

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary meeting of the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee will be held on:

Date: Friday, 6 December 2024
Time: 9:00 am
Meeting room:
Venue: Great South, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill

Great South Joint Shareholders Committee Agenda OPEN

MEMBERSHIP

Rob Scott, Mayor Southland District Council (Chair)	A class shareholder
Ben Bell, Mayor, Gore District Council	A class shareholder
Nobby Clark, Mayor, Invercargill City Council	A class shareholder
Nicol Horrell, Chair, Environment Southland	A class shareholder
Daryl Haggerty, Acting Chief Executive, Southern Institute of Technology	B class shareholder
Sheree Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Southland Chamber of Commerce	B class shareholder
Mark Paterson, General Manager, Mataka Licensing Trust	B class shareholder
Chris Ramsay, Chief Executive, Invercargill Licensing Trust	B class shareholder
Jackie Flutey, Chief Executive Officer, Community Trust South	Member

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1 Apologies

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

2 Leave of absence

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

3 Conflict of Interest

Joint Committee 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.

4 Extraordinary/Urgent Items

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Joint Committee to consider any further items which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) The reason why the item was not on the Agenda, and
- (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

"Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) that item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) that item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion."

5 Confirmation of Council Minutes

- 5.1 Meeting minutes of Great South Joint Shareholders Committee, 14 November 2024

Great South Joint Shareholders Committee

OPEN MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of a meeting of Great South Joint Shareholders Committee held in the Great South, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 9:00 am.

PRESENT

A class shareholders

Rob Scott, Mayor Southland District Council (Chair)
Ben Bell, Mayor, Gore District Council (9.06am – 9.43am)
Nobby Clark, Mayor, Invercargill City Council
Nicol Horrell, Chair, Environment Southland

B class shareholders

Sheree Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Southland Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER APOLOGIES

Chris Ramsay, Chief Executive, Invercargill Licensing Trust
Jackie Flutey, Chief Executive Officer, Community Trust South

IN ATTENDANCE

Chami Abeysinghe, Chief Executive, Great South
Cameron McIntosh, Chief Executive, Southland District Council
Vibhuti Chopra, General Manager Strategy and Partnerships, Southland District Council (via teams)
Trudie Hurst, Group Manager Community Engagement & Corporate Services, Invercargill City Council
Michael Day, Chief Executive, Invercargill City Council
Marcus Roy, Environment Southland (via teams)
Debbie Lascelles, Chief Executive, Gore District Council
Suzanne Hutton, General Manager Finance, IT and Facilities, Great South
Megan Seator, Policy Advisor, Southland Mayoral Forum
Rachael Poole, Committee Advisor Southland District Council

1 Apologies

There were apologies received from Chris Ramsay and Jackie Flutey

Moved Chair Horrell, seconded Mayor Clark, that the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee accept those apologies.

2 Leave of absence

There were no requests for leave of absence.

3 Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 Extraordinary/Urgent Items

There were no Extraordinary/Urgent items.

5 Confirmation of Council Minutes

Resolution

Moved Mayor Clark, seconded Chair Horrell **and resolved:**

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Reports

7.1 Great South update

Record No: R/24/11/69107

Chami Abeysinghe, Chief Executive, Great South updated the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee on recent activities of Great South and shared two videos with the meeting, the first was on regional collaboration and the second was a promotional video on primary industries in Southland.

Resolution

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Mayor Bell **and resolved:**

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) receives the report titled "Great South update".**

Public Excluded

Exclusion of the public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolution

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Chair Horrell **and resolved**

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject 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(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

C8.1 Great South draft letter of expectation 2025/2026

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Great South draft letter of expectation 2025/2026	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.

The public were excluded at 9.26am.

Resolutions in relation to the confidential items are recorded in the confidential section of these minutes and are not publicly available unless released here.

The meeting concluded at 9.43am.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT SOUTH JOINT SHAREHOLDERS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024.

DATE:

CHAIRPERSON:

Murihiku Southland Regional trails entity report

Record no: R/24/12/73690

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Decision

Recommendation

Information

- 1 At the meeting of the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee on 11 October the committee requested that Great South prepare a report on the establishment of a regional trails entity including the funding, terms of reference and scope.
- 2 Amie Young, Destination Development Manager at Great South has prepared the report requested and it is contained in Attachment A.
- 3 The Great South Joint Shareholders Committee is being asked provide feedback on the proposed pathway forward.

Recommendation

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) **receives the report titled “Murihiku Southland Regional trails entity report”.**
- b) **provides any feedback on the report contained in Attachment A and the proposed pathway forward.**

Attachments

- A Murihiku Southland regional trails entity deliverables

Murihiku Southland Regional Trails Entity

Update and Outline of Key Deliverables:

Background

The Murihiku Southland Cycle Tourism Opportunity Assessment 2023 provides a comprehensive understanding of the potential for cycle tourism development in the region. The opportunity assessment focused on off road recreational cycling trails, facilities and experiences which attract visitors and their spend to the region, while also considering the direct use and benefits for the local community. The report covered recent cycling facility and service developments, trends in the cycle tourism market and made recommendations on addressing issues and maximising opportunities.

The assessment concluded that Murihiku Southland has some good cycle and mountain bike trails along with major events and the SIT Zero Fees Velodrome. However, it is not currently competitive with other cycle tourism regions which are constantly adding to their networks, particularly neighbouring Central Otago, and Queenstown.

A key finding was that “If Murihiku Southland doesn’t expand its trail network and connect to neighbouring regions over the next 5 – 10 years, it will become more of a void in the national cycle trail network and will risk missing out on the growing cycle tourism market.”

The vision presented in the opportunities assessment was that “Murihiku Southland is recognised as a must-visit cycling destination with a comprehensive regional network of trails and mountain bike parks that connect our communities and visitors, broaden the economy, showcase the most diverse range of landscapes in Aotearoa New Zealand, and support ecological restoration and a net zero carbon future.” There were five key goals identified to achieve this, with a key recommendation being improved regional planning and organisation through a potential regional trails entity.

Proposed Regional Trails Entity

A report into the merits, opportunities, and challenges of establishing a regional trails entity for Murihiku Southland was finalised in September 2024. This outlined many examples from around New Zealand and potential areas of focus, alongside both structure and lead entity options. Of those preferred were either a new regional trails trust, Southland District Council or Great South delivery.

The final report was presented and shared at the October Great South Joint Shareholders Committee meeting. There was strong positive feedback for the work that has been done but an acknowledgement of the difficult fiscal environment all Councils and funders are currently operating within. Investment would need to be over multiple years to be worthwhile and it was requested that some of the key deliverables that could be achieved over a 5-year timeframe be outlined. This would support Councils decision making for the FY 25/26 year.

