



Minutes

Otago Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 13 February 2023

Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm

Venue: University of Otago, Dunedin

Present:

Megan McPherson	LAC Member (Acting Chair)
Des Minehan	LAC Member
Hilary McNab	LAC Member
Mandy Mayhem-Bullock	LAC Member
Michelle Taiaroa-McDonald	LAC Member
Neil Gillespie	LAC Member
Aaron Fleming	LAC Member

In Attendance:

Mike Grant	Region Manager, Te Kei
Phil Marsh	District Manager, Otago
Cullum Peni-Wesche	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees

Apologies:

Brenden Winder	LAC Chair
Helen Algar	LAC Deputy Chair
Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees

Welcome

The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the venue, provided a venue health and safety briefing, and opened the meeting with a karakia tīmatanga.

Minutes

The minutes from the LAC's quarter two hui on 21 October 2022 were confirmed.

National LAC Team

The National LAC Team provided an update on the appointments process currently underway for six of the seven LACs. New LAC members will be appointed in April 2023 and inducted in May 2023. New members will also be invited to attend their LAC's upcoming quarter four meeting.

District update

The District Manager provided the LAC with an overview of District activities over the last quarter. A trial for satellite grass curing is underway to provide the District Team with information to aid decision

making on fire seasons restrictions. Other key risk reduction initiatives include engaging with the Department of Corrections to reduce instances of false alarms in the Otago Corrections Facility.

The District Team is also working with Police, other partner agencies and forestry companies to better identify arsonists who ignite scrub or forest fires. Committee members noted that in addition to the risks posed by fires being intentionally lit, the risk from accidental fires may be high in areas due to the dry summer conditions, e.g. possibility of grass fires along the Otago Peninsula.

The District Guidance for the Otago LAC (that outlines how the LAC can best support the District Team throughout the year) will be completed and circulated to the LAC following quarter three hui.

District Plan

The District Manager presented the draft Otago District Plan to the LAC and provided an overview of the District's priorities, issues, and risks. He noted that planning for the Alpine Fault Scenario – AF8, is a priority area for the District Team and will be added as an appendix to the plan.

The Committee reviewed the draft plan in line with its legislative role to provide feedback on local plans. LAC members' feedback on the document included advice on how the District can factor the inclusion of native and taonga species into the draft plan.

Community engagement

LAC engagements over the last quarter highlighted community concerns around the increased fire risks communities face in dry conditions, and how public land maintenance and information signage is key to reducing the risk of unwanted scrub fires. LAC members also shared community concerns around the Fire and Emergency approvals process that allows the use of fireworks during restricted and prohibited fire seasons.

An LAC member highlighted a case where conflicting fire compliance information was given to a building owner. Fire and Emergency provided information that differed to what was given by the local council. This situation added time and complexity to the building compliance process as the building owner was uncertain on which agency's advice to follow.

The Acting Chair noted that a multi-agency exercise has not been held in Dunedin in recent years. There is an opportunity for Fire and Emergency to promote an opportunity to hold an interagency Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) exercise to maintain readiness and connect with partner agencies in Dunedin.

Engagement planning

The Acting Chair recommended that the LAC review its engagement priorities and Workplan at the Committee's quarter four meeting. The Committee then updated the list of stakeholder contacts and queried what risk reduction initiatives Fire and Emergency is undertaking in Naseby and Mt Iron communities. The District Manager will follow-up with the Community Risk Management Team and update the LAC.

Updates to the Board

The Committee discussed and agreed the content of its quarterly report to the Board.

The meeting closed at 1:30 pm, with a karakia whakamutunga.

Action Log

#	Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status
1.	13 February 2023	Prepare correspondence that outlines additional LAC insight areas for the Board's consideration.	Committee members	February 2023	Complete
2.	13 February 2023	Provide more information on the upcoming appointments process to Committee members.	National LAC Team	October 2022	Complete
3.	13 February 2023	Circulate meeting presentation materials to Committee members.	National LAC Team	October 2022	Complete
4.	13 February 2023	Provide a link to Fire and Emergency's Whare Kōrero mobile app to Committee members.	National LAC Team	October 2022	Complete