wastewater treatment plant consent requires two compliance samples each year in February and August, with individual limits for each parameter, as well as a 24-month geometric mean (geomean).

The geomean is an average of results over a specified period. This means there needs to be two years of lower results in order for the plant to meet all the consent conditions.

High nitrogen levels were the main issue in the abatement notice. To address this, the plant was desludged in May 2024 and aeration was installed in May 2025, with monthly sampling added under the abatement notice extension.

Since August 2025, all individual monthly sample results have met the consent limits, including total nitrogen. This is a major improvement—the first time since 2017 that individual limits have been consistently achieved. The 24-month geomean remains non-compliant due to a high result in August 2024, and it is unlikely to meet the requirement by the April 2026 deadline. An extension will likely be needed to allow the improved results to flow through the geomean calculation. The current trend in results

Figures 1 and 2 show total nitrogen results before and after the upgrades. The trend suggests that desludging and aeration are reducing nitrogen levels.

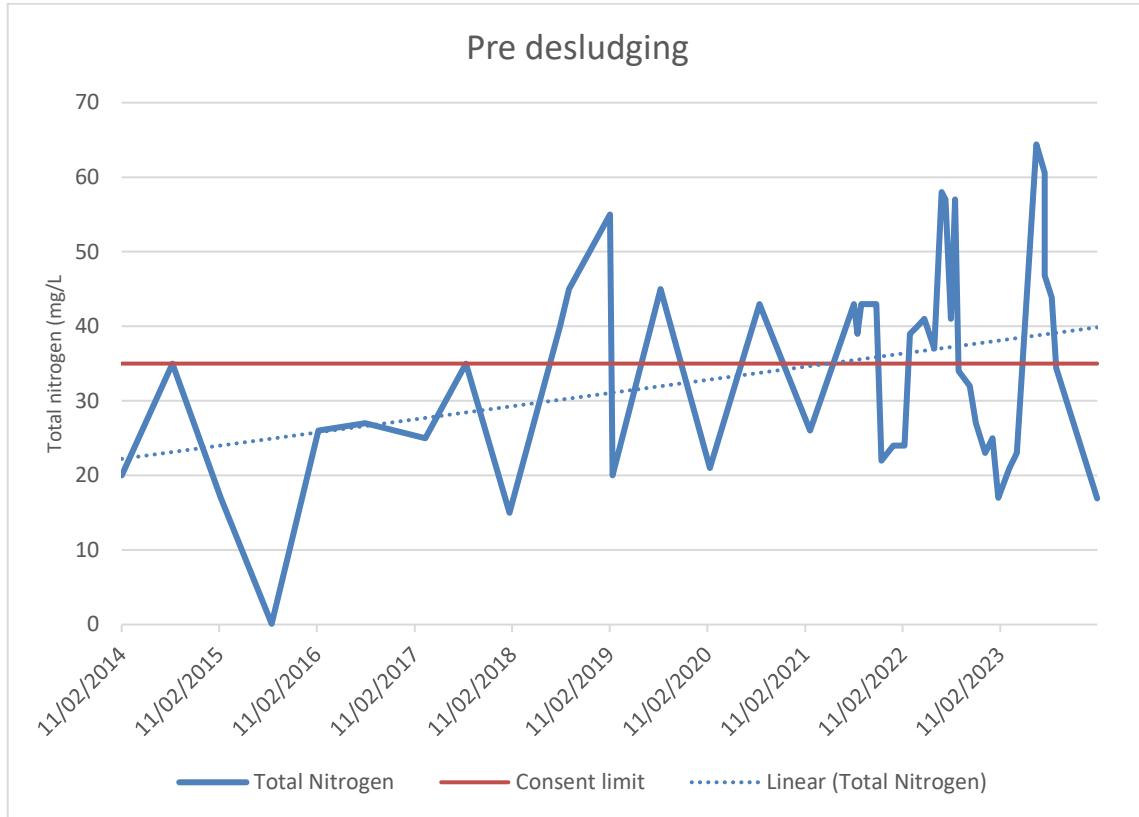


Figure 1: Total Nitrogen trending upwards

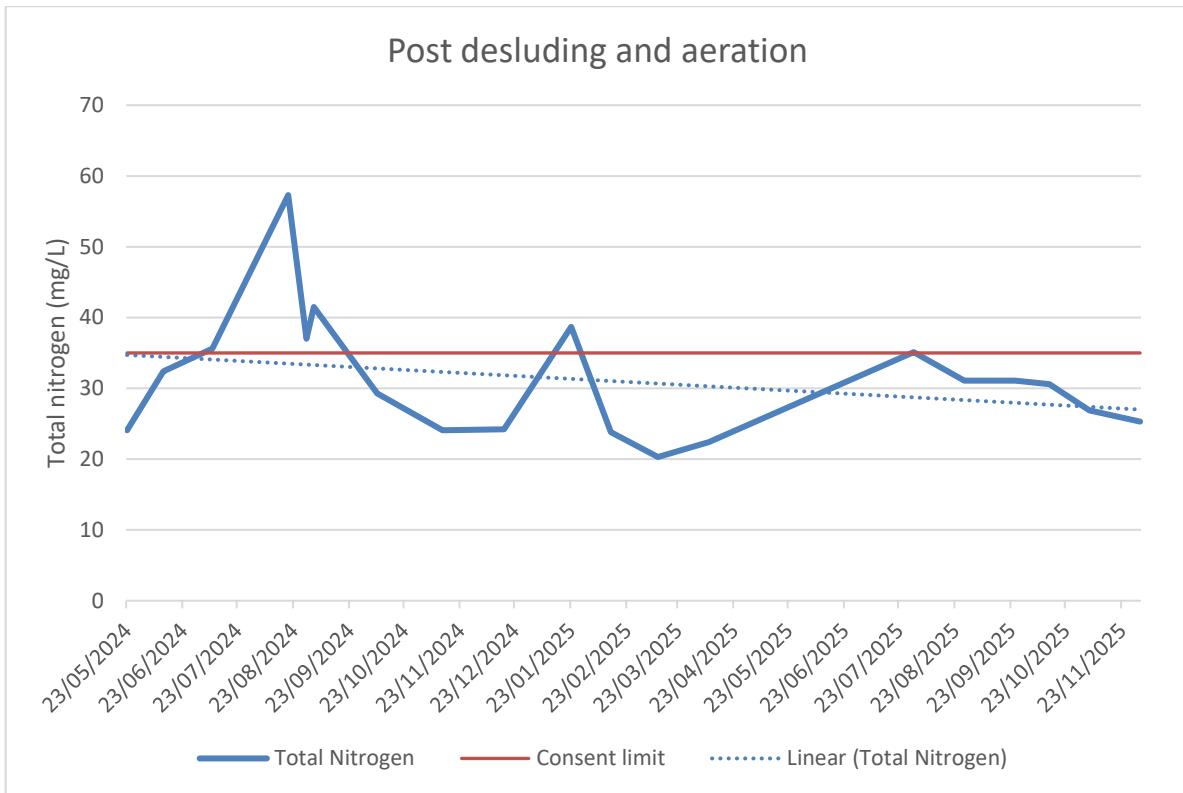


Figure 2: Total Nitrogen trending downwards post desludging and aeration

Ranfurly

The contract for the desludging of the pond and constructed wetlands was signed in November. Site establishment for the desludging will occur in January 2026.

The treatment plant has produced fully compliant effluent since July 2024. The consent also requires upstream and downstream samples from Bandy's Creek to show no impact from the discharge. This is difficult to achieve given the creek often has very low flow.

Options for a ground discharge are being investigated as a more practical alternative to discharge in the creek.

3. Attachments

Nil

28 January 2026

26.1.11 CODC SUBMISSIONS

Doc ID: 2705938

Report Author:	Wayne McEntee, Governance Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

1. Purpose

There are several ongoing submission periods on a variety of issues concerning Council. They are as follows:

- Simplifying Local Government
- Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill
- Rates Capping
- Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill
- Earthquake Prone Buildings

This is an opportunity to provide staff with direction on those submissions. Note that the draft for the rates capping bill will need to be circulated before this meeting to ensure it makes the deadline for submission.

A rundown of the various legislation can be found in appendix one.

2. Attachments

Appendix 1 - CODC Submissions - January 2026 (under separate cover) [⊕](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.12 KEY RISK REPORT

Doc ID: 2691111

Report Author:	Amelia Lines, Risk and Procurement Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

1. Purpose

To consider the Key Risk Register for Q4 of calendar year 2025.