Five Year Horizon

Objectives

To ensure optimised strategic investment in a comprehensive regional framework of off-road multi-use recreational trails and mountain bike parks, which maximises the opportunity to:

- Provide recreation and lifestyle enhancement for residents and those who might move to Murihiku Southland.
- Attract high value domestic and international visitors who will stay multiple nights and spend more than the average visitor.
- Provide ecological restoration opportunities within the trail projects which engage landowners, residents, and visitors.
- Where possible, provide new connections in the wider active transport network.
- Support the goal of a net zero carbon emissions.

Benefits

- Economies of scale and shared resources
- Regional prioritization of trail projects
- A more coordinated effort in delivering regionally connected trail projects.
- Maximising opportunities to access wider funding and
- Coordinating regional advocacy at a local and national level.

Key Deliverables

1. Regional trail network planning and prioritisation

Developing and maintaining a regionally endorsed plan to sequentially deliver a comprehensive regional trails network. To date Murihiku Southland has not had a strong, regionally endorsed trails plan that can be used to support approaches to central government for funding as it become available. Neighbouring regions have been very successful in this respect and worthy Fiordland Trails Trust projects have been turned away by government because they have not been perceived as “regionally backed”.

This would include the creation of a regional cycle trail network (building on the map proposed within the opportunities assessment). The decision-making framework which sets agreed criteria for trail projects, enabling them to be prioritised or ranked, would also be refined and finalised.

2. Provide support and guidance for the groups/ trusts responsible for prioritised trails.

Provide guidance on various stages of investigation into trail proposals, including feasibility and business cases. Support trail entities responsible for prioritised trails with funding applications and work to collate shared resources and policies. Advise on best practice measurement of trail use and trail impacts.

3. Support the establishment of a regional trails alliance or regional trails advisory group.

Either pathway provides a forum to bring representatives from prioritised trails together alongside those from each Council. This group would work to agree on common objectives and ways of working together.

4. Advocacy for funding and land use

Having a regional approach and an endorsed plan strengthens the ability of Murihiku Southland to access funding from outside the region for trail projects.

There are currently legislative and policy blocks which prevent new cycle trails being considered for approval on public conservation lands except for a very small list of places. This has to be tackled at national level, but a respected regional trails entity could play an important role in coordinating all the necessary stakeholders to work with DOC to enable trail proposals.

5. Work with Councils and key stakeholders to proactively plan for trail developments.

Support coordination and planning of trail projects across Councils in order to achieve a regional approach to trail development. Provide input into Long Term Plans and support prioritised trail project groups to engage and partner with Murihiku Rūnaka.

6. Look for opportunities to support increased use and profile of existing trails within the prioritised regional cycle trail network.

While not directly responsible for marketing, there is a strong opportunity to connect with Great South's tourism team and other key contacts to keep them up to date on trail developments and areas where opportunities may arise.

Structure Options

While a regional entity has been proposed, there is an option to delay this and progress regional coordination through the establishment of a regional trails lead role ahead of an entity being formed.

This would allow a lower level of initial investment while supporting the initial coordination and establishment work to take place. A separate external contract would need to be created and would be connected to whichever existing entity is chosen to house the role (ideally either Southland District Council or Great South). This would require the creation of a regional trails alliance or regional trails advisory group as noted above, in order to provide the input that the governance group of an entity would have allowed for. A regional entity could then be reassessed in a set period of time.

Further to this, it could also be considered whether aspects of a regional focus could be added to the existing Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Manager role, currently housed within Southland District Council. Any expanded responsibilities here would sit outside the roles existing hours and therefore would still require additional funding. Progression of the above deliverables would also be lessened and/ or slowed based on the capacity available in the role.

Alternatively, a regional trails entity can be established at the outset, with a role in place to drive the workplan and key deliverables forward.

Budget

- If the approach is focussed on the establishment of a lead role with some admin costs the investment required would be a minimum of \$105,000 for the initial year, with subsequent years to each reflect a 2.5% CPI adjustment.
- Should an entity with a lead role be established this would require funding of \$125,000 in the initial year to cover the role, admin costs, and entity establishment, with subsequent years also needing to reflect a 2.5% CPI adjustment.
- A 0.5 FTE role could also be trialled initially, however the extent to which the deliverables outlined above could be achieved would be reduced.
- It is recommended that funding of a lead role and/ or entity consider a minimum 3-year timeframe in order for traction to be made due to the long-term nature of trail development projects.

Proposed Pathway Forward

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee decide on next steps for the proposed regional trails entity.

1. Whether or not the entity will be considered for funding within the FY 25/26 year, and therefore presented to each Council. Noting that a commitment beyond a single year is required to create the outcomes sought.
2. Which pathway forward is preferred in terms of the set up of an entity at the outset, the initial establishment of a lead role, or an alternative solution.
3. Which entity is the preferred lead organisation, ideally either Southland District Council or Great South.

A commitment to funding and supporting this pathway will give trails trusts and organisations in the region the confidence to move forward with the establishment of a regional trails group and/ or trails alliance. However, it is understood that budgets are under pressure within our Councils and that if an entity is not able to be progressed within the FY 25/26 year, an indication of support for the following year would also be desirable.

Southland mobile connectivity report

Record no: R/24/12/73693

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Decision

Recommendation

Information

- 1 The paper contained in Attachment A is prepared by Stephen Canny, GM Strategic Projects, Great South and Jessica Otero Advanced Geospatial Analyst, Great South.

Recommendation

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) **receives the report titled “Southland mobile connectivity report”.**

Attachments

- A Southland mobile connectivity report



Date 08 October 2024

TECHNICAL NOTE

Southland Mobile Connectivity Study

A review of cellular network coverage throughout the Southland Region

Authors	<p>Stephen Canny (MNZM, MIOD) GM Strategic Projects</p> <p>Jessika Otero (BSc Geology) Advanced Geospatial Analyst</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The following report analyses the current coverage of the mobile cellular networks in Southland. Great South has undertaken a series of mobile coverage surveys covering mainly State Highways and other arterial transport routes throughout the Southland Region. The report has been completed as part of Great South's deliverables against the Statement of Intent and will be presented to the Great South Shareholders and Southland Mayoral Forum. The surveys involved drive testing and mapping of the progressive deployment of new mobile services within the region for the period from mid-2019 to September 2024. It builds off previous work undertaken by Great South in 2022 and earlier Digital Strategy planning work.

The testing was undertaken during September 2024 and aimed to simulate mobile phone users typical use by continuously recording the signal strength to confirm coverage, quality and reliability of mobile service to Southland communities and residents. All three main mobile network providers were assessed these being: 2degrees, One NZ (formerly Vodafone) and Spark. This work is the third regional drive test that has been undertaken in the last 8 years and clearly illustrates the change over time.

BACKGROUND

The mobile coverage improvements have been funded through the Mobile Black Spot Fund (MBSF) which involves rolling out new cellular mobile coverage to State Highways with 'black spots' (i.e., no mobile coverage from any operator), and to key tourist areas, supporting safety on State Highways and enhancing visitor experiences at key tourist destinations.

