

From: [Jenny Lapham](#)
To: ["ruby.shaw@odt.co.nz"](mailto:ruby.shaw@odt.co.nz)
Subject: FW: Local Government Official Information request - 1312481 - Messages between Otago Mayoral Forum
Date: Wednesday, 23 September 2026 02:43:00 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Information.pdf](#)

Kia Ora Ruby

I refer to your request below and attach the information as requested.

Kā mihi

[Jennifer Lapham](#)

LGOIMA Officer

Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | **E** Jenny.Lapham@dcc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

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From: webmaster@dcc.govt.nz <webmaster@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 3:14 p.m.
To: Official Information <officialinformation@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Local Government Official Information request - 1312481

Ruby has submitted a LGOIMA request - 1312481.

Below are the details of the request

Request details:

Kia ora, Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act I would like to request all correspondence - including emails, text messages and direct messages - between Sophie Barker and Jock Martin, Tamah Alley, John Glover, Mel Tavendale or Hilary Calvert regarding local government amalgamation and the government's Head Start programme. I would like to limit this to correspondence sent or received between July 20, 2026 and August 16, 2026. Regards, Ruby

File attachment (file name)

No file uploaded

Name

Ruby Shaw

Email address

ruby.shaw@odt.co.nz

Mailing address

022 014 4125

Contact phone number

022 014 4125



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Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:05 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: Head Start Thoughts

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | **E** mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
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From: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2026 10:31
To: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>; Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>;
mayor@codc.govt.nz <mayor@codc.govt.nz>; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Head Start Thoughts

Kia ora all

John and I were at the LGNZ Metro Mayors meeting on Friday. We got some tips about writing a letter. We are not ready for Headstart as we dont have a firm agreed proposal. We also need to focus on how we might deliver regional functions.

Hemi Smiler, GM Local Government Reform and Deals, from MCERT was there.
Key points:

- There is an opportunity to influence backstop design
- Can signal intent in letter - how going to collaborate
- Should have a timeline in letter
- Include option set we are considering

NB

Community Council ideas are developing in some regions
DIA have three weeks to address proposals from Aug 9th
Cabinet will make a decision in September
Govt will make decisions about Backstop next May
Three key things to focus on - Spatial planning, Catchment Management, Transport.
Yes, build offramps into proposal (esp reconsultation)

If were to do a regional CCO for ORC functions - I think the answer was something about transitional arrangements

Sandy has given some feedback to Marianna about the letter - need to have re how we're looking at dealing with ORC functions in there.

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
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Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
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From: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2026 09:59
To: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>; mayor@codc.govt.nz <mayor@codc.govt.nz>; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Head Start Thoughts

Good morning Mayor Jock,

Thanks for sending this through. I'm not sure we could send a letter to say we are entering the head start when we aren't. As far as I can sense, albeit that will be up to each council, there isn't a proposal that would get sufficient support at this stage to enter headstart.

The comms in the ODT this morning speak to that.

Cheers, John

John Glover | Mayor
Queenstown Lakes District Council
E: John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz
P: Please call my EA, Ange Hart on +64 3 450 9131



Please note that all appointments scheduled with the Mayor are publicly available and published on our website. You can view the calendar here: [QLDC - Mayor John Glover](#)

From: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 26 July 2026 10:22 AM
To: mayor@codc.govt.nz; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <sophie.barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Subject: Head Start Thoughts

Mayoral Whanau,

I want to share my thoughts on a possible collective entry into the Head Start pathway under the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform programme, reading Warrens body language didn't convince me a letter will suffice please see attached, "Have we been viewing the **9 August 2026** deadline primarily as a target, rather than as an opportunity to gain **more time to refine our proposals and keep us actively engaged in the process?**" I'm merely putting this out there as an alternative to consider which still requires trimming as it's a starting point but will need to act swiftly as I'm conscious of our extraordinary meetings for some of us this week, if we agree in principle. This initiative presents a unique opportunity for us to shape the future of local governance in our region, enabling us to address the evolving needs of our communities and streamline our decision-making processes.

It's important to note that while we have not yet finalised a complete reorganisation plan, entering the Head Start pathway does not require us to submit a fully developed plan? by **9 August 2026**. Instead, we can present a high-level outline that demonstrates our commitment to reform and our collaborative approach to governance. This flexibility allows us **more time** to further refine our proposal during the detailed design phase. (**gives us time & keeps us in control of the game**) If we do not engage in this process, we risk being placed in the backstop model, where decisions about our governance structures will be made without our input. This would limit our ability to influence outcomes and could impose solutions that do not align with the best interests of our constituents.