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

2. Discussion

Central Otago District Council maintains a register of key risks, which is reviewed and updated quarterly. The Key Risk Register is reported to and reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee quarterly.

This Key Risk Register, found at Appendix A, currently contains 18 risks. The 18 risks have residual risk ratings ranging from low to very high, as shown in the table below.

Residual Risk Rating	Number of Key Risks
Very High	2
High	4
Medium	10
Low	2
Very Low	0
Total	18

Included in Appendix A are the drivers influencing each of the key risks. Council operates in an environment where external factors can influence risk exposure significantly, which is reflected in a number of risks on the register.

Council's top risks relate to the management of Three Waters activity and balancing affordability and financial sustainability. These two risks are strongly linked.

The two new risks added in the latest review relate to compliance with legislative requirements, and operational readiness for the new Cromwell Hall facility. Whilst the operational readiness risk has been monitored for some time through the project risk register, the inclusion of this risk within the Key Risk Register enables broader oversight and understanding of the risk exposure and controls in place.

Council staff will continue to monitor, manage, and report upon the risks on the Key Risk Register, with the next quarterly update due to be presented at the Audit and Risk Committee in February.

3. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Key Risks December 2025 (under separate cover) [↗](#)

28 January 2026

26.1.13 TE KOROWAI EVALUATION REPORT

Doc ID: 2692660

Report Author:	Amelia Lines, Risk and Procurement Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

1. Purpose

To consider Central Otago District Council's Te Korowai Independent Evaluation Report.

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

2. Discussion

In the last triennium, Council resolved to undertake a Te Korowai (formerly CouncilMark) evaluation. Te Korowai is Local Government New Zealand local government excellence programme, which aims to guide local councils towards excellence and continuous improvement.

The Te Korowai independent evaluation process took place between June and August 2025 and included a written submission and an in-person evaluation led by two independent evaluators and the Te Korowai programme manager. The in-person evaluation involved interviews with staff, elected members, and external stakeholders from Aukaha, Otago Regional Council, New Zealand Transport Authority (Waka Kotahi), and community and business groups.

The Te Korowai independent evaluation is based upon four pillars:

- Priority one – Governance, leadership, and strategy
- Priority two – Financial decision making and transparency
- Priority three – Service delivery and asset management
- Priority four – Communications and engagement

Performance is evaluated for each priority area, and an overall evaluation is determined.

There is a four-point range for performance evaluation:

- Mauri Moe – Inactive
- Mauri Oho – Aware
- Mauri Tū – Active
- Mauri Ora – Thriving

CODC's overall performance has been evaluated as Mauri Tū. This is made up of evaluations of Mauri Tū for priority areas one to three and an evaluation of Mauri Ora for priority four. The evaluation report noted that "Overall, the Council's solid foundations, positive trajectory, and active commitment to improvement align well with the benchmark of Mauri Tū.". The full report can be found at Appendix 1.

This outcome is positive and reflects the progress made at CODC over recent years, as well as the continued staff commitment to achieving the organisational mission of supporting and enabling a safe, healthy, and thriving community and environment. Areas for improvement are noted in the report, and the next phase of the evaluation process is to develop a clear action plan to address these areas.

3. Attachments

Appendix 1 - CODC Te Korowai Evaluation Report 2025 (under separate cover) [↗](#)

8 MAYOR'S REPORT

26.1.14 MAYOR'S REPORT

Doc ID: 2683037

1. Purpose

To consider an update from Her Worship the Mayor.

Recommendations

That the Council receives the report and notes its contents.

A very warm welcome to 2026! We've said goodbye to the rubbish year of the Snake that was 2025, and I'm incredibly excited to head into the Year of the Fire Horse come Chinese New Year in February. That's right – not just any old horse, but the Fire Horse. So, what's ahead for us?

Our staff have been hard at work drafting submissions on proposed rates-capping legislation, RMA reform, Local Government reform (which centres around abolishing regional councils), and Emergency Management reform, to name a few. If enacted, these changes will fundamentally reshape how councils operate, how we represent our people, how we plan for our communities' futures, and how we pay for it all.