Crown Infrastructure Partners have been responsible for rolling out services throughout New Zealand and commenced the work in Southland in June 2019. This work has been undertaken in partnership with mobile service operators, who have also worked collaboratively under what is known as the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) to jointly develop many of the sites. Backhaul capacity has been increased to enable the new mobile sites to link seamlessly to the core of network and peering exchanges, which has involved strengthening the fibre and digital microwave radio backhaul services in the region.

PROGRESS TO DATE

To date 34 mobile sites have been built or upgraded to improve coverage and capacity. An additional 157 kms of new underground fibre optic cable has been built from Te Anau to Milford Sound, from Blackmount to Manapouri and 3.15 km SH6 near Kingston, to extend the existing fibre network coverage and to provide backhaul from the mobile sites. In addition, the Digital Microwave Radio from Rakiura to Bluff Hill has increased the capacity of the mobile and broadband services on Stewart Island by 2.5 times.

Currently two mobile sites are awaiting approval from the Department of Conservation and iwi. Crown Infrastructure Partners have advised that the inability to consent these sites has meant that this budget is now being considered for other investment elsewhere in the country. Great South has contacted DOC Southern Area office, and we have now been advised that the consent is pending, and that approval is imminent. This situation has been confirmed by Crown Infrastructure Partners.

It is important to note that at the commencement of this project there were many gaps in broadband coverage throughout Southland however, since the commissioning of the Starlink satellite network, the entire region and offshore islands now have access to reliable broadband.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT – MOBILE BLACK SPOT FUND

As of September 2024, Crown Infrastructure Partners report the following update in the development of mobile phone sites. The Milford Road, Rakiura and Catlins sites being the most recent upgrades.

Site ID	Site name	Site district	Handover Date	Eligible End Users	State Highway Covered (Km)	Tourism Locations	Tourist Spots
R2_SL_106	Morton Mains	Southland District	29/06/2019	126	0.0	0	
R2_SL_005	Otahu Flat	Southland District	30/06/2019	48	0.0	0	
R2_SL_033	Waikawa	Southland District	30/06/2019	76	0.0	2	Porpoise Bay + Curio Bay
R2_SL_104	Limehills	Southland District	27/09/2019	26	0.0	0	
R2_SL_018	Awarua North	Invercargill City	30/09/2019	210	0.0	0	
R2_SL_105	Waimatua	Southland District	30/09/2019	148	0.0	0	
R2_SL_108	Wyndham East	Southland District	30/09/2019	87	0.0	0	
R2_SL_001	Colac Bay	Southland District	11/12/2019	252	0.0	0	
R2_SL_103	Dipton	Southland District	11/12/2019	177	0.0	1	Dipton
R2_SL_100	Heddon Bush	Southland District	11/12/2019	166	0.0	0	
R2_SL_107	Kapuka South	Southland District	11/12/2019	69	0.0	0	
R2_SL_101	Mabel Bush	Southland District	11/12/2019	341	0.0	0	
R2_SL_014	Springhills	Southland District	11/12/2019	56	0.0	0	
R2_SL_003	Waihoaka	Southland District	11/12/2019	225	0.0	0	
R2_SL_002	Whakapatu	Southland District	11/12/2019	119	0.0	0	
R2_SL_109	Arthurton	Clutha District	26/05/2020	54	0.0	0	
R2_SL_031	Waikawa South	Southland District	27/05/2020	149	0.0	2	Waikawa (Catlins Forest Park) + Niagara (Catlins) Southern Scenic Route
R2_SL_021	Waikana	Gore District	30/06/2020	70	0.0	0	
R2_SL_004	Blackmount	Southland District	30/06/2020	68	0.0	0	
R2_SL_025	Catlins Forest	Southland District	30/06/2020	45	0.0	0	
R2_SL_009	Gowan Hill	Southland District	30/06/2020	36	0.0	0	
R2_SL_024	Quarry Hills	Southland District	30/06/2020	20	0.0	0	
R2_SL_023	Mokoreta	Southland District	27/10/2020	67	0.0	0	
R2_SL_110	Waikaka	Gore District	22/03/2021	153	0.6	0	
R2_SL_034	Milford Sound	Southland District	23/12/2021	61	3.1	2	Milford Sound + Entrances/exits to Milford Track
R2_SL_906	Te Anau Downs	Southland District	4/11/2022	2	6.7	0	
R2_SL_029	Mount Eglinton	Southland District	17/12/2022	0	15.8	2	Mirror Lake
R2_SL_056	Hollyford Gunn Camp	Southland District	18/12/2022	0	1.4	2	Hollyford Valley entrance on

Site ID	Site name	Site district	Handover Date	Eligible End Users	State Highway Covered (Km)	Tourism Locations	Tourist Spots
							Milford Road + Lake Marian Carpark0
R2_SL_058	Knobs Flat	Southland District	18/12/2022	0	1.5	1	Knobs Flat
R2_SL_057	Routeburn Track	Southland District	18/12/2022	0	2.8	1	Entrances/exits to Routeburn Track
R2_SL_055	Homer Tunnel	Southland District	14/04/2023	0	5.6	1	Around the Homer Tunnel00
R2_OT_017	Chaslands	Southland District	12/06/2023	7	0.0	1	Mclean Falls
R2_SL_102	Eglinton East Branch	Southland District	25/08/2023	0	3.5	0	
R2_SL_999	Stewart Island (Horseshoe Bay)	Southland District	30/06/2024	19	0.0	2	Rakia Track End, Mamaku Conservation Reserve.
R2_SL_908	Cascade Creek Campsite	Southland District	Planned				Awaiting DOC consent – Funding is at risk because of delays
R2_SL_200	Chasm Carpark	Southland District	Planned				Awaiting DOC consent – Funding is at risk because of delays
Total				2,877	41.0	17	

Crown Infrastructure Partners have approached DOC requesting approval be expedited for the Cascade Creek Campsite and Chasm Carpark mobile site approvals. These remaining towers would provide coverage from Cascade Creek, Knobs Flat to the Routeburn Track area and from the Chasm to the Homer Tunnel area.

OTHER SITE UPGRADES

Below are some photographs of some sites courtesy of Crown Infrastructure Partners.



Figure 1. Milford Sound Piopiotahi.



Figure 2. Ohai



Figure 3. Routeburn Track-end site



Figure 4. Mirror Lake



Figure 5. Mt Eglington.



Figure 6. Hollyford.

STEWART ISLAND COMMS UPGRADES

The new RCG mobile tower in Horseshoe Bay (See Figure 7) services ~19 households and 2 tourism locations (Rakiura track end and Mamaku Conservation Reserve). It is expected that this tower will also offload some capacity constrained users from the current Oban tower, meaning more users will be able to receive a better service. Additionally, the Oban tower (See Figure 8) has been upgraded with new radios providing extra capability on both Spark (4G/5G) and OneNZ (4G) networks.