Our collaborative efforts to date have laid a strong foundation. We have engaged with our communities and mana whenua to gather their perspectives, and this feedback will be instrumental as we move forward in developing our proposal.

I encourage each of you to consider this initiative as we work together to present a unified front to the Government. Let us seize this opportunity to ensure that our region's governance reflects the needs and aspirations of our communities while promoting efficiency and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration, Together, we can create a brighter future for our region, and we are the best people to create that future not the **backstop**.

Timeline of the Government's Proposal

Date	Milestone
May 2026	Head Start opens
August 2026	Cabinet agrees proposals in principle
September 2026	Outline proposals submitted
March 2027	Cabinet confirms proposals
May 2027	Cabinet approves legislation
Q3/Q4 2027	Legislation enacted
Q1 2028	Proposal implementation begins
October 2028	Backstop begins
	Nominations for local elections
	Local elections

Nga Mihi

Jason (Jock) Martin

Mayor Clutha District Council

Mobile: 022 433 7813

Email: jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz



*Empowering our communities to thrive and
look after our spaces for future generations.*



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Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:00 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: Resolutions

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | **E** mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
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From: Tamah Alley <mayor@codc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 13:29
To: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>; Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <hilary.calvert@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Resolutions

Hi Otago Mayors and Chair,
Here are the resolutions passed by our council today. We eagerly await the discussion of Clutha and QLDC, and we also discussed the possibility of a "rural unitary" sharing some services with a "city unitary" in the future as a possibility.
I remain committed to the friendship ;)
See you Friday
Tamah

Resolutions as passed:

That Council:

1. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
2. Directs staff to prepare a Headstart proposal based on the following parameters:
 - a. A unitary council comprising the full areas of Central Otago District Council, Clutha District Council, and Queenstown Lakes District Council.

- b. Recognition that an option may exist for the Waihemo Ward of Waitaki District and rural areas of Dunedin City, including Middlemarch and the Taieri Catchment, to be incorporated into the proposed unitary authority.
 - c. Community councils with rating powers being identified as the primary mechanism for retaining local representation and community voice.
 - d. The opportunity to explore bespoke legislative arrangements being included within the proposal framework.
 - e. The ability to further develop and refine options relating to the proposed unitary authority prior to undertaking public consultation.
 - f. The inclusion of review and exit mechanisms should future circumstances warrant reconsideration of the arrangement.
- 3. Notes that the draft proposal will be circulated to councillors for review once prepared.
 - 4. Notes that submission of the proposal will require the agreement and joint participation of Clutha District Council and/or Queenstown Lakes District Council.
 - 5. Authorises Her Worship the Mayor to sign the proposal on behalf of Central Otago District Council for submission by the prescribed deadline of 9 August 2026.
 - 6. In the event that another council does not agree to a joint Headstart proposal, authorises Her Worship the Mayor to sign a joint letter of intent.

Thanks,
Tamah

Tamah Alley
Mayor - Zone 6 Chair



☎ +64 27 662 2609
✉ mayor@codc.govt.nz
📍 Alexandra 9320
🌐 www.codc.govt.nz

If you have received this email and any attachments to it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it or show it to anyone. Please advise the sender and delete your copy. Thank you.

Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:00 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: Mayoral forum call this afternoon

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | E mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
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From: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 13:37
To: Marianna Brook <marianna.brook@orc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>; Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <hilary.calvert@orc.govt.nz>; Tamah Alley <mayor@codc.govt.nz>
Cc: Michelle Morss <Michelle.Morss@qldc.govt.nz>
Subject: Mayoral forum call this afternoon

Good afternoon all,

I will be unable to join the call this afternoon as I am at a function starting at 5pm though will join Fridays forum online.

Given the rapidly changing (political) landscape around headstart in this region and mindful that CDC will make a decision tomorrow, I think it is not appropriate for our interim CE to join the call this afternoon in my absence.

