

# **MINUTES**

**Downlands Water Supply Committee  
Meeting**

**Monday, 19 February 2024**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Downlands Water Supply Committee Meeting  
Held in the Meeting Room 1 , District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Monday, 19 February 2024 9am**

**Present:** Mayor Nigel Bowen (Timaru District Council), Clr Stacey Scott (Timaru District Council), Clr Rit Fisher (MacKenzie District Council), Sandy McAlwee (Waimate District Council), Bill Wright, (Independent Representative) Anna Lyon, (Timaru District Council), Clr Scott Shannon (Timaru District Council) (Chairperson),

**In Attendance:** Andrew Dixon (Group Manager Infrastructure), Grant Hall (Three Waters Specialist), Andrew Lester (Drainage and Water Manager), Andrea Rankin (Chief Financial Officer), Geoff Horler (Mackenzie District Council)

## **1 Apologies**

Clr Sally Parker

### **1.1 Apologies Received**

#### **Resolution 2024/1**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Anna Lyon

That the apology of Councillor Parker is received and noted.

**Carried**

## **2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

There were no matters of urgent business received.

## **3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

The following matters of minor nature were recorded:

- Timeliness of completion of Downlands accounts
- Update required on Nitrate levels in Pareora River
- Six monthly accounts and capital programme
- Indication on rate factors for Downlands

## **4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

## **5 Chairperson's Report**

### **5.1 Chairman's Report**

Pleasing to note the completion of a number of contracts, particularly the Opihi River watermain renewal and installation of those reservoir covers at Te Ana Wai and the reticulation upgrades of over 16kms of pipes.

#### **Resolution 2024/2**

Moved: Clr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

That the report of the Chairman be received and noted

**Carried**

## **6 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **6.1 Minutes of the Downlands Water Supply Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023**

#### **Resolution 2024/3**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Stacey Scott

That the Minutes of the Downlands Water Supply Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried**

## **7 Reports**

### **7.1 Downlands Water Supply Scheme Update**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Downlands Water Supply Committee with an update on project progress including:

- Opihi River work was unforeseen, a bit of a challenge but successfully completed and boiled water notices removed.
- Davidson Road contact will be let soon.
- Te Ana Wai raw water pond covers was a great success – new technology used, quick to install and significantly lower cost than other options.

There was a general discussion concerning water quality and the running and operation of the plant.

#### **Resolution 2024/4**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Bill Wright

That the Committee receive and note the update.

**Carried**

### **7.2 Additional Water Allocations**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Downlands Water Supply Committee with an update on the status of new connections and additional water allocations. The Drainage and Water Manager spoke to the report confirming Timaru District Council will be following the policy enacted in 2022 where new connections are allowed only where there is no hydraulic upgrade required. This is likely to be in place for the next three years as no funding for pipeline upgrades is available during this period.

Discussion followed concerning budgets / debtors / capital expenditure. It was asked that the Committee remember that Downlands is a stock water scheme in the first place with 25% to domestic users.

#### **Resolution 2024/5**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Bill Wright

That the Committee receive and note this water allocations update.

**Carried**

### **8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

There were no matters of urgent business.

## 9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

### 9.1 Financial Information

The Chief Financial Officer presented the six-monthly accounts as at 31 December 2023. There was general discussion on these accounts including depreciation, borrowing, interest charges, work in progress, additions, capitalisation.

The chairman noted that it would be useful to have notes to the accounts for the next financial reports.

There was also the request that the financials be provided to members to allow time for them to consult with their own Council to be better informed to ask the appropriate questions.

Chief Financial Officer advised that it would be good to understand what the MacKenzie and Waimate calendars look like from a reporting perspective.

Chief Financial Officer sought confirmation of the use of the capital programme as presented for the long term plan numbers.

It was also noted that when it is determined to cancel a Downlands Committee meeting, a full update is required to be sent to members.

### 9.2 Nitrate Report

Councillor McAlwee, Waimate requested a verbal update on Nitrate levels in the ground water. Timaru Council Officer, Grant Hall gave a brief update. Timaru District Council is still augmenting Pareora water supplies to ensure nitrate levels stay down. He advised the increases are weather related and we have not had any major rain events that have impacted. Levels have come down but not to where they were. The more rain the more nitrate.


There was a general discussion around the causes of the increases, monitoring by ECan but Committee was unsure whether that is a focus for ECan in South Canterbury.

### 9.3 Rating Factors for Downlands

It was agreed that Councillor Fisher's item on the rate factors for Downlands was covered off in the financial reporting supplied by the Chief Financial Officer

**The Meeting closed at 9.58am.**

Minutes confirmed 10 June 2024.



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Clr Scott Shannon

**Chairperson**