Figure 7. New RCG Tower in HorseShoe Bay – Stewart Island.



Figure 8. Oban Tower – Stewart Island RCU2.

Photographs provided courtesy of Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited.

Both OneNZ and Spark should now be out of stop-sell and able to provide broadband at >20Mbps to fixed wireless customers.

- Spark will be able to serve another 216 homes and businesses.
- OneNZ will be able to serve another 40 homes and businesses.

METHODOLOGY

This coverage study focused on replicating a 'typical user's' experience whilst connecting to the mobile networks throughout Southland. The coverage was determined by drive testing on highways and feeder transport routes throughout Southland and automatically recording the signal strength and other connection parameters¹ every five seconds. This was undertaken during the month of September 2024.

Hardware: 3 x Samsung SM-A055F on each mobile network (One NZ, Spark, 2degrees) running Android v14

Software: Network Cell Info (v.7.1.1)

Data clean up involved removing data which had a low location accuracy and converting into an esri .shp GIS file for further processing and long-term data management. The software run on the mobile phones classified whether the collected signal was on the 4G network (i.e. LTE) or 3G network (i.e. UTMS, HSPA+, among others).

Collected point data was aggregated for each road section through the model, where an average value for each section of the road was calculated. This is what has been appended on the attached plans. In determining the definitions of "good", "ok", "unreliable" or "no connection" for the 4G and 3G network, the definitions of signal strength used in the previous assessment were adopted for ease of comparison as shown below.

	3G Network (RSSI)	4G Network (RSRP)
Good	More than -79dbm	More than -90dbm
Ok	-80 to -89dbm	-90 to -100dbm
Unreliable	-89 to - 119dbm	-100 to - 115dbm
No Connection	-120dbm and lower	-115dbm and lower

An analysis of all service providers was undertaken to determine areas with good, ok, unreliable and no connection. These maps are shown in the next figures. Below are the main observations from this analysis.

¹ Other connection parameters were developed using the OpenCellId format and include: Mobile Network Code, Location Area Code, Cell Tower ID, Location, direction of travel and locational accuracy.

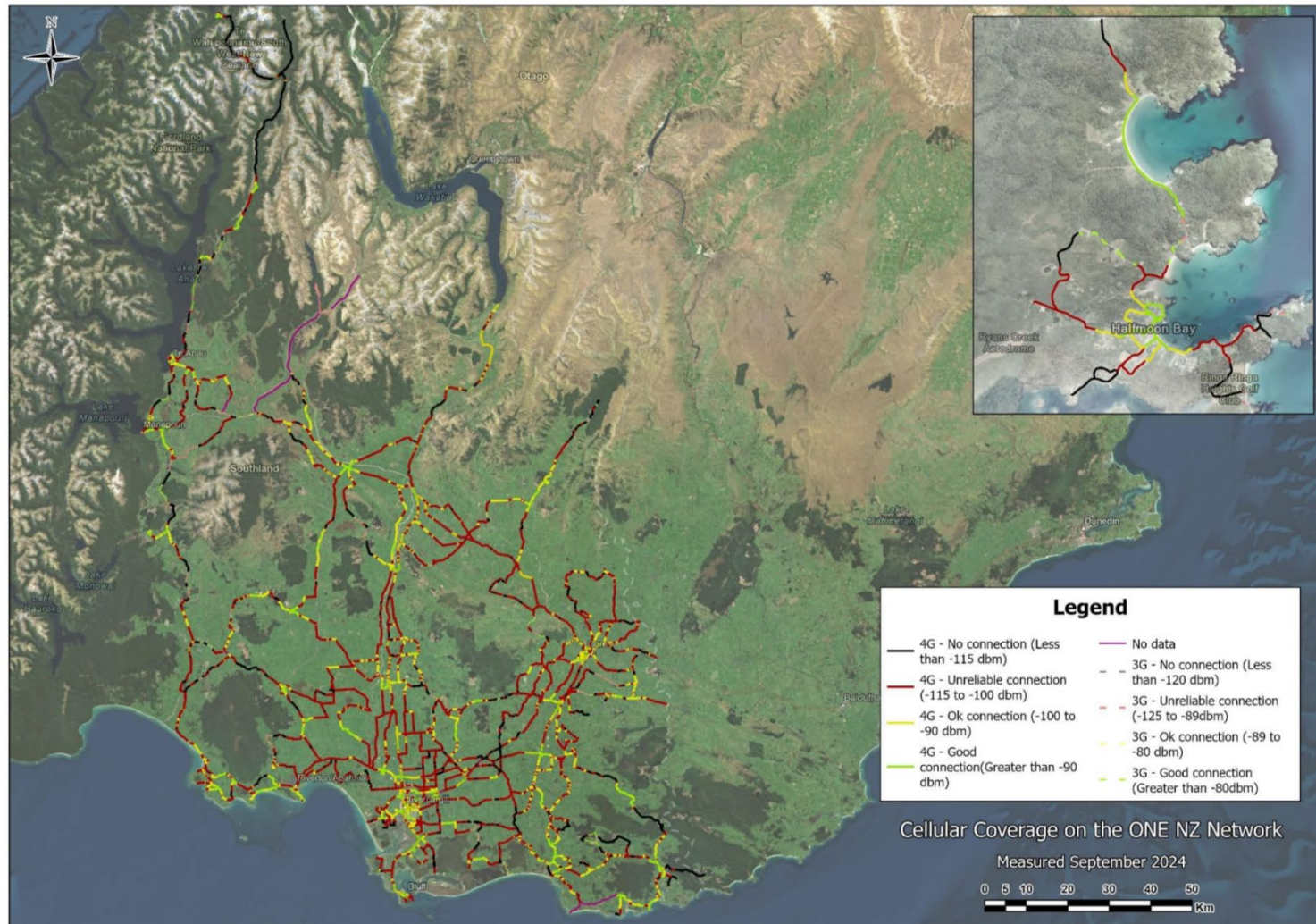


Figure 9. Mobile coverage on the One NZ Network.