Regards,

John

John Glover | Mayor
Queenstown Lakes District Council
E: John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz
P: Please call my EA, Ange Hart on +64 3 450 9131



Please note that all appointments scheduled with the Mayor are publicly available and published on our website.
You can view the calendar here: [QLDC - Mayor John Glover](#)

Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:01 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: Clutha Council Amalgamation

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
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From: Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <Hilary.Calvert@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 09:47
To: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>;
Tamah Alley <mayor@codc.govt.nz>; Melanie Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; John Glover
<john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Clutha Council Amalgamation

Thanks for your comments Jock.
Andrews comments are an unhelpful contribution to the conversation particularly at this point and with a personal attack flavour.
Respectful dialogue around our table is and will remain important.
What I see is a group of mayors grappling with issues they had no warning of when they were elected and a desire to work towards solutions which are in their view in the best interests of their constituents.
Good on all of you who are charged with engaging with government on these issues for your various attempts.
We are all in this together.
Whatever marks end up on pieces of paper around council boundaries if this process has taught us nothing more it has brought us to a closer understanding that we are all part of a continuous environmental and community area.
Our Otago connections need nurturing and our South Island connections need strengthening.
There are opportunities available in this process for win win solutions for us all.
For increased and nuanced local voices to be heard better in Wellington, for more efficient and better services for our people giving better value to residents and ratepayers, and more accountability and transparency around particularly where decisions are made and who they are made by.

Feel proud of your work to date, and let's go with enthusiasm into helping the advisors to government understand what we believe will work well for us all.

Cheers,
Hil



Hilary Calvert
Chairperson
Elected Council Representatives

From: Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <Hilary.Calvert@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 9:06 PM
To: Councillors <Councillors@orc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Clutha Council Amalgamation



Hilary Calvert
Chairperson

| Hilary.Calvert@orc.govt.nz

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From: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 7:05 PM
To: Sophie Barker <sophie.barker@dcc.govt.nz>; John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>; Melanie Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; Tamah Alley <mayer@codc.govt.nz>; Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <Hilary.Calvert@orc.govt.nz>; Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Cc: Steve Hill <Steve.Hill@Cluthadc.govt.nz>; Peter Kelly <peter.kelly@codc.govt.nz>; Sandy Graham <sandy.graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Michelle Morss <michelle.morss@qldc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Alex Parmley <aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Clutha Council Amalgamation

[Caution: External Email] This email originated from outside ORC. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Use the Phish Alert Button to report this email if you think it is suspicious.

Good evening, Otago Mayoral Forum Members,
Great to see everyone today, I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with the recent comments made by Dunedin City Councillor Andrew Simms regarding my position on the proposals for

amalgamation in the Otago region. His remarks, as reported by RNZ, reflect a misunderstanding of the intentions behind my proposal and dismiss the genuine efforts of smaller councils to advocate for their communities.

Councillor Simms described my proposal as "quite an aggressive stance by a couple of small councils," and referred to it as "a ridiculous notion" that "nobody was taking seriously." These comments are not only disparaging but also undermine the collaborative spirit we should strive for in our discussions about local governance. It is disappointing to see an elected member of the Dunedin City Council resort to such rhetoric, which does little to foster constructive dialogue.

I want to clarify that my proposal to incorporate areas like Taieri and Strath Taieri into a new Otago Unitary Authority is motivated by the desire to create a governance structure that better serves the diverse needs of all our rural communities. This is not an attempt to undermine Dunedin's significance; rather, it is an effort to build a cohesive model that recognises the strengths of each area while ensuring that rural voices are heard.

Councillor Simm's assertion that this proposal is driven by "naked self-interest" is particularly troubling. It is essential that we approach this process with a commitment to collaboration and mutual respect, rather than allowing personal opinions to overshadow the collective interests of our region.

In response to the questions posed by RNZ, I believe it is crucial to engage in a fair and respectful dialogue about the future of our local governance. As we continue this conversation, I encourage all council members to put aside divisive rhetoric and work together to find solutions that benefit the entire Otago Region.

I look forward to continuing our efforts to create a unified and effective governance structure for Otago.

RNZ email below

Cheers Jock

Jason (Jock) Martin

Mayor Clutha District Council

Mobile: 022 433 7813

Email: jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz



*Empowering our communities to thrive and
look after our spaces for future generations.*



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TEAM 

From: Patrick Manning <patrickmanningnewzealand@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 12:07 pm

To: Mayor Jason (Jock) Martin <Jock.Martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>

Cc: ellen.odwyer@rnz.co.nz

Subject: Clutha Council Amalgamation

Caution: This message originated from outside CDC, DO NOT click links, open attachments, or follow instructions without validating your trust in the sender first. If unsure, please contact IT.

Good afternoon Jock,

My name is Patrick Manning and I am working on a story for RNZ about the proposals for the Otago region regarding upcoming amalgamation of councils. I just tried to ring but was unable to reach you so I've put my questions in written form for you to respond below.

