

## Port Noise Liaison Committee

### Notes of Meeting held on 11 March 2026

#### Present:

Mara Wolkenhauer (Independent Chair)  
Jeri Fraser (Incoming Independent Chair)

Mike Cummings - Otago Regional Council  
Sarah Kirkland – Otago Regional Council  
Marian Poole - West Harbour Community  
Boards

#### Port Otago

Kevin Winders – Port Otago  
Joanne Dowd – Noise Officer - Port Otago  
Brendon Shanks – Marshall Day Acoustics (via  
VC)

#### Apologies:

Grant Bicknell – Port Otago  
Steve Duder – Port Chalmers Yacht Club  
Ian Anderson - Fonterra

#### Noise Committee Members

Rachel Day - Carey's Bay Association  
Alan Worthington – Dunedin City Council  
Dave Cormack - Wenita Forest Products  
Joe Cecchi – Carey's Bay Association

### Welcome from Meeting Chair

The Chair opened the meeting at 5.30 pm and welcomed the committee with a karakia. The Chair noted that this would be her last meeting and introduced Jeri Fraser who is the incoming Chair. The incoming chair introduced herself to the Committee. The Chair then welcomed other new members to introduce themselves. Marian Poole introduced herself as the West Harbour Community Board representative. The Noise Officer noted that the Fonterra representative was an apology for this meeting and that a representative of the Port Chalmers Business Community had yet to be appointed.

### Apologies

The Noise Officer noted the following apologies had been received:

- Grant Bicknell – Port Otago
- Steve Duder – Port Chalmers Yacht Club
- Ian Anderson - Fonterra

Apologies noted above were accepted.

### Minutes of previous meeting (3 December 2025)

The minutes recording the public meeting held on 3 December 2025 were accepted as a true and complete record of the meeting.

The Chair noted that she was aware that other Committees reviewed their process around accepting previous minutes, not placing sole responsibility on 'a mover' and 'a seconder', but instead just accepting minutes as a group. She highlighted the potential for this committee to do the same for future meetings, if preferred. The committee members agreed.

*Moved by the Mike Cummings. Seconded by Alan Worthington.*

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## Actions Schedule from Previous Meeting

Actions & Progress from the December 2025 Action List were noted including:

- New Chair – New Chair appointment process now complete.
- PNLC new committee members – New Committee members now appointed. Noise Officer will continue to work with the appropriate agencies to identify a representative for the Business Community.
- SiteHive Noise Trial Update – The Chair gave a brief overview of the existing noise monitoring system and the purpose of the SiteHive Trial. Marshall Day noted that they continue to monitor the development of the SiteHive noise technology. It has been progressed but hasn't achieved parity. Likely to be 12-18 months before the Port would be able to update the system.

## Registration of Interests

Existing Committee members confirmed no known conflicts.

New Committee members identified interests, and the Noise Officer will add these to the register.

## Correspondence

No correspondence received in the previous period.

## Reports

### *Update from Port Otago*

Port Otago Chief Executive gave an overview of Port Otago operations. Noted that the cruise season is winding down with 6 vessels scheduled until completion. Slightly slower in the container space up until now but will get busier over the next month and it is likely that the season will have a long peak extended out until September. Usually quieter in August but likely to be steadier with no uplift in noise expected.

Keeping an eye on the situation in the Middle East and its impact on exports. Dairy exporters export around 10% of meat/dairy products to Middle East. Potential for peaks on reefers which can impact on noise from additional generator use, but proactive comms would be deployed if this eventuated.

The port has recently acquired a new tug – Otepoti – it is 10dBA quieter and more fuel efficient. A formal blessing by iwi is proposed of the vessel on Wednesday 18 March.

We are looking to replace the whole straddle fleet and expect to have a board approved decision in April. The new fleet is expected to be quieter and more fuel efficient.

Team currently working on the consent preparation of the Inland Port proposal in Mosgiel. A Committee member queried whether it would be 100% rail to Mosgiel. It was noted that it was likely to be 90%. But overall operations in Port Chalmers would be reduced resulting in less noise.

Port Otago remains committed to working with the DCC and West Harbour Community Board on exploring options for Back Beach and the extension of the cycleway. Presenting to the West Harbour Community Board on 1 April 2026.

### *Noise Reporting – Presentation from Marshall Day*

Brendon from Marshall Day briefly highlighted the key points of the pre-circulated quarterly noise report. Several spikes in the Ldn (1 day) were identified, primarily due to noise from fire sirens, extended periods of high wind, or ships. Marshall Day note that even with these external noise sources, the measured noise level was not above 67 dB Ldn (5 day) at any monitoring site. The Port CE

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considered it would be useful to reintroduce the long-term noise history graph that previously formed part of the Committee pack as it allowed comparisons of noise across a number of years and provided good baseline data when new ships were introduced. It was agreed that Marshall Day would reintroduce this to their monitoring and update annually.