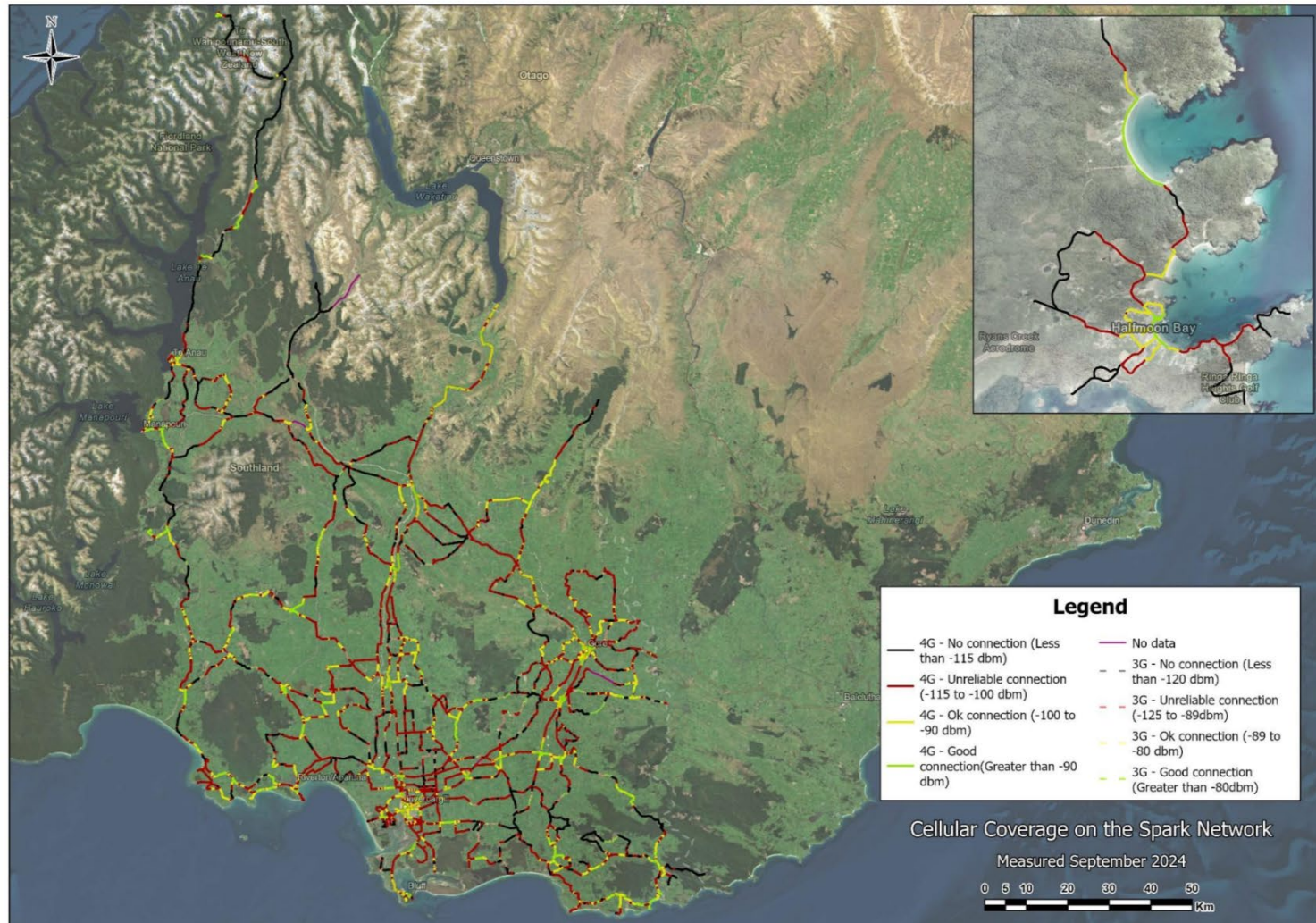


Figure 10. Mobile coverage on the Spark Network.

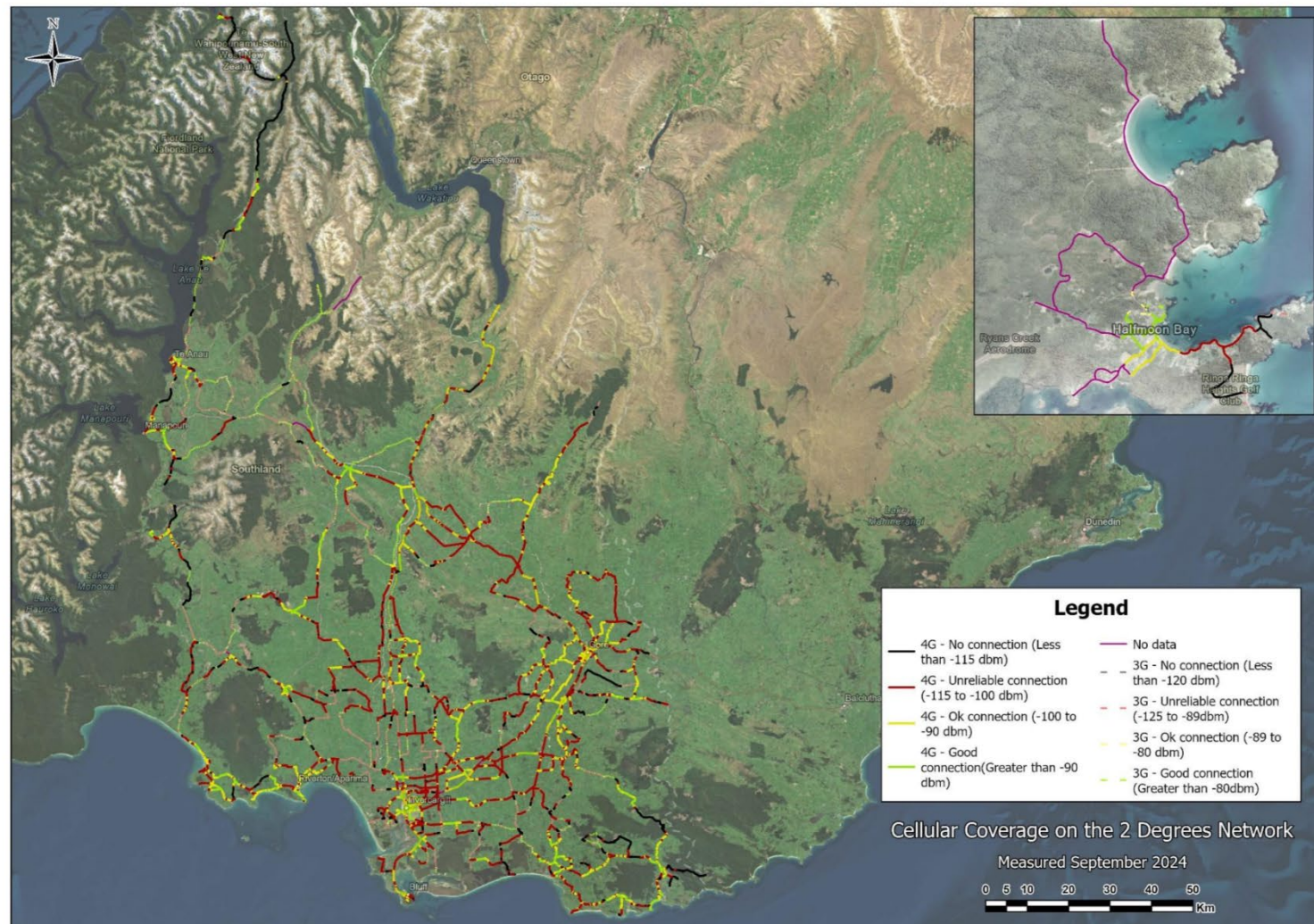


Figure 11. Mobile coverage on the 2 Degrees Network.