I came across comments from Dunedin City Councillor Andrew Simms where he was critical of comments you made in the ODT about the proposals for amalgamation. I have put the link to the post below.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1PLr8vL7jq/>

Do you think these comments are a fair representation of your position?

Is there anything you'd like to correct him on?

I then rang Andrew earlier this morning. He said his preferred option would be for all of Otago to exist under one unitary council.

What would be your concerns under such a system?

Why was Dunedin excluded in the proposal you outlined?

What will you do if the government rejects your preferred proposal?

I also wanted to give you the chance to respond to some of the comments Andrew made in that phone call.

He described this proposal as "quite an aggressive stance by a couple of small councils", he also said it was "a ridiculous notion", and that "nobody was taking it seriously". He also claimed it was motivated by naked self interest.

I can be reached at this email address or on my cellphone number 022 321 2889.

Really looking forward to hearing from you,

Patrick.

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Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:07 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: headstart wording

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
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From: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 22:06
To: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: headstart wording

This is on our agenda

Agree that QLDC submits a Head Start proposal with Dunedin City Council in support of a 'twin unitaries' model – being Inland Otago and Coastal Otago with regional council functions supported through a shared services arrangement and:

- i. **Instruct** the Chief Executive to develop the Head Start proposal.
- ii. **Authorise** the Mayor to sign the abovementioned proposal, subject to review of all Councillors.

6. **Note** that submission of the proposal will require the agreement and joint participation of Dunedin City Council; and

7. **Note** that QLDC will continue to partner with Ngāi Tahu during the detailed design phases that will follow.

John Glover | Mayor

Queenstown Lakes District Council

E: John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz

P: Please call my EA, Ange Hart on +64 3 450 9131



Please note that all appointments scheduled with the Mayor are publicly available and published on our website. You can view the calendar here: [QLDC - Mayor John Glover](#)

Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:01 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: amalgamation

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | **E** mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
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From: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 19:18
To: Tamah Alley <mayor@codc.govt.nz>; jock.martin <jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <hilary.calvert@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: amalgamation

Good evening Tamah & Jock,

I'm aware that our decision today did not land where you had hoped it would and that there are likely unknown consequences for all of our councils going forward. I imagine feelings are as warm as the southerly blasting through this evening.

The irony that we're all trying to do the best for our communities is not lost on me when 'best' has so many different interpretations around the region to the point that we could not, collectively, describe a model that all could agree to.

Which is why I'd hoped we could have made time for further conversations and had confidence in ourselves (and others) that we would have landed an agreed outcome. One person might have the vision and insight to identify what that looks like, but unless we take everyone on the journey to understand that vision, we lose our followers.

We are where we are. It might be that two different head start proposals coming from Otago puts us in the too difficult basket for MCERT, and unless Ministers want to make an example of us, we might all be back around a table having a go at this again.

If that is the case, I'd love to think we would have the time to have the conversations we needed to have prior to today, fully involve our councillors and get an agreed outcome.

It's clear that emotions and feelings are running high – we're a long way from being Jocks "tight five" which saddens me. Happy to re-group at any stage if there is appetite to do so. Appreciate that the outcomes for Gore & Waitaki are still uncertain so who knows where to from here.

Stay snug .

Regards, John

John Glover Mayor Queenstown Lakes District Council E: John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz P: Please call my EA, Ange Hart on +64 3 450 9131	 QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Please note that all appointments scheduled with the Mayor are publicly available and published on our website. You can view the calendar here: [QLDC - Mayor John Glover](#)

Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:02 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: amalgamation

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
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Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
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From: Tamah Alley <mayor@codc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 09:26
To: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>; jock.martin <jock.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Mel Tavendale <mtavendale@waitaki.govt.nz>; Cr Hilary Calvert (ORC) <hilary.calvert@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: amalgamation

Morning OMF,

I think the irony is that you've pursued effectively what we've proposed, but have said Clutha is not welcome and directed them to go somewhere they didn't want to. It feels a bit like it's two proposals cobbled together so that Dunedin meets the criteria to put in a proposal. (Sorry Sophie, it's not personal and I know you were keen on Dunedin Unitary but no ability to put that forward at this point)
While my councillors have been fully involved the whole way through, I understand that is not the case for every council table.

I personally feel we're not a long way from Jock's five. This is politics. There are no hard feelings — we're all under the pump to get something done to the best of our ability.
Given how many fellow elected members and CE's have passed away in the last few weeks I am very mindful of the huge amount of pressure everyone is under. It's a shame it's not a joint sector meeting at the end of the week but see you soon Jock and Mel.

