

2 September 2013

Mr Dave Cull  
Mayor of Dunedin  
Civic Centre  
PO Box 5045  
Dunedin 9058

Dear Dave

Thank you very much for your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.

As you are aware AgResearch is currently part way through a significant staff consultation phase. The consultation process, which is seeking feedback from all staff on our initial Future Footprint proposals, does not finish until the 26th September 2013. At that point, once we have had time to fully consider our staff feedback, we will communicate a final proposal.

Therefore it is premature to meet earlier to discuss alternative proposals, before we have completed our own process to reach a final proposal (which may include changes to the initial one).

Also, as I am sure you will appreciate, it would be problematic for AgResearch to discuss alternative submissions from external stakeholders, while we are still in a formal consultation process internally with all our staff.

We believe it would be more effective and productive for all concerned to wait for the final proposal details, which would then ensure any submissions you wish to make, or discussions we wish to have, are based on accurate and up-to-date understandings.

It would be beneficial, if I may paraphrase from your letter, for AgResearch to set up an on-going process and dialogue to see how we can work together to look at ways of developing a positive future for both Invermay and wider Otago and Southland regions. I am very willing to arrange an initial meeting for this and an exchange of ideas, once our final proposals are known. I would be keen to hear from you on this.

In the meantime I would re-iterate our offer for the Chief Executive to provide a briefing to you and the Council on the initial proposal, and the process we are following with our staff.

Yours sincerely



**Sam Robinson**  
Chair