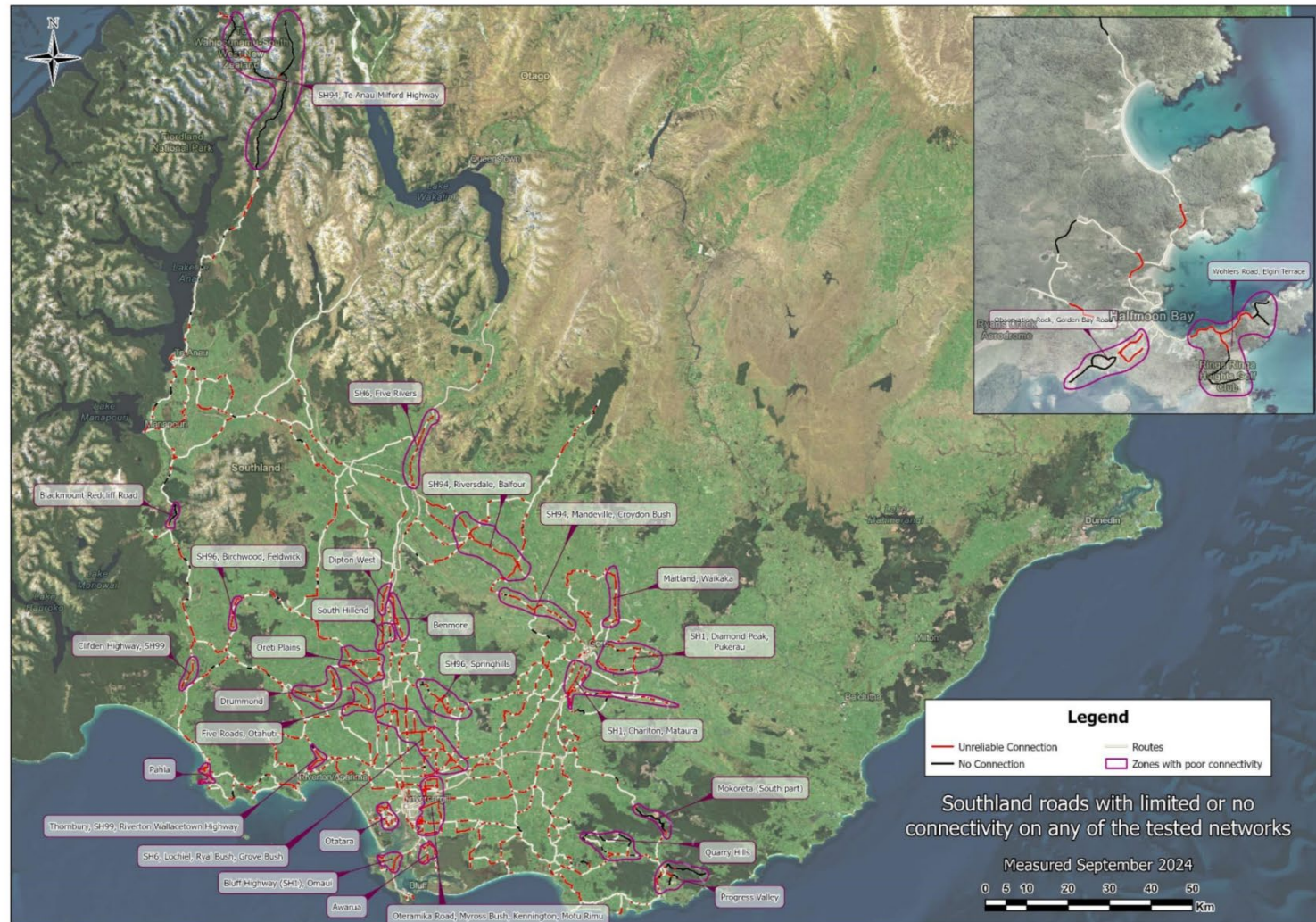


Figure 12. Areas in Southland with unreliable or not connectivity by any of the providers.

KEY FINDINGS

Based on this review Great South have noted the following findings:

- One NZ and Spark primarily offer services via 4G networks (See Figure 9 and Figure 10), whereas 2 Degrees (See Figure 11) also provides service through a 3G network.
- Overall, there has been an improvement in the total coverage and capacity of the fibre and mobile networks throughout the region. In some areas it is very challenging to improve terrestrial coverage because of terrain, masking by trees, and generally difficult topography.
- There is good connectivity at Milford Sound Airport and its surrounding areas, and the Milford Road from Te Anau to Mirror Lakes has good coverage, however there is no coverage from Mirror Lakes to the Homer Tunnel because of consent delays which has prevented the construction of the Cascade Creek and Chasm mobile sites.
- Coverage improvements are noticeable northern part of Oban township, particularly along Horseshoe Bay Road and Lee Bay Road, due to the installation of a new cellular site in Horseshoe Bay. However, there are small coverage gaps in areas such as Golden Bay Road, Leask Bay Road, Wohlers Road, and Elgin Terrace.
- Despite central government investment, unreliable mobile phone coverage still exists in various parts of Southland, as shown in Figure 12. In many cases non coverage affecting large local populations, particularly close to Invercargill and the areas to the South and North of Gore. Areas that have unreliable or no coverage are listed below.
 - Invercargill environs – Otaramika Road, Myross Bush, Kennington, Moto-Rimu.
 - Otatara, Bay Road.
 - Bluff Highway (SH 1), Awarua, Green Hills, Omaui.
 - North Makarewa, Ryal Bush, Grove bush Lochiel.
 - Charton, Maitland, (SH 1).
 - Diamond Peak, Pukerau.(SH 1)
 - Maitland, Waikaka.
 - Mandeville, Croydon Bush, (SH 94)
 - Riversdale, Balfour, (SH 94)
 - Spring Hills.
 - Quarry Hills, (no coverage)
 - Progress Valley, (no coverage)
 - Mokoreta, (no coverage)
 - Five Rivers (SH 6)
 - Blackmount Redcliff Road (no coverage)
 - Clifden Highway (SH 99)
 - Birchwood Feldwick.
 - Dipton West
 - Benmore (SH 6)
 - South Hillend
 - Oreti Plains
 - Drummond
 - Five Roads Otahuti
 - Pahia
 - Thornbury Riverton Wallacetown (SH 99)
- Chorus has confirmed that its aging copper networks are gradually being 'withdrawn' and replaced by fibre networks, this will see the progressive removal of ADSL and VDSL broadband services, which are to be replaced by fibre internet services. The alternatives to copper landlines all require electricity and an internet connection, so making calls and emergency calls during power outages will be challenging unless individual households have power back up or at the very least are keeping a charged mobile phone for emergencies. There is a need to provide guidance to rural residence to ensure that alternative systems are robust and reliable.
- In many areas the copper network will have to be maintained until fibre optic cable or alternative options are in place.
- Land line telephone customers that currently have no internet, will be paying a bigger communications bill for telephony services.