Sophie - if you're free for an 0845 coffee tomorrow let me know, I'm popping down 😊
We're all still friends — "feel the awahi" as Jock would say.

Cheers,
Tamah

Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:02 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: HeadStart map

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | **E** mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
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From: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 07:27
To: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: HeadStart map

Morena,

Good to see this is progressing. My thoughts are to keep as simple as possible at this stage while creating the compelling narrative.

Less is more?

Cheers, John

John Glover | Mayor

Queenstown Lakes District Council

E: John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz

P: Please call my EA, Ange Hart on +64 3 450 9131



Please note that all appointments scheduled with the Mayor are publicly available and published on our website.
You can view the calendar here: [QLDC - Mayor John Glover](#)

From: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 2:34 PM

To: Nicola Morand <Nicola.Morand@dcc.govt.nz>; Scott MacLean <Scott.MacLean@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: John Glover <john.glover@qldc.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: HeadStart map

Kia ora Nicola and Scott

Could you please take a look At Chch Headstart outline proposals as below which look excellent.
DIA's advice was for short proposals.

They also have maps in theirs.

Can we also find other councils proposals as I think we should look at them to see how we can align.

We also need to acknowledgement, as per the resolution, the Mayors commitment to working together across Otago.

Ours needs to clearly address how they will align with the govt 5 criteria more easily. And also that we'd look at devolving some matters - such as transport buses) to be managed locally.

I believe we need to address that Clutha has an alternate proposal and that's we are open to discussions about borders and catchment areas.

Also needs to note that as of today/this week the planning reform legislation hasn't been passed yet, so that is unknown.

Chch has addressed the financial issues in their proposals. We need to add their wording around not being able to carry the work out without significant government investment, especially under a rates capping environment.

I will undertake to talk to LGNZ for more advice.

TBC - off to Dr now!

Kā mihi nui

All the best

Sophie Barker

Mayor of Dunedin

Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti

M 021 349 843 | E mayor@dcc.govt.nz

Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

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From: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: HeadStart map

It looks like Christchurch has this in their agenda for their meeting – they have 4 outline proposals based on different options

https://christchurch.infocouncil.biz/Open/2026/08/CNCL_20260804_AGN_11793_AT.PDF

Ngā manaakitanga

Jess Dunn
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin
M 021 390 856

From: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 1:31 p.m.
To: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: HeadStart map

Any chance you can find any examples of head start proposals that have gone to Councils for sign off? I want to see wat a sample one looks like

Thanks heaps

Kā mihi nui
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | E mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 August 2026 08:58:15
To: Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: HeadStart map

Ngā manaakitanga

Jess Dunn
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin
M 021 390 856

From: Janet Fraser <Janet.Fraser@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 August 2026 08:45:00
To: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: HeadStart map

Mōrena Jess,

Hope you are keeping warm today. Here is the latest version of the MartinJenkins Head Start map:

Approaches to local government reform

Snapshot as at 3 August 2026

- Resolution on preferred Head Start o
- Resolution to not submit a Head Star
- Resolution to submit a non-conformi
- No resolution on preferred option
- Not applicable



Kā mihi

Janet Fraser
CORPORATE PLANNER

M 021 221 0151 | E janet.fraser@dcc.govt.nz
Dunedin City Council | Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Janet Fraser
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 9:30 a.m.
To: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: HeadStart map

No problem. It looks like Martin Jenkins will do weekly updates, so there should be another version available next week (potentially on Tuesday).

Kā mihi,
Janet

From: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 9:00 a.m.
To: Janet Fraser <Janet.Fraser@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: HeadStart map

Thanks Janet – that is great. If you get an update to this could you please send it through?

Ngā manaakitanga

Jess Dunn
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin
M 021 390 856

From: Janet Fraser <Janet.Fraser@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 5:06 p.m.
To: Jess Dunn <Jess.Dunn@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: HeadStart map

Kia ora Jess,

Here is that HeadStart map I spoke to you about earlier today:

Approaches to local government reform

Snapshot as at 24 July 2026

- Resolution on preferred Head Start
- Resolution to not submit a Head Start
- Resolution to submit a non-conform
- No resolution on preferred option
- Not applicable



Kā mihi

Janet Fraser

CORPORATE PLANNER

M 021 221 0151 | E janet.fraser@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council | Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

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PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

