



Agenda

Great South Joint Shareholders Committee

Friday, 28 November 2025, 9am
Great South, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill



Members

Ben Bell, Mayor, Gore District Council

Rob Scott, Mayor, Southland District Council

Tom Campbell, Mayor, Invercargill City Council

Jeremy McPhail, Chair, Environment Southland

Sheree Carey, Chief executive officer, Southland Chamber of Commerce

Jackie Flutey, Chief executive officer, Community Trust South

Daryl Haggerty, Acting Chief Executive, Southern Institute of Technology

Mark Paterson, General manager, Maitaura Licensing Trust

Chris Ramsay, Chief executive, Invercargill Licensing Trust

1 Opening

2 Apologies

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

3 Leave of absence

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

4 Conflict of interest

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.

5 Additional agenda items

Any additions to the agenda must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting

6 Confirmation of minutes

There are no minutes to confirm at this meeting.

7 Reports

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8.1 Electing chairperson

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8.2 Great South Update

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8 Public excluded reports

Exclusion of the public

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9.1 Great South draft Statement of Intent 2026/2027

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9 Closure

The chair will close the meeting.

Electing chairperson

Record no: R/25/11/56019

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Report type: Decision

Staff recommendations

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) elects _____ to be the chairperson of the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee.

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee (committee) to elect its chairperson for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Context

- 2 Clause 14.1 of the Constitution of Great South requires that the shareholders elect by a majority one member from the council shareholders (Class A shareholders) as chair of the meetings of the shareholders.
- 3 The members that are representatives of the council shareholders are:
 - Chair Jeremy McPhail - Environment Southland
 - Mayor Rob Scott - Southland District Council
 - Mayor Tom Campbell - Invercargill City Council
 - Mayor Ben Bell - Gore District Council.
- 4 All committee members will be able to vote and the representative of the council shareholder that receives the majority of votes will be elected as the chair of the committee.

Next steps

- 5 The new chairperson will assume their new responsibilities from the time of the election and chair the remainder of this meeting.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Great South Update

Record no: R/25/11/56844
Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor
Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships
Report type: Information

Staff recommendations

That the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.

Purpose

- 1 Chami Abeysinghe, Chief executive of Great South to provides the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee with the report contained in Attachment A.

Attachments

- A Great South report 21 November 2025 [↓](#)



To The Joint Shareholder Committee
Date 21 November 2025

Great South Report

Author	Chami Abeysinghe, Chief Executive
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General Overview

It has been some time since the last Joint Shareholder Committee meeting, and on behalf of Great South we warmly congratulate all elected members that have either been reappointed or appointed to their respective councils and community boards. We have every confidence that in this new triennium, Murihiku Southland will be able to continue our progress with regional development initiatives. It seems we will have an exciting three years ahead of us!

During the last few weeks, the team and I have been busy establishing our KPIs for the next Statement of Intent, and through this process we are looking at our strategic direction for the region for the next triennium. By the end of this current financial year, we will have completed the agriculture pathway which means that we would have agreed and adopted plans for the three diversification strategies identified through Beyond 2025; Aquaculture, Agriculture and Tourism.

- **Great South Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Thank you to all our shareholders that were able to attend Great South's AGM, and for supporting the adoption of our Annual Report. We are thankful that our audit was conducted relatively seamlessly, and that our efforts to curtail costs had paid off. We were also extremely thankful for the acknowledgements provided for the work the team at Great South had completed on behalf of our shareholders.

We have been asked to present the financials from the Annual Report separating Great South and SpaceOps NZ. Please see attached to this report, the requested data.

- **SIT Trip**

As identified in my last report, I successfully completed a 16-day trip on behalf of SIT, in India and Sri Lanka. The trip saw me visiting New Delhi, Amritsar, Jodhpur, Kochi and Colombo. We met education agents, students, participated in a higher education expo at a prestigious school in India, visited tertiary education institutes that had prospective postgraduate students for SIT and met with Education New Zealand and the New Zealand High Commissioner to India.

I travelled with SIT's in-country manager for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and the UAE, Sayani Bhowmick and provided guidance to Sayani as well as training to Councillors at the various agencies we visited.

We were able to deliver a powerful message, aligning SIT's role in developing skilled workforce to economic development initiatives we are undertaking as a region. There are a number of recommendations that have been provided to SIT, and some actions are being progressed as we speak.

Southland Regional Development Agency

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greatsouth.nz

- **EDNZ – Aquaculture Pathway**

November saw the team and I travel to Auckland to be part of the Economic Development New Zealand (EDNZ) conference. Each year, EDNZ hold an awards ceremony that acknowledges and recognises economic development initiatives across the motu.

We were extremely pleased that the Murihiku Southland Aquaculture Pathway was highly commended in the Excellence in Sector and Cluster Development category of the EDNZ annual awards. We feel honoured to receive this recognition, especially considering that the pathway has only been in circulation for a few months.

- **SOI**

The team and I have been working on the draft Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2026/27 Financial Year. As mentioned to the shareholders, we are proposing to continue the direction of work in line with the previous two years of this current triennium. The draft SOI has identified three years of deliverables, as per legislative requirement. However, we do feel that we should better align our outcomes with the council's next LTP cycle and identify opportunities to better show the value of what we do. We would like to workshop this with the new councils at the Council induction workshop on 10 February 2026.

We hope to present the draft SOI at the next JSC meeting on 28 November 2025.

- **Events and Conferences**

Great South is pleased to have appointed a new Business Events Manager and Events Manager that will support driving strategies to support business events, conference and events to the region. These initiatives will ensure we leverage the investment made in our CBD, supporting hospitality and tourism businesses. Both new appointments will start on 15 December and we look forward to them meeting our shareholders in due course.

- **(Solar) Powering Southland**

Steve and his team had organised (Solar) Powering Southland Event to be held on 29 October, but had to postpone this event following the the extreme weather event we faced the week prior. This is now rescheduled for 26 February 2026.

The event has been organised to support the farming community evaluate the feasibility of alternative energy sources, particularly solar energy, for their businesses. This follows the announcements of zero interest or low interest loans being provided by banks to stimulate the uptake of solar power supply. As we had high interest in the event, with registrations reaching the accommodation cap, the postponed event will be held in a larger space with more stall holders and speakers.

- **Ministerial visits**

As shareholders are already aware, Hon Nicola Willis has accepted our invitation to visit Southland on 13 February 2026. I am working with the Minister's office as well as Hon Penny Simmond's office to coordinate this visit. We hope to showcase the opportunities for economic development in Southland, particularly for the aquaculture and space industries. We will host a lunch/meet & greet and presentations to the minister and will circulate further information once these become available.

- **Upcoming Priorities**

- Draft SOI 2026/27
- Planning for induction of new Councillors in February 2026
- Minister Nicola Willis visit in February 2026
- EOI – Research funding to establish the economic Impact of the recent adverse weather event

Attachment:

1. Great South Group Result 30.06.2025

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

Recommendation

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:

9.1 Great South draft Statement of Intent 2026/2027

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 Statement of Intent 2026/2027	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	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.