



Minutes

Otago Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 29 February 2024

Time: 9:30 am - 2:15 pm

Venue: Alexandra Fire Station

Present:

Megan McPherson	LAC Chair
Helen Algar	LAC Deputy Chair
Des Minehan	LAC Member
Michelle Taiaroa-McDonald	LAC Member
Hilary McNab	LAC Member
Mandy Mayhem-Bullock	LAC Member
Vanessa van Uden	LAC Member

In Attendance:

Phil Marsh	District Manager, Otago
Cullum Peni-Wesche	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees

Apologies:

Rachel Cooper	LAC Member
Neil Gillespie	LAC Member
Mike Grant	Region Manager, Te Kei
Yoel George	Business Operations Manager, Te Kei
Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was opened with a karakia.

Committee operations

The minutes from the previous Local Advisory Committee (LAC / Committee) meeting on 16 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Chair outlined two objectives they would like the Committee to achieve this meeting, including a session to LAC members the role and purpose of the LAC, and the provision of local advice to Fire and Emergency on local planning.

Community engagement

In the forestry space, stakeholders have highlighted difficulties with the ability to gain a resource consent to plant trees for forestry purposes, particularly on farmland.

Engagement with volunteers has highlighted that recruitment and attraction appears to be a big challenge, particularly with the increasing cost of living as well as the current factors (such as

financial barriers, medical and training requirements) that influence volunteerism at Fire and Emergency.

An LAC member highlighted the opportunity to join in a karakia and ceremony to welcome a new fire appliance in Portobello.

Engagement has highlighted that some communities view the large surge of response resources (multiple fire appliances, police cars and ambulances) to 'seemingly small' incidents with concern. From a Fire and Emergency perspective some incident types (i.e structure fires and motor vehicle collisions) require the turnout of multiple appliances, which the officer in charge of the incident can dismiss if they are not needed.

In Queenstown, there is concern about community readiness for emergency events more generally, and ongoing liaison to hear updates on risk reduction work in the 'Red Zone'.

In Dunedin, there have been changes to the Civil Defence Emergency Management staff, and an LAC member highlighted the relationship dynamic between Civil Defence and the Waitati community. The start of the academic year has also highlighted the opportunity for engagement with university student associations and student groups.

Across the Otago Peninsula, communities are engaging with Fire and Emergency to consider whether a year-round fire ban could be implemented to reduce incidences of unwanted wildfires.

In Waitaki, an upcoming housing expo was highlighted as an engagement opportunity for Fire and Emergency. The increasing risks of wilding pine proliferation were also noted across the Ōhau area.

District update

The District Manager provided an update of operational activity that the Otago District team has undertaken this quarter. This includes public consultation on the 2024-27 Otago Fire Plan, upcoming simulation exercise planning, and the completion of the district's 3-yearly operational efficiency and readiness audit.

During the 2023-24 wildfire season, Fire and Emergency's dispatch system gained a new ability to respond with additional fire appliances to call-outs during 'hot fire day' periods. The Swift Water Rescue Team has been successfully established, and planning is underway to procure an Incident Support Vehicle for the district.

In addition to current work to progress the District Plan, the Te Kei Region Plan will also shortly go out for consultation to staff and volunteers.

Otago District Plan

Reviewing the District Plan forms a part of the LAC's legislative role to provide feedback to Fire and Emergency on the development of local plans.

The District Manager provided an overview of the current state of the Otago District Plan, and the current risks and issues the District is facing. The Committee briefly discussed the Plan and took a post-meeting action to review the document and provide feedback to the District Manager.

National LAC team update

The Senior Advisor provided an overview of recent updates within the National LAC team, including upcoming work programmes, the progress of the LAC's 2022-23 Insights Report, and a highlight of new staff who have recently joined the National LAC team.

LAC Insights Register

The LAC considered what items to raise this quarter for their insights register.

Update to the Board / Fire and Emergency

The Committee discussed and agreed on the content for its update to the Board this quarter and raised additional insights for Fire and Emergency to consider and provide a response to.

The meeting closed with a karakia whakamutunga.

Action Log

Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status
29/02/24	Provide Chair and Deputy Chair with feedback on the Otago District Plan within three weeks of the meeting, which will then go to the District Manager.	LAC members	21 Mar 2024	In progress
29/02/24	Prepare a note of thanks to the Red Zone Tour's transport provider.	National LAC Team, Vanessa van Uden	Mar 2024	Complete – sent to LSQ
29/02/24	Provide the LAC with an update on the outcome of Fire and Emergency's summer campaigns.	National LAC Team	Mar 2024	In progress
29/02/24	Include the LAC in the trial mobile reporting application	National LAC Team	Mar 2024	Delayed Due to IT requirements
29/02/24	Provide up-to-date district and region contacts to the LAC.	District Manager, National LAC Team	Mar 2024	In progress Physical copies provided at Q3 meeting. National LAC Team will provide scanned copies post-meeting.
29/02/24	Provide the link to the risk reduction video.	National LAC Team	Mar 2024	Complete
13/02/23	Follow-up on risk reduction communications and engagement activity in Naseby and Mt Iron.	District Manager	Feb 2024	Complete

17/11/23	Provide the LAC with an up-to-date copy of the Otago District Plan.	District Manager	Dec 2023	Complete
17/11/23	Provide the LAC with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check it's Alright wildfire campaign • Lithium-Ion battery awareness campaign 	National LAC Team	Dec 2023	Complete
17/11/23	Place transposed notes into workplan and stakeholder engagement templates	National LAC Team	Nov 2023	Complete
17/11/23	Provide feedback on workplan and engagement plan	LAC	Nov 2023	Complete
17/11/23	Request presentation on current national-level risk reduction initiatives and campaigns at the next LAC meeting.	National LAC Team	Feb 2024	Closed