Otago Mayors have already begun discussing what working together for the betterment of our region might look like, and what collective suggestions we should make during the submission process. We already collaborate quite a lot – but there's always room for improvement.

Our water CCO is progressing well. Last week we welcomed Programme Director Fiona Smith and Board Establishment Chair Bruce Gemmell. Both are excited to get stuck into the work ahead, ensuring that our 18-month runway to launch the new entity is paved with opportunities for success. Over the coming weeks, we'll be drafting the shareholders' agreement, which outlines how decisions will be made collectively. This will come back before Council for sign-off.

The Vincent by-election has attracted three worthy contenders – a fantastic outcome, especially considering that at the 11th hour we didn't have any! Now it's up to the people of the ward to make their decision and choose who will join us at the table. I encourage everyone to read the profiles online, watch the videos, and attend any events to hear the candidates speak. This is an important role for the next three years.

Summer is now in full swing – we hit 32 degrees yesterday (at the time of writing). Businesses are humming, cyclists are out in force, hay and baleage are being made in huge quantities, and we're finally braving the not-always-warm waterways. Please continue to look out for one another – especially our farming community, who put in massive hours during harvest season. A heartfelt thank you to those involved in the "Clip for a Cause" event earlier this month, raising money for a very worthy cause.

The start of a new year has also brought some sad news for our neighbouring councils. Their communities have lost serving councillor and former Mayor Jules Radich in Dunedin, former Mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt in Invercargill, and former Mayor Juno Hayes in Clutha District. Together, these men contributed over 70 years of service to their communities – a monumental achievement.

Coffee and Chats have restarted for the year, and I'm excited to add new areas and businesses to the rotation. They've been popular so far, and other elected members are welcome to join me anytime. I want to be the most accessible Mayor I can be, and I've enjoyed many conversations over the summer with people from across our district and beyond.

In the next few weeks, we'll hold our first community board meetings for 2026. Like Council, our boards have held strategy sessions to determine how they want to operate, engage, and prioritise their communities this term. I'm excited to see new ways of working come together over the coming months.

There's much we don't yet know about what 2026 will bring for councils across New Zealand. What we do know is that things will look different by the end of the year. Having strong community boards, a cohesive Council, pragmatic communities, and a clear vision of where we want to head has set us up well to deliver on our aspiration to be the best council in NZ.

Now, let's get to work.

2. Attachments

Nil

28 January 2026

9 STATUS REPORTS

26.1.15 JANUARY 2026 GOVERNANCE REPORT

Doc ID: 2683089

Report Author:	Wayne McEntee, Governance Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

1. Purpose

To report on items of general interest, receive minutes and updates from key organisations, business plans and status report updates.

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

2. Discussion

Status Reports

The status reports have been updated with any actions since the previous meeting (see Appendix 1).

Tūhura Otago Museum Regular Report to Contributing Local Authorities

Tūhura Otago Museum have submitted their report to December 2025. It was previously sent out to Councillors (see appendix 2).

3. Attachments

[Appendix 1 - January Council Status Updates \(under separate cover\)](#) ↗

[Appendix 2 - Tūhura Otago Museum Regular Report to Contributing Local Authorities \(under separate cover\)](#) ↗

28 January 2026

10 COMMITTEE MINUTES

26.1.16 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2025

Doc ID: 2683231

Report Author:	Wayne McEnteer, Governance Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

Recommendations

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2025 be noted.

1. Attachments

Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2025

**MINUTES OF CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE
HELD IN NGĀ HAU E WHĀ, WILLIAM FRASER BUILDING, 1 DUNORLING STREET,
ALEXANDRA
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2025 AT 10.31
AM**

PRESENT: Mr B Robertson (Chair), Her Worship the Mayor T Alley, Cr S Browne, Cr C Pannett, 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), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), P Morris (Chief Financial Officer), A Crosbie (Senior Strategy Advisor), A Lines (Risk and Procurement Manager), A Jansen (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator), W McEntee (Governance Manager)

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4 REPORTS

Note: Yvonne Yang and Monique Kruger from Audit New Zealand joined the meeting for item 25.6.2.

25.6.2 PREPARATION FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN 2027-37

To consider an update on preparations toward the 2027-37 Long-term Plan.