CONCLUSION

- Overall, there has been an improvement in mobile coverage throughout Southland, the details of which can be seen in the attached presentation.
- The work of transitioning from the existing copper PSTN networks to fibre and mobile voice services means that greater emphasis needs to be placed on Remote Area Power backup for mobile sites and residents' need to consider electricity backup for mobile phones, and internet modems, to enable resilient lifeline voice/data communications during emergency events.
- Currently there are at least 25 different communities that do not have coverage or have unreliable coverage. There is a need to address this situation, and it is essential that Southland advocate for ongoing improvements work to provide ubiquitous terrestrial telecommunications services throughout the region. While low orbit satellite services good coverage there is an inevitable fact that this type of service may be subject to hostile cyber-attack and leave many without essential communications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Southland Mayoral Forum considers the report and recommends that the report findings be referred to Crown Infrastructure Partners and the Rural Connectivity Group for feedback and comment.
- That Crown Infrastructure Partners be requested to consider options for mobile site antenna tuning, to optimise coverage in areas where coverage is unreliable.
- That Crown Infrastructure Partners and the Rural Connectivity Group consider options for providing services in areas where there is no coverage and that the Telecommunications Development Levy (TDL) be prioritised towards providing lifeline communications services to these areas.
- That the location of existing mobile sites and fibre cabinets are reviewed and if needed, be relocated and new infrastructure located in areas clear of sea level rise and storm surge risk and above riparian flooding risk.
- That Crown Infrastructure Partners confirms that all mobile services and Digital Microwave Radio (DMR) backhaul links have Remote Area Power Supply backups prior to the Publicly Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) being decommissioned.
- That Crown Infrastructure be requested to work with Chorus, Mobile Service Operators, and the Rural Connectivity Group to consider options for emergency calling when the copper PSTN is decommissioned and to further provide public guidance on the desired customer premise voice communications and emergency power backup for households and rural businesses.
- That Chorus be requested to ensure that the withdrawal of the current copper network services is signalled well in advance, to ensure that remote customers have adequate time to put in place alternative voice communications services.

Great South update

Record no: R/24/12/73682

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Decision

Recommendation

Information

Chami Abeysinghe, Chief Executive, Great South has provided the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee with the report contained in Attachment A.

Recommendation

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) receives the report titled "Great South update".

Attachments

A Great South update 2 December 2024



To The Joint Shareholder Committee
Date 02 December 2024

Great South Report

Author	Chami Abeyasinghe, Chief Executive
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General Overview

It's only been a few weeks since our last meeting in November, and concentration has been on establishing KPIs for the next Statement of Intent 2025/26.

Some of the key highlights since the last JSC meeting:

- **Great South AGM**

Great South held its AGM on 12 November which saw all our shareholders represented. After the Chairs report and a quick "year in review" update from me, Bobbi presented a progress update on Beyond 2025 implementation. The financials were also presented to the shareholders and the Annual report for 2023/24 financial year was adopted.

- **Launch of DISH**

Following the AGM, that same afternoon Great South officially launched the Data Insights Southland Hub (DISH) to about 50 invited guests. The launch was a huge success, with the platform being used regularly for data prevalent to our region. Bobbi, Fintan from DataSing and Libby from MSD presented at the launch. We had some great publicity, and some of the articles can be viewed from the links below.

- [Data is gold, and Southland's now leading the way](#) (Southland Tribune)
- [One-stop shop for regional data launched | Otago Daily Times Online News](#)
- [Major Southland data hub launched | The Press](#)

Any further development of DISH will need to be under a shared services agreement, as Great South does not have funding to continue hosting and/or developing this platform after June 2025. Bobbi will be progressing discussions and a proposal for this shared service in the new year.

- **Murihiku Southland Regional Summit**

The Murihiku Regional Summit was successfully held on Friday 15 November, hosted by Hon Shane Jones, Minister of Regional Development, Oceans and Fisheries. MBIE have since reported back that Minister Jones believed our regional summit was one of the best, and he appreciated having a tour of Ocean Beach the day before. We received some great media coverage from the Minister's visit to the south and I was able to engage with Minister Casey Costello in her capacity as the Minister of Customs, which is important for us to develop our exports further.

I was interviewed by 1News along with Blair Wolfram from Ocean Beach on the announcement the Minister made of a \$2.2M loan that was approved through the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) for Ocean Beach. It certainly feels like our aspirations to progress aquaculture to a billion-dollar industry is fast becoming a reality.

Southland Regional Development Agency

143 Spey Street, PO Box 1306, Invercargill 9840, Southland, New Zealand
Phone +64 3 211 1400 Email info@greatsouth.nz

greatsouth.nz

- **Energy and Innovation wananga**

Murihiku Regeneration held their 2nd Energy and Innovation wananga in late November 2024, which I attended on behalf of Great South. The event was well attended by foreign missions and Ambassadors, government agencies, Ngāi Tahu senior representatives, local government and other businesses. The wananga was opened by Ta Pipene O'Regan and his daughter Hana O'Regan. Minister Penny Simmonds delivered an opening address as well. There were pre-recorded messages from Ministers Shane Jones, Simeon Brown and Tama Potaka and in-person addresses by Ministers Louise Upston and Mark Patterson and MP Joseph Mooney. Minister Mark Patterson and MP Joseph Mooney acknowledged Great South and the work we do, which was lovely to receive.

- **Regional Deals**

On 21 November, the government announced that they will invite all regions within Aotearoa to submit proposals for a Regional Deal to drive economic growth and deliver infrastructure needs. The announcement made by Ministers Chris Bishop and Simeon Brown identifies that central government is:

- Inviting all regions to propose a Regional Deal that boosts economic growth and establishes a pipeline of infrastructure.
- Finalising the first Regional Deal by December 2025.
- Progressing work to establish three Regional Deals by October 2026.

Our councils heard about this at the LGNZ combined sectors meetings in Wellington where Minister Brown made the announcement. I was sent this information from Invercargill City Council and following this announcement I raised this at the CEs forum last week, gaining approval to progress this work further as we could base it on the priorities identified through Beyond 2025.

There are two key dates we need to work to including:

18 December 2024 – expression of Interest submitted on behalf of the councils.

28 February 2025 – 'Light-touch' proposal to be submitted.

- **Upcoming Priorities**

- Develop the draft Statement of Intent for 2025/26 year
- Presentations to shareholders not already engaged with regarding next year's SOI.
- Aquaculture strategy development

Regional Deals

Record no: R/24/12/73772

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Decision

Recommendation

Information

- 1 The report contained in Attachment A has been prepared by Megan Seator, Policy Analyst, Southland Mayoral Forum.
- 2 The purpose of the report is to provide the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee with background on the Regional Deals Programme.