In terms of bangs and crashes, it was noted that these related to noise from within the port and kiwirail. The total number of triggered events at the Scotia Street monitor was noted to have increased by 35% on the previous two years. There is no obvious reason for this, but Marshall Day will investigate the cause and potential measures to address this.

For the benefit of new members of the Committee there was some general discussion around the location of monitors and the noise monitoring system. The West Harbour Community Board representative queried the location of the monitors and considered that the Henry Street monitor should be relocated to Rocky Point/Deborah Bay. It was noted that the Henry Street monitor was positioned to address specific noise at this location, as it is close to the port and positioned to accord with the noise contours. Having consistent locations has been useful in developing a reliable system. Marshall Day have recommended in the past not changing the noise monitoring locations. Marshall Day noted that Port Otago currently has more noise monitoring locations than any other port in New Zealand.

Other Committee members also noted that monitor location had been raised previously and that any new monitors should be carefully considered. It was agreed that Marshall Day would provide advice on potential locations for new monitors when the SiteHive system (or similar alternative) was available.

### ***Noise Complaints***

The Chair referred to the pre-circulated report on noise complaints and asked the Noise Officer to give an overview of the report. The Noise Officer noted there had been a reduction in vessel related complaints. She noted an increase in complaints relating to haulage firm activity in Sawyers Bay (sites not controlled by Port Otago). These complaints have been referred on to the relevant organisations.

It was noted that the complaints log was reflective of complaints coming in over the last 3 months (near real time), and did not align with the Marshall Day report, which is retrospective, covering the 3-month period before that. The ORC Committee Member requested that in future the PNLC meeting pack should also include the complaints log that marries with the noise monitoring, covering the last 6 months from the date of the meeting. The Noise Officer agreed to append this going forward.

### ***Other Business***

#### ***Ajax Road Assessment***

Due to conflict of interest, the incoming chair and the CEO excused themselves from this item.

Marshall Day spoke to their pre-circulated report and noted that the property was initially assessed in 2020 with a predicted noise level up to 58 dB Ldn (5 day). It was determined that appropriate internal noise levels could be achieved with windows closed i.e. without further upgrades to the building envelop. This would comprise mechanical ventilation and cooling. Marshall Day note that mitigation would not apply to new areas of the property which are sought to be extended.

The Committee discussed the property owner's application and Marshall Day's proposal and agreed unanimously with Marshall Days recommendation of supporting mechanical ventilation to achieve the required indoor noise level. As the property is located within the port noise contour area, the Committee recommend to Port Otago that noise mitigation is investigated as outlined in Marshal Day's

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proposal. It was agreed that the Noise Officer would obtain quotes for the works based on 2026 prices to enable the offer of assistance to be appropriately costed and to make a revised offer of 50% of the cost of the works.

### ***Annual Plan***

The Noise Officer noted that the Noise Mitigation Plan, Noise Contours and the Noise Management Plan will need a refresh for 2026. She would work with the incoming Chair on these updates.

### ***Farewell Outcoming Chair***

The Port CE took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair for her hard work over the past 2 years. Noting her tenacity for taking on the role without a formal handover and making the role her own. She will be missed.

The Chair thanked the Committee for working with her collaboratively and wished the incoming chair well moving forward. She finished the meeting with a closing karakia.

### ***Next meeting, date, time, and location***

Dates for the 2026 Port Noise Liaison Committee meetings.

- 3 June 2026;
- 2 September 2026 and
- 2 December 2026 (Public Meeting)

Meeting closed 7.00pm

## Actions

Meeting date	Action	Responsible	Due	Update
March 26	Marshall Day to include long-term history graph into Committee pack.	Marshall Day	Q2 2026	
March 26	Noise Officer to include noise complaint log to align with Marshall Day noise assessment to enable comparison.	Noise Officer	Q2 2026	
March 26	Noise Officer to work with Property owner of Ajax Road and obtain quotes for mechanical ventilation.	Noise Officer	Q3 2026	
<b>March 26</b>	Marshall Day to consider addition noise monitoring locations when the SiteHive (or similar alternative) system is available.	Marshall Day	Ongoing	
<b>March 26</b>	Noise Officer and incoming Chair to discuss refresher of Annual Plan	Noise Officer	Q2 2026	