During discussion, it was noted that Audit New Zealand would be able to confirm their resources and timeline in the New Year for the 2026 audit dates. It was also noted that Audit New Zealand were in the middle of a restructure and that brought some uncertainty.

Other issues raised in discussion were the impact of business as usual on the team, completion of the 2025/26 Annual Report, a rating review, resourcing the Long-Term Plan group and the impact of reforms from central government.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Robertson

A. That the report be received.

B. Agrees to perform the oversight of the Long-term Plan:

- Receiving a formal progress update at each scheduled meeting, including visibility on how the programme is tracking according to the agreed plan.
- Receiving for feedback the key policies that will be included as part of the Long-term Plan (including the Significance and Engagement Policy, the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, the Revenue and Rating Policy and the Financial Strategy).
- Receiving the Consultation Document in advance of its public release.
- Receiving for feedback the full draft document.
- Will oversee the relationship with Audit New Zealand for the Long-term Plan.

CARRIED

Note: Kelvin Weston from Deloitte joined the meeting for item 25.6.3.

25.6.3 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMME

To consider the draft report from Deloitte on financial acumen (operational finance review).

After discussion it was agreed with another report will come to the February 2026 meeting with a timeline for work to be carried out based on the Deloitte report.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Paterson
Seconded: Pannett

That the report be received.

CARRIED

25.6.4 POLICY AND STRATEGY REGISTER

To consider the updated Policy and Strategy Register.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Browne

That the report be received and its contents noted.

CARRIED

25.6.5 PROTECTED DISCLOSURE (WHISTLEBLOWING) POLICY ADOPTION

To consider the updates made to the Protected Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy in line with its three-yearly review.

After discussion it was noted that the policy should be looked as through a legal lens before being submitted to Council for their consideration.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Robertson
Seconded: Alley

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Recommends to Council the adoption of the updated Protected Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy, subject to inhouse legal sign-off.

CARRIED

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

To provide the Audit & Risk Committee with an update on the health, safety and wellbeing performance of the organisation.

During discussion it was queried whether there should be a column for aggressive customers in the non-treatment injuries section.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Paterson

That the report be received

CARRIED

25.6.7 BANCORP REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

To consider the quarterly treasury report.

It was noted in discussion that any breaches that had occurred had now been rectified.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Robertson
Seconded: Alley

That the report be received and its contents noted.

CARRIED

5 CHAIR'S REPORT**25.6.8 CHAIR'S REPORT**

To consider the Chair's report.

The Chair noted current issues affecting local government.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Browne

That the report be received.

CARRIED

6 MEMBERS' REPORTS

25.6.9 MEMBERS' REPORTS

To consider the members' reports.

There were no updates from members.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Robertson
Seconded: Pannett

That the reports be received.

CARRIED

7 STATUS REPORTS

25.6.10 DECEMBER 2025 GOVERNANCE REPORT

To report on items of general interest and the current status report updates.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Robertson
Seconded: Alley

That the report be received.

CARRIED

8 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 13 February 2026.

9 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Robertson

Seconded: Paterson

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
25.6.11 - Bad Debts and Abandoned Land	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	To protect a person's privacy
25.6.12 - Risk Management Update	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
25.6.13 - Litigation Register	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege	Legal professional privilege
25.6.14 - Chair's Report - Reform	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

CARRIED

The public were excluded at 12.02 pm the meeting closed at 1.05 pm.

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 25 February 2026.

12 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Recommendations

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
Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting	<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)(c)(ii) - 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 otherwise to damage the public interest</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out,</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to protect the public interest</p> <p>Legal professional privilege</p> <p>To enable commercial activities</p>

	<p>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>To enable commercial or industrial negotiations</p> <p>To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage</p>
26.1.17 - Risk Management Update	<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>To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage</p>
26.1.18 - Crown Minerals Access Agreement	<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)(c)(ii) - 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 otherwise to damage the public interest</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open</p> <p>Due to an obligation of confidence and to protect the public interest</p> <p>Legal professional privilege</p>

	<p>maintain legal professional privilege</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>To enable commercial activities</p> <p>To enable commercial or industrial negotiations</p>
26.1.19 - January 2026 Confidential Governance Report	<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)(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>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>
26.1.20 - Confidential Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2025	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</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>To protect a person's privacy</p> <p>Legal professional privilege</p> <p>To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage</p>