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Jenny Lapham

From: Sophie Barker
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2026 03:03 p.m.
To: Jenny Lapham
Subject: Fw: Head Start Proposal (V6)
Attachments: 260807 Headstart Proposal -joint cover letter from the Mayors.docx

Kā mihi
All the best

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin
Te Koromatua o Ōtepoti
M 021 349 843 | E mayor@dcc.govt.nz
Kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti | Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Office Of The Mayor <Office.Mayor@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 16:03
To: Danielle Tolson <Danielle.Tolson@dcc.govt.nz>; Michelle Morss <Michelle.Morss@qldc.govt.nz>; Berkay Kocak <Berkay.Kocak@dcc.govt.nz>; Nicola Morand <Nicola.Morand@dcc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gina Huakau <Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz>; Ange Hart <ange.hart@qldc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Head Start Proposal (V6)

Kia ora koutou – Mayor Barker is also happy with this letter. It is just missing a full stop at the end of para 6.

Ngā manaakitanga

Jess Dunn
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin
M 021 390 856

From: Danielle Tolson <Danielle.Tolson@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 3:37 p.m.
To: Michelle Morss <Michelle.Morss@qldc.govt.nz>; Berkay Kocak <Berkay.Kocak@dcc.govt.nz>; Nicola Morand <Nicola.Morand@dcc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Office Of The Mayor <Office.Mayor@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gina Huakau <Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz>; Ange Hart <ange.hart@qldc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Head Start Proposal (V6)

Kia ora koutou

Amended letter attached.

Kā mihi
Danielle

From: Michelle Morss <Michelle.Morss@qldc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 3:29 p.m.

To: Berkay Kocak <Berkay.Kocak@dcc.govt.nz>; Nicola Morand <Nicola.Morand@dcc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Office Of The Mayor <Office.Mayor@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Danielle Tolson <Danielle.Tolson@dcc.govt.nz>; Gina Huakau <Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz>; Ange Hart <ange.hart@qldc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Head Start Proposal (V6)

Thanks Berkay – you intimated that the letter would be amended too? Just waiting on that so we can waive it back past John and get his signature.

Cheers,

Michelle

From: Berkay Kocak <Berkay.Kocak@dcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 11:24 PM

To: Michelle Morss <Michelle.Morss@qldc.govt.nz>; Nicola Morand <Nicola.Morand@dcc.govt.nz>; Sophie Barker <Sophie.Barker@dcc.govt.nz>; Office Of The Mayor <Office.Mayor@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Danielle Tolson <Danielle.Tolson@dcc.govt.nz>; Gina Huakau <Gina.Huakau@dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Head Start Proposal (V6)

Kia ora koutou,

All suggested corrections, edits, and amendments have now been finalised. Please find the final version (Version 6) attached.

We intend to submit this proposal by 5.00 pm today.

Kā mihi,

Dr BERKAY KOÇAK

Policy Analyst

Corporate Policy

Dunedin City Council | Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Ōtepoti

M: 022 499 1898

E: berkay.kocak@dcc.govt.nz

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Office of the Mayor



7 August 2026

Simplifying Local Government
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport
Via email: SimplifyingLocalGovernment@mcert.govt.nz

Kia ora koutou

HEAD START OUTLINE PROPOSAL: COASTAL OTAGO AND INLAND OTAGO UNITARY AUTHORITIES

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a Headline outline proposal.
2. The Dunedin City Council and the Queenstown Lakes District Council have worked together on a proposal that establishes two subregional unitary authorities within Otago, supported by a shared regional services structure for functions requiring scale, specialist capability, and regional coordination.
3. The proposal builds on the strengths of Dunedin and Queenstown as Otago's two largest centres, which together provide infrastructure capability, planning expertise, regulatory capacity, specialist services, educational institutions, economic activity, and investment attraction.
4. The proposal creates two subregional unitary authorities:
 - an Inland Otago Unitary Authority centred on Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago
 - a Coastal Otago Unitary Authority centred on Dunedin and Clutha, with Waitaki's future position to be determined.
5. The two proposed authorities will be supported by shared regional services, delivering functions undertaken across Otago.
6. In submitting this proposal, we note that there is a lack of detail provided on the expectations of councils to fund and provide resourcing to implement any changes decided as part of this reform process. Information and clarity about support from central government, including financial support, would be appreciated to assist with forward and contingency planning in preparation for implementation of any changes
7. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss Head Start outline proposal for the Coastal and Inland Otago unitary authorities with you.

Kā mihi

Sophie Barker
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN
TE KOROMATUA O ŌTEPOTI

John Glover
SIGNATURE BLOCK