Recommendation

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) **receives the report titled "Regional Deals".**
- b) **provides Great South with feedback on submitting a Regional Deals proposal.**

Attachments

- A Overview of Regional Deals

Overview of Regional Deals

“Regional Deals” is the Government’s initiative to boost economic growth by establishing long-term agreements between central and local government.

They are a vehicle for greater regional collaboration and coordination, enhanced private sector involvement, improved local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring resilient cities and regions.

Deals will work to unlock economic and regional growth, remove regulatory bottlenecks, and support investment in infrastructure funding and provisions

Regional Deals will be enduring and will provide the certainty needed to attract and retain the necessary investments to deliver change. Deals make use of existing resources rather than relying solely on new funding, with central and local governments aligning our budget cycles and investment strategies to ensure resources can be used effectively.

Each regional deal is unique and built around the shared goal of supporting communities across New Zealand to grow and thrive. By forging partnerships between councils, and engaging private sector and Māori organisations, each region can prioritise its unique needs to work towards long-term and localised economic resilience and growth.

Strategic Framework

In August 2024, the government released the Regional Deals Strategic Framework. This framework sought to provide local government with an understanding of the goals of the regional deal programme, laid out the guiding principles and outlined the government’s priorities when considering regional deals.

The framework states that regional deals will be based on a 30-year long term vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans (to align with local government’s 10-year planning cycles) to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government.

Each regional deal will have the following components:

- A defined economic/geographic area;
- A 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes sought and the actions required to achieve them;
- Decision-making arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities;
- The capital and operational investments required;
- Performance metrics with monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- Regulatory and institutional settings to support the deal.

The framework outlines the government’s objectives which will be used by decision-makers when considering proposals:

Primary objectives	Secondary objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building economic growth • Delivering connected and resilient infrastructure • Improving the supply of affordable and quality housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved local government decision-making and funding • Greater regional and private sector collaboration • Promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government • Ensuring resilient and sustainable cities and regions

Invitation to Mayors and Chairs

On 21 November 2024, all councils in New Zealand received an invitation to submit proposals for regional deals.

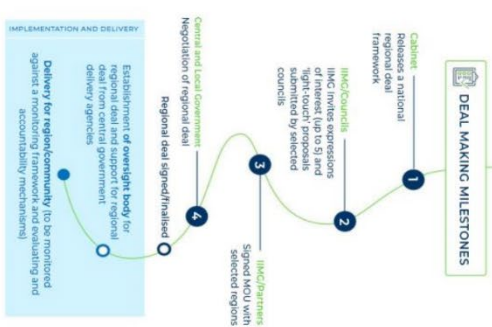
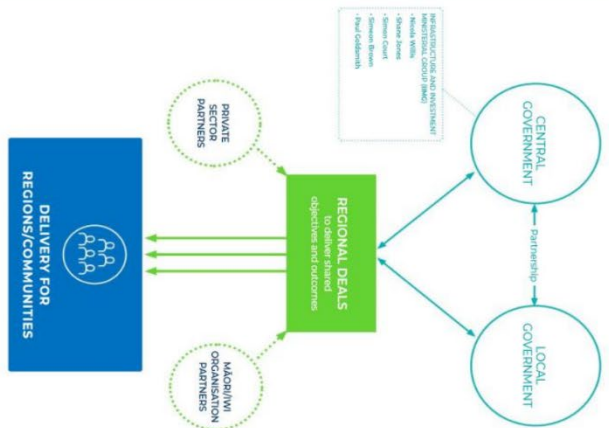
In this invitation, it was advised that regions must lodge their light-touch proposal (also being referred to as expressions of interest or initial proposals) by **18 December 2024**. These will be assessed against several criteria:

- Alignment with the strategic framework
- Growth potential
- Capability and capacity
- Readiness to deliver
- Commitment to regional spatial priorities
- The commitment of council to fiscal prudence and meeting regulatory standards (including economic and water quality regulation).

The final proposals are due on **28 February 2025**.

Elements for the Joint Shareholder Committee to discuss:

- a) Consider the projects to be included in the proposal;
- b) Consider the geographic boundary and which councils will be a part of the proposal;
- c) Consider governance arrangements for the proposal (taking into account iwi and the private sector);
- d) Consider what is being sought from government in the proposal (i.e., regulatory relief, government coordination, financing tools);
- e) Consider the requirements for council approvals.



Schedule of meetings for 2025

Record No: R/24/12/73671

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Decision

Recommendation

Information

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of the report is to approve a schedule of meeting dates for the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee up to November 2025 so meetings can be publicly notified in accordance with the requirements set by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Executive Summary

- 2 The adoption of a meeting schedule allows plenty of time to give public notice and it allows staff to plan for meeting agendas. The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 has requirements for local authorities, including joint committees, to follow for public notification of meetings.
- 3 It is proposed that the Joint Shareholders Committee meet at 9:00 am on the following dates at Great South, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill:
 - Friday, 31 January 2025
 - Friday, 7 March 2025
 - Friday, 11 April 2025
 - Friday, 23 May 2025
 - Friday, 4 July 2025
 - Friday 8 August 2025
 - Friday 19 September 2025
 - Friday 31 October 2025
 - Friday 28 November 2025

Recommendation

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) **Receives the report.**
- b) **Agrees to meet at 9:00 am on the following dates at Great South, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill:**
 - **Friday, 31 January 2025**
 - **Friday, 7 March 2025**
 - **Friday, 11 April 2025**
 - **Friday, 23 May 2025**
 - **Friday, 4 July 2025**
 - **Friday 8 August 2025**
 - **Friday 19 September 2025**
 - **Friday 31 October 2025**
 - **Friday 28 November 2025.**

Background

- 4 An approved schedule of meetings dates is required so that meetings can be publicly notified in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Issues

- 5 It is proposed that the board adopt the meeting schedule outlined in the executive summary.

Factors to Consider

Legal and Statutory Requirements

- 6 The legal and statutory requirements for meetings of local authorities including joint committees are outlined out in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Community Views

- 7 No community views have been sought on this matter. It benefits the public when meeting times are set well in advance.

Policy Implications

- 8 There are no policy implications.

Analysis of Options

Option 1 – Adopt a meeting schedule

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Shareholder Committee members, their staff and the public will know when meetings are. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no disadvantages.
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Option 2 – Do not adopt a meeting schedule

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no advantages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Shareholders Committee will not be able to make decisions as no meetings will be held. Joint Shareholder Committee members, their staff and the public will not know when meetings are.

Assessment of Significance

- 9 This decision is not significant in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and Southland District Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Recommended Option

- 10 The recommended option is option 1 – adoption of a schedule of meetings.

Next Steps

- 11 The next step, once the schedule is adopted, is to ensure that the meetings are publicly notified in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to enable the Joint Shareholders Committee